



2026 Four Mile Run District Pinewood Derby Information Summary

Saturday, March 14, 2026
Parish Hall, Our Lady of Lourdes Church;
830 23rd Street South, Arlington, VA

Race Schedule:

Rank	Check-in / Inspection	Race Start
Arrow of Light	11:15 – 11:45	12:00 PM
Webelos	12:00 – 12:45	1:00 PM
Bear	1:00 – 1:45	2:00 PM
Wolf	2:00 – 2:45	3:00 PM
Tiger	3:00 – 3:45	4:00 PM
Lions	4:00 – 4:45	5:00 PM

Don't be late for inspection! Once the registration closes, additional entrants will be disqualified. Racers can only check in their cars during their Ranks designated check-in / Inspection time. As it says above, no car will be accepted for inspection within 15 minutes of race time. Once the registration closes and a race chart has been created, it is not possible to add a contestant and that racer has to be disqualified. Also, cars that have not successfully completed the check-in/inspection process by the end of the period WILL NOT be allowed to race.

General Information

The pinewood derby is open to all Four Mile Run District packs. Each pack (including packs with multiple dens for each rank level, or with female dens) may only register one representative from each Rank level (Arrow of Light, Webelos, Bear, Wolf, Tiger and Lions).

The race director is Chris Bouda, Four Mile Run Pinewood Derby Event Coordinator. Any inquiries can be made to Chris at 4mr.pinewood.derby@gmail.com.

This year, as in past years, there is a speed contest, as well as a design contest!

For the speed contest, a six-lane aluminum track will be used. Race management will be computerized. There is computerized starting, infrared finish line detection, as well as automatic results input directly into a computer. The race management software will control the entire race. Races are run by Scout rank with a winner being crowned for each rank. Races are run in multiple heats with each car getting to run many races.

Car-building and race rules are in the official 2026 Four Mile Run District Pinewood Derby Rules. They must be followed, as the intent is to have everyone on equal footing among the different packs throughout the district. To facilitate this, there is an inspection and weigh-in on check-in day. There is a very rigid inspection gauge that the car must fit into which confirms that all car specifications are met, as well as a visual inspection with trained race officials to ensure wheels, axles and other specifications are met. After the inspection, the cars are placed under the control of the race staff and neither the Scouts nor the parents can make further modifications. In the event that a car breaks (this does happen) during the competition every attempt can be made to repair it within the time permitted, and within the limitations stated in the rules. This will be done at the race repair table. The car may only be repaired to the state that it was in before it broke. No additional speed aids may be added.

One note of caution with respect to construction: We strongly recommend Four Mile Run units not use the woodshop at Camp Snyder to build your PWD car, or attend car building sessions with units outside Four Mile Run District. There is variance in the construction rules between districts, and we have found that the woodshop leaders do not follow Four Mile Run's construction rules. This has unfortunately led to some cars not being qualified for District competition.

Registration

Pre-registration of racers is required and must be completed by Monday, February 23th by each Pack's Pinewood Derby Coordinator (see **Volunteer** section below for more on this). To pre-register, the Pack's Pinewood Derby Coordinator should fill out the Google Form Race Registration page located at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpOLSDcQhr8BhJHvR5puEMRbwjZgPKbM77wbcu-IE5_8KXFM7r4aUw/viewform?usp=sf_link

No registrations will be accepted after Monday, March 9th. Each of the Cub Scout Packs in the District may only enter one Scout in each Rank Division. While that is a maximum of 6 per Pack, only 1 scout per rank (Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos and Arrow of Light) may be registered. Typically this is the division winner for each Rank from your Pack Pinewood Derby.

Cost

There is a fee of \$15 per Cub Scout for both the speed and design competitions which includes an event patch. A single payment from each Pack is preferred depending on the number of Scouts registered. Checks can be written to *NCAC Scouting America*, and the memo field should indicate *Four Mile Run District Pinewood Derby*. Payment can be mailed to the coordinator (please email him separately for address), provided to the District Executive at the February Round Table or, with the prior approval of race coordinator, to the Check-in Table on race day.

This event is required to be financially self-sustaining, and in past years, we have unfortunately had Packs where “the check in the mail” never arrived. Therefore, we have to strictly enforce the rule that no Scout will be permitted to race until payment had been received for the entire Pack. It is the Pack Pinewood Derby Coordinator’s responsibility to ensure that payment is received in a timely manner.

Volunteers

Each Pack must identify a single Pinewood Derby Coordinator. This person must register by Monday, February 2th by filling out the Google Form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHZRW9yql6agrHE4hEk9TWzPOuBJQpnPR2Lf0fNoYzJnkucA/viewform>

Scout registrations for, and questions pertaining to the Derby will ***only*** be accepted from the registered Pack Race Coordinator (NOT INDIVIDUAL PARENTS – if parents contact the District Derby Coordinator directly, they will be directed back to the Cubmaster or the Pack Race Coordinator), so this is a key step.

