



**SCOUTING  
PURDUE**  
Eagle Scouts and Scouting Alumni

# Purdue Pinewood Derby Event Guide

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## Overview

The Purdue Pinewood Derby is an event where students from every major and club on campus are invited to design, build, and race their own pinewood derby cars in a competition surrounding engineering and creativity.

### Race Location, Date & Time

- Race Location
  - WALC Basement
- Race Date
  - Saturday, April 18th, 2026
- Race Time
  - Check in: 11AM
  - Race starts: 12PM
  - Award Ceremony: 5PM

### What is a Pinewood Derby?

- A pinewood derby is a racing event in the Cub Scouts program, a youth development program for grades K-5.
- Participants build small cars out of a block of pine wood, add wheels and weights, and then race them down a 50-foot track.
- It's hands-on and easy for beginners, which makes it great for Cub Scouts.
- Prizes are often awarded for both speed and design.

### Why Should You Join?

This event is designed to bring students together across majors and organizations. Whether you're in engineering, an art major, or someone who just wants to build something cool, this event is for you. You might even walk away with a prize and trophy.

### Important Dates

- Callouts/painting workshops:
  - 3/26 - SCHM 112 - 6PM-7PM
  - 3/31 - SCHM 112 - 6PM-7PM
  - 4/6 - SCHM 112 - 6PM-7PM
  - 4/8 - SCHM 112 - 6PM-7PM
- Build Day: 4/4 - BIDC - 9AM-12PM
  - Sign up sheet [here](#)
- Race Day: 4/18 - WALC Basement - 11AM-5PM

# Race registration

## Division Information

Classic Division:

- Follows the classic Scouting America Pinewood Derby race rules; meant to mimic the classic Pinewood Derby event
- Individual participation; 1 person registered per car
- Must be a registered student (undergraduate or graduate) or staff at Purdue

Advanced Division:

- Scouting America Pinewood Derby restrictions do not apply; students are encouraged to creatively engineer their car to win
- Individual or team participation; 1 or more people registered per car
- An individual may only be a part of 1 team
- Must be a registered student (undergraduate or graduate) or staff at Purdue

## How to register

How to Sign Up:

- Come to a callout and/or fill out the [registration form](#)
- Pay the entrance fee with cash or at [tradingpost.scoutingpurdue.org](http://tradingpost.scoutingpurdue.org)
- The last day to register is April 15th

Picking up your car:

- Purchased or plan on purchasing at a callout? You can pick up your car right at the event!
- Otherwise we will contact you by email to arrange a time and date for pick up.

## Cost to enter

	Students	Faculty/Staff
Classic Division	\$5	\$10
Advanced Division	\$10	\$10

# Rules and Awards

## Rules

Classic Division Rules (<https://www.scoutshop.org/pwd-rules>):

- Width shall not exceed 2-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches
- Length shall not exceed 7 inches
- Weight shall not exceed 5 ounces
- Axles, wheels, and body shall be from the materials provided in the kit. Additional wheels can be purchased separately.
- Wheel bearings, washers, and bushings are prohibited
- No lubricating oil may be used. Axles may be lubricated with powdered graphite or silicone.
- The car shall not ride on any kind of spring
- The car must be free-wheeling, with no starting devices
- No loose materials of any kind are allowed in the car
- Car must fit behind start

#### Advanced Division Rules:

- Wheels shall not exceed 2-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches
- Body width shall not exceed 3 inches
- Length shall not exceed 8 inches from front of car to back of rear wheel
- Weight shall not exceed 32 ounces
- Distance between wheels shall be 1-<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in
- Minimum ground clearance of 1-<sup>7</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in
- Max height of 6 in
- Car must stay in one piece
- No pyrotechnics
- No explosives
- No blades
- Car cannot damage track
- Car cannot leave residue on track
- Car cannot affect other racers
- Propellants must have a built in release system

#### General Rules:

- Must be PG-13; no explicit content
- Must follow Purdue's rules on freedom of expression
  - <https://www.purdue.edu/home/limits-of-free-speech/>

## Awards

- Trophies and prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place of each division.
  - Classic Division prizes:
    1. Skull Candy Dime 3 earbuds
    2. Anker Soundcore 2 Bluetooth Speaker
    3. Logitech Wireless Mouse
  - Advanced Division prizes:

1. 4x 50 yard line seats to Purdue's First game of the 2026 season versus Indiana State plus a Lot A tailgate parking pass.
  2. Tecaki 1080P HD portable Bluetooth and WIFI projector
  3. A Purdue themed Monopoly board
- Special Awards: (For more information on scoring criteria please reference the rulebook)
    - Purdue-iest Award: An award given to a car from either division that best embodies Purdue and its traditions/culture.
    - Presidents Award: This award is given to a car from either division that Scouting Purdue's President feels best exemplifies the Scouting Spirit on and off the track.
    - People's Choice Award: This award is given to a car from either division that has the support of the people and will be determined by anonymous popular vote.
    - Slowest Car Award: This award is given to a car from either division that may not be at the top of the leaderboard but still makes the effort to finish the race.
  - All trophies, awards, and prizes will be distributed shortly after the conclusion of all the races.

## Race Day Logistics

- What we provide on the race day:
  - Scale
  - Super glue
  - Hot glue gun
  - Lubricant
  - Chisel or drill
  - Extra weights
  - Sharpies and stickers for numbering
- If you would like to participate but can't be physically present, we can race your car for you! You can still win awards and prizes.

## How to Prepare

- Pick up your car kit
- Attend a build day or go on your own time
- Attend a paint day to decorate your car
- Show up on race day!

## Building your car

- Scouting Purdue will provide the car kits

- We will host building sessions in the Bechtel Innovation Design Center for participants to work on their cars. Racers will also be able to work on and decorate their cars as desired on their own.

## Scale Information



- This is the scale we will be using:  
[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C7162144?ref=ppx\\_yo2ov\\_dt\\_b\\_fed\\_asin\\_title&th=1](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C7162144?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_fed_asin_title&th=1)

## Track info

- Our track is 35 feet long with 4 lanes. The specifications and exact measurements can be found [here](#).

## Example Cars



## About Us

### Scouting Purdue

Scouting Purdue is a student organization that continues the long tradition of Scouting at Purdue University. For more than a century, Scouts have grown into leaders who carried their values into classrooms, careers, and communities. Our group brings together students, alumni, and friends who live by the Scout Oath and Law and want to keep the spirit of Scouting alive on campus.

*Our mission is to build a fellowship-based service organization rooted in Scouting values, dedicated to leadership, cheerful service, and personal growth.*

## Contact info

- Website: [purduepinewoodderby.org](http://purduepinewoodderby.org)
- Instagram: [@purduepinewoodderby](https://www.instagram.com/purduepinewoodderby)
- Email: [scouting@purdue.edu](mailto:scouting@purdue.edu)

