

Algonquian District Pinewood Derby

America 250 – 2026 Official Rules

1. Theme

America 250

In celebration of America's 250th birthday, the 2026 Algonquian District Pinewood Derby will feature special design recognition alongside traditional racing.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Cub Scout Division

All **registered Cub Scouts** are eligible to build and race one car with their Pack. Scouts who qualify at the Pack level will be invited to the Algonquian District Pinewood Derby.

2.2 Outlaw Divisions

- **Prospects**

Youth in grades K–5 who are *not registered* with Scouting America at the time of their Pack Pinewood Derby. Registration status for District or Council events does not affect eligibility.
No participation limit.

- **Pro-Am**

Any individual who is not a registered Cub Scout or Prospect, including adults, siblings, and youth in 6th grade and above (under age 18).
Limit: 32 paid participants.

- **Patriots (Design-Only Division)**

In honor of America's 250th birthday, the Patriots division is a **non-racing** category for designers of all ages.

- Entry fee: **\$2.50 per car** (used for awards and/or trophies)
- Open to anyone; no limit on entries

Patriot's entries will be voted on by attendees in two categories:

- **Best Scout Spirit**
 - **Best America 250 Design**
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3. Sportsmanship and Conduct

Good sportsmanship is **mandatory**.

Race officials may remove any participant or spectator who fails to follow the rules or exhibits unsportsmanlike behavior.

- Protests must be brought to the **Race Director immediately**.
- No protests will be accepted once the next race has begun.

- The Race Director has full authority to take any action necessary to ensure **fairness, safety, and sportsmanship**.
 - **All decisions are final.**
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4. Qualification for District Pinewood Derby

Each Pack may send **up to 12 Scouts total** to the District event.

- Packs may send **2 Scouts per den, or**
 - If some dens have fewer than two Scouts, Packs may send **up to 3 Scouts from a den**, provided the Pack total does not exceed 12 Scouts.
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5. Car Impound and Handling

- Once a Pack identifies its qualifying racers, cars must be **quarantined by a trusted adult** (typically the Cubmaster).
 - **Cars may not be modified** after Pack qualification.
 - Packs are responsible for transporting cars to the District event.
 - All cars must pass **District inspection** on race day.
 - After inspection, cars will be **impounded**, and only race officials may handle them.
 - Any car may be **re-inspected at any time** while in the possession of race staff.
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6. Check-In and Race Format

- Each car will race **multiple heats**, one on each lane of the track.
 - Rankings are based on the car's **average race time**.
 - Races will be run in the following order:
 1. Lion
 2. Tiger
 3. Wolf
 4. Bear
 5. Webelos
 6. Arrow of Light
 7. Prospects
 8. Outlaw divisions
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7. General Car Requirements

- Cars must be **gravity-powered only**.
 - No motors, springs, rubber bands, magnets, or other propulsion devices.
 - Cars must be **free-wheeling**, with no starting devices.
 - The entire car must **fit behind the starting post**.
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8. Car Specifications

8.1 Construction

- Cars must be **built during the current Scouting year**.
- No repeat cars or repainted cars from previous years or levels.
- Pre-cut designs are allowed if all specifications are met.
- The **main body must be constructed of pinewood**.

8.2 Dimensions

- **Maximum width:** 2¾ inches
- **Maximum length:** 7 inches
- **Maximum height:** 3 inches
- **Maximum weight:** 5.0 ounces
- **Minimum clearance:** ⅜ inch
 - Wheels must be the only part touching the track.

8.3 Wheelbase

- Must not exceed the **standard stock wheelbase** of 4⅜ inches ($\pm 1/16$ inch).
 - Wheelbase must be perpendicular to the original body side profiles.
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9. Wheels, Axles, and Lubrication

9.1 Allowed

- Only **official BSA/Cub Scout Pinewood Derby wheels and axles**
- Wheels and axles may be **polished** to remove imperfections
- **Dry powdered lubricants only** (e.g., graphite)
- All four wheels must **touch the track at all times**
- Wheel diameter ≥ 1.16 inches
- Tread surface width ≥ 7.5 mm

9.2 Prohibited (Automatic Disqualification)

- Machined wheels or axles
- Grooved, notched, or bent axles
- Thinned wheel walls
- Liquid lubricants
- Canted wheels or axles
- One-piece axles spanning the car width
- Bearings, washers, bushings, shims, springs, or any friction-reducing materials around the axles

Any modification not explicitly allowed is prohibited.

10. Concessions and Pro Shop

- Concessions and Pro Shop items are available for **cash purchase only**.
 - Proceeds support event costs, including trophies and decorations.
 - Any profits will be reported at a subsequent Roundtable and **donated to Algonquian District** to support the **2027 Pinewood Derby**.
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End of Official Rules