In the past, we asked for volunteers from each pack to support the race, but often, we have not been able to fully employ 31 volunteers, or worse, 155 for an hour each. Training and turnover proved to take more effort than finding a key group of volunteers to run the entire event. Accordingly, Scouts and Scouters from Troop 164 and other District Troops will be supporting the event as staff. We are not requiring volunteers from each pack for the duration of the event.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1. If we have an Arrow of Light scout in the Pack that crossed over to a Scouting America troop before the District PWD, can he or she still participate in the District PWD?**

Absolutely. Many scouts look forward to their last District PWD, and we would never want to deny the scout his final shot at taking home some hardware.

- 2. Why can't individual parents register with the District?**

We have no way of knowing who your pack wishes to send as your representative for each rank,

and we're in no position to referee a dispute when 2 Tigers from Pack 456 both show up to race and insist they're the rightful scout. Therefore, we insist on the Pack Race Coordinator registering scouts so we can then advise that parent who isn't listed on the sheet to follow up with their Pack leadership.

3. Can a scout enter both the speed and design competitions?

Yes. The purpose of the Design Competition is to recognize the wonderful creativity and craftsmanship of our Scouts (not the car). A scout who qualified for the Speed Competition may also enter their car in the Design Competition for an additional fee.

4. I don't understand why my car has to be re-inspected at the Districts? My Pack was OK with it when I raced there.

5. Each Pack may race cars at their pack derbies under their own rules, and some packs in our district have no rules. However, because this is a speed competition, to ensure all racers are on an even playing field throughout the District, the event is run under District rules which have been consistent with respect to car construction for over the last 14 years. Often, the car construction rules present the biggest challenges to racers at the District level, and are intended to (1) ensure fair races, (2) that our track and equipment will accurately record the results, (3) that other cars are not damaged during the race, and (4) that scouts from one pack do not have "advantages" that scouts from other packs may not.

The Race Director and Committee never like disqualifying a scout from racing and it is the absolute last option. We strongly encourage everyone to show up as early as possible for their pre-race inspection so racers have the maximum amount of time to make repairs. Most often, differences in scales used between the pack race and the District scale will require the removal of weight. If the inspectors find something non-compliant, every opportunity will be afforded your scout to get the car into compliance within the allotted time as outlined above.

Please read and distribute the rules to your Pack (and the information sheet to your pack reps to the district race)!

Other Important Information:

1. Registration Deadline: 11:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2026 (no late registrations will be accepted) and must be performed by the registered Pack Race Registration Coordinator.
2. Registration of **Scout Racers** is ONLY done via the Google Form link listed above (not email), and by each Pack's Race Registration Coordinator **only**. No individual registration is allowed. Individual parents from packs will be directed back to the Cubmaster or pack coordinator.
3. **There is a Best Design Competition as well this year, and the rules are at the end of the District speed rules.**
4. All participating Scouts are required to wear their Class A Uniform and accompany their car to check-in. If a Scout cannot afford a uniform, and the Pack is unable to assist the scout, please contact the District Derby Coordinator, as the District may be able to assist the scout in securing a uniform.

5. The Scout's name and Pack number must be written and clearly visible on the bottom of his or her car.
6. Scout's cars must be inspected, checked in and passed for racing during the designated check in time. WE STRONGLY SUGGEST entrants arrive at the beginning of the inspection period - occasionally, race officials will require weight adjustment or other changes to make the car compliant with district rules. All modifications must be completed by the end of the check-in period. Late entrants and those who are unable to complete check-in and inspection will *not* be allowed to race.
7. Once inspected, a Scout's car is under the control of the race officials. A Scout or his/her parent can no longer touch or adjust his/her car, except when the car breaks (see rules for details) during racing. Violations of this rule, or attempts, may lead to disqualification.
8. Volunteer Requirements: ***Each Pack must provide*** a Pack Pinewood Derby Coordinator – Responsible for registering Scouts from his or her Pack and ensuring payment is provided.
9. Track details: 35 foot all aluminum six lane track (BestTrack brand) with electronic time and place.
10. Race Management: Grand Prix Race Manager Software.
11. All participants will receive a Four Mile Run District Pinewood Derby Patch.
12. The top three finishers in each Rank Division will win trophies.
- 13. Please remember to inform your Scouts that only the wheels and axles that come in the official Scouting America PWD kit or purchased at the Bethesda or NoVA Scout Store may be used. Any other wheels or axles will disqualify the Scout's car!***
- 14. READ the rules and pay special attention to the section on wheels, axles and car construction.***