

Coastal Carolina Council Pinewood Derby Rules and Guidelines - 2021

What Scouting goals does the Pinewood Derby help a Scout achieve?

- **Sportsmanship and good citizenship** is taught by following the derby rules and cheering on other scouts as they race against others in the council.
- **Personal achievement** comes to any Scout who picks up a woodworking tool and shapes raw wood into a sleek design. And, by learning woodworking, he/she prepares himself/herself to more easily serve in later service projects in Scouts BSA, Venturing, and other scouting programs.
- **Family understanding** is enhanced because building a Pinewood Derby car puts the Scout and his/her mom, dad, or other adult partner into a close and sometimes intense learning experience over, potentially, many hours.

It is very clear that any Scout who can cheer on a friend in a derby race, when his/her own car has been previously eliminated, must be said to have had his/her character developed, if not his/her car-building skills. But finally, and probably most convincingly, participating in the derby is fun!

The Pinewood Derby Competition versus Recognition

A key element of Cub Scouting is recognition of personal achievement rather than simple victory. We do this by providing a way of recognizing the achievement of each Scout rather than simply celebrating the car that was fastest down the track. While it can be heartbreaking to see a Cub Scout's lip tremble because he/she did not win a trophy, Cub Scouts are not entirely without a competitive spirit. They are, after all, kids first. Life does not provide a prize for everybody that shows up. The important thing is to balance victory and recognition, to award personal achievement, and to promote the goals of Cub Scouting: character development, spiritual growth, good citizenship, sportsmanship and fitness, family understanding, respect for relationships, personal achievement, friendly service, fun and adventure, and preparation for Scouts BSA.

Council Pinewood Derby Awards:

1st place – Den age group (Lions, Tigers, Wolves, Bears, Webelos, AOLs)

1st, 2nd, and 3rd – Cub Scouts (all age groups)

1st, 2nd, and 3rd - Siblings (all ages)

1st, 2nd, and 3rd – Adults (cars that meet all size/weight/clearance rules)

1st, 2nd, and 3rd – Outlaws (Adult cars that do not meet all rules)

1st – People's Choice Award: Youth

1st – People's Choice Award: Adults

Pinewood Derby Rules (A Scout is Trustworthy):

1. Material:

- **Race cars shall be constructed for this event from the parts contained in the Official Grand Prix Pinewood Derby Kit** (referred to below as the kit). Materials from the kit may be supplemented but not replaced. You may not use pre-made cars or kits. ***If the proper kit is not utilized, the car will not be allowed to race.***

2. Weight:

- Race cars may weigh no more than five (5) ounces (total weight) as determined on the official scales during pre-race inspection and check-in.

3. Wheels and Axles:

- The car shall roll on the wheels from the kit or other official BSA wheels. The wheels shall turn about the axle nails from the kit. The axle nails shall be firmly affixed to the wood of the car body.
- **The axle dimensions may not be changed.** The outside surface of the axle head (the non-contact surface) may not be changed, such as, by polishing. It must be obvious to the judges that the wheels and the nails from the kit are being used.
- **The axle placement may not be changed. If axles have been altered, the car will not be allowed to race.**

4. Size:

- Race cars may be no longer than 7 inches, nor wider than 2 3/4 (2.75) inches, nor taller than 3 inches, as determined by the official gages during race day inspection. (Underside clearance of at least 3/8 (0.375) inches and inside wheel to wheel clearance of at least 1 3/4 (1.75) inches is recommended, so that the car will run on the racetrack. Adequate clearance is the responsibility of the race car builder.)

5. Weights and Attachment:

- Weight may be added to the car and will be considered part of the car for purposes of all measurements. "Weight" is considered to be any material on the car that is not provided in the kit. All weight must be securely fastened to the car, e.g., by permanent glue, nails or screws, but not by "sticky substances", e.g., tape, or tack spray. Cars do jump the tracks and also stop abruptly, so weights that are not securely fastened can and do fall off.
- **Weights put underneath the car must be sunk into the car. If weights are too low, the car will not be allowed to race. The car must meet the underside clearance of 0.375 inches. The track cannot support lower clearances.**

6. Wheels:

- Wheel treatment (hub and tread smoothing and polishing) may not result in substantial removal of mass or in reducing the tread (track contact) width from the original kit wheels. Wheel tread surface must be cylindrical. The words "Official B.S.A. Made in U.S.A." and other lettering on the wheels shall remain intact and clearly visible to the inspector. Some of the original "tread marks" on the wheel face must be intact, i.e. apparent to the inspector.

7. Unacceptable Construction:

- The following may NOT be used in conjunction with the wheels or axles: hubcaps, washers, inserts, sleeves, bearings.

8. Lubricants:

- Lubricants must be dry at the time of inspection and racing.

9. Staging:

- The entire car must stage behind the starting pin.

10. Body:

- The car body may have no moving parts.

11. Gravity Powered:

- The car must be powered by gravity and nothing else.

12. Inspection:

- All cars will be inspected prior to the race using the BSA car template.

13. Impound:

- All cars will be impounded after meeting inspection criteria. No further adjustments may be made to the cars once they are impounded. Only race officials may touch the cars after they have been impounded. Repairs may be made to vehicles during the race only with race officials' approval.

14. 2021 Season:

- All cars must be new for the 2021 Pinewood Derby racing season. Previously built cars may not be entered in this event.

15. Scout-built:

- Cars should be substantially built by the Scout, and depending on age level, his/her adult partner. Sibling cars should be built with same amount of adult support as would be appropriate for similar age Scouts. Sibling cars built almost entirely by parents (due to the sibling being younger than elementary age) should more appropriately be entered in the adult division.

16. Sportsmanship:

- Good sportsmanship and behavior is expected. Race officials may ask anyone not following this rule to leave.

17. Outlaw Category:

- Cars that meet size and clearance requirements and that could safely run without damaging the track, but that otherwise don't meet all the rules, can run in the Outlaw Category.

I have read and understand the above rules. I further understand if my car does not pass inspection, it will NOT be entered in the race.

_____ (Racer name)

_____ (Adult partner signature)