

Pathway To Adventure Council (PTAC) - April 12 2026 Pinewood Derby

PTAC PINEWOOD DERBY OFFICIAL SPECIFICATIONS/ RULES

The following specifications will be strictly adhered to for the PTAC Pinewood Derby. These rules supersede the rules that are provided in the Pinewood Derby kit, by your pack, or by your district.

The Race

1) Pinewood Derby Races are fun for the whole family and are an opportunity for the scout and parent to work together. Creativity and a Mad Scientist Mentality should be your goals!

2) **Race Date, Location, and Schedule**

- Sunday, April 12 2026 10 am to 4 pm
- Woodfield Mall Grand Court, Schaumburg, Illinois

Division	Check-In Time	Race and Design Vote Time
Lion	10:00 am – 11:30 am	12:00 pm
Tiger	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	12:30 pm
Wolf	10:00 am – 12:30 pm	1:00 pm
Bear	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	1:30 pm
Webelos	10:00 am – 1:30 pm	2:00 pm
AOL Arrow of Light	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	2:30 pm
Alumni	10:00 am – 2:30 pm	3:00 pm
Car Pickup After Race through 4:00 pm		

3) **Scoring:**

- Every car will run one time on each lane of the track.
- If there are less than 4 cars in a race, the empty lane(s) will be filled with "Pace Cars".
- The final results will be awarded based on the **average time** of all 4 runs down the track.
- In the unlikely event of a tie in **average time** for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd a tie breaking race will be run.
- Judges' determinations of race winners are final.
- Trophies awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Design.

4) **Eligibility:** A registered car will compete in both race and design contests. Seven divisions will be raced:

- **Lion** – Current Lion Scout in PTAC Pack
- **Tiger** – Current Tiger Scout in PTAC Pack
- **Wolf** – Current Wolf Scout in PTAC Pack
- **Bear** – Current Bear Scout in PTAC Pack
- **Webelos** – Current Webelos Scout in PTAC Pack
- **Arrow of Light** – Current AOL Scout in PTAC Pack or AOL Scout that was a member of a PTAC Pack in 2026 (for example, an AOL that crossed over to Scouting in 2026).
- **Alumni** - Scout Family (parents, siblings, and grandparents) of current or past PTAC scouts. Current or past adult and youth members of PTAC Scouts, Venture Scouts, Sea Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Explorer Scouts. Councils merged into PTAC qualify for PTAC alumni.

5) **Inspection:** Each car must pass inspection by race Officials. The Inspectors have the right to disqualify cars which do not meet these specifications.

- Passing a Pack inspection does not guarantee a car will pass the District inspection.
- If a car does not meet these specifications, it may be permitted to race as a disqualify entry at the discretion of the inspection team but it will not be eligible to win.

6) **Previous Year Car:** Cars raced in previous years are not allowed for Cub Scouts. Alumni participants may race cars from previous years.

7) **Number of Entries:** One car may be entered per person.

8) **Check In:** The Scout or a representative from their Pack must be present at Check-In.

- Inspectors may allow minor weight adjustments due to scale differences. No other alterations shall be made.
- No handling of the car by participants is allowed after the car receives official inspection approval. Pictures of the Scout with their car must be taken before Check-In.
- Once a car is accepted by the inspectors at Check-In, no challenges or additional inspections will be performed.

9) **Sportsmanship:** Behavior unbecoming a Scout by a participant or their parent/adult guardian will result in the participant's car being disqualified. Judges may warn of casual infractions. Argumentative or abusive behavior will NOT be tolerated.

10) Please do not buy a complete car from the internet. That is behavior unbecoming of a Scout.

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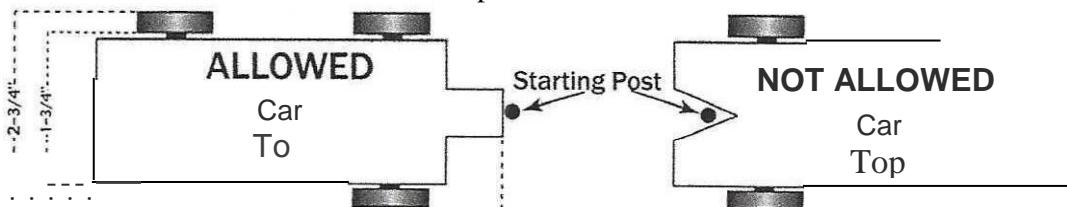
Design Contest Judging

The Design Contest will be decided by a popular vote of all people at the race.

- All cars will be on display.
- One vote per person.
- Disqualified Race cars can still win the design award.

Car Specifications

- 1) **Name:** All cars must have the scout's name and pack number on the bottom of the car (Sharpie works well).
- 2) **Car Materials:** Cars are made from the Official Boy Scout Pinewood Derby Kit. Kits are available at the PTAC Scout Shops. Replacement parts shall be Official Boy Scout Pinewood Derby parts.
- 3) **Shape:** The center of the front bumper must be the furthest point forward on the car with the front bumper center being no more than 2 inches from the ground. No part of the car may extend forward of the starting pin. The front of the car must not have a notch, as pictured. Pointed nose cars are hard to start but we will do our



best.

- 4) **Weight:** The weight of the car shall not exceed 5.0 ounces.
- 5) **Length:** The length of the car shall not exceed 7 inches.
- 6) **Height:** The height of the car shall not exceed 4-1/2 inches.
- 7) **Width:** The width of the car shall not exceed 2-3/4 inches.
- 8) **Ground Clearance:** The car must have 3/8 inch clearance underneath the body. Weights placed on the underside of the car must be recessed.
- 9) **Space between Wheels:** The car must have 1 3/4 inch clearance between the wheels.
- 10) **Axle Mounting:** Cars may use the existing pre-cut axle slots or drill new axle holes.
- 11) **Wheelbase:** The wheelbase (distance between axles) may be changed from the pre-cut slots. The wheels may not extend past the front or back of the car.
- 12) **Loose Materials:** No loose or liquid materials are permitted in or on the car.
- 13) **Springs:** The car shall not ride on any type of springs.
- 14) **Detailing:** Details such as steering wheel, driver, decals, painting, and interior detail are allowed. All details must be permanently attached.
- 15) **WHEELS:**

- **Wheel Bearings:** Washers, bearings, and bushings are prohibited.
- **OFFICIAL BSA Wheels:** Cars must be run with the official BSA wheels that come in the kit. Colored or other replacement wheels purchased at the Scout Shop are also acceptable. Wheels must have the BSA name/logo on them.
- Surface imperfections and mold casting marks may be removed (do not remove BSA identification).
- Wheels may be altered including holes drilled in the side, tread width narrowed, or the inside surface of the wheel carved out. A wheel may be tapered to a sharp edge or radius.
- Any number of wheels is allowed as long as the car runs successfully on the track.
- Wheels are not required to touch the ground. For example, a four wheel car can ride on three wheels.

- 16) **Axles:**
 - Only axles as provided with the Official Pinewood derby kit will be allowed (4 nails, 1 per wheel). The axles must be the nails provided in the kit. No solid axles (PineCar brand or similar) will be allowed.
 - Axle shape and dimensions may be altered. For example, the following is legal:



- Burr marks may be removed and axles may be sanded/polished.

- 17) **Gravity:** Each car must be free-wheeling, powered only by gravity with no starting device.
- 18) **Lubricant:** No lubricating oil may be used (liquid or oil based lubricants can damage the track and will prevent a car from racing). Axles may be lubricated with powdered graphite or other dry powder. Lubricate only the axles. Do not lubricate the outside of the wheel.
- 19) **Lubrication must be done prior to entering the building.**