

Pack 55 Pinewood Derby

Frequently Asked Questions



Once my car is checked in (weighed in, passed inspection) will I be able to adjust the car?

No. Once the car has been checked in, it can no longer be adjusted and will be in the possession of the pack until racing concludes. If the car requires repair (if a wheel falls off for example) mutual support will be available to get the car running again.

Can a car fail inspection?

Yes. If a rules violation is detected a car may be disqualified or require adjustment to be compliant with the rules. Often cars may come in a tick overweight and can be easily adjusted. Ensure your scout references the rules when building a car.

The post office scale said the car is 5 ounces but at check in the car weighed 5.2 ounces. Why did I have to lighten my car?

Unfortunately, pack 55 does not have the same exact scales as the post office and there may be a slight variation from scale to scale. To be fair to everyone, each car is weighed using the pack scale.

Can I buy a pre-made car from an Internet site?

While it may be difficult for judges to detect, it does violate the spirit of the pinewood derby as well as the rules. Please refer to the rules. As a coach/parent and a scout design, carve, paint, weigh, refine, and race the car, a bond of partnership is created. This is at the heart of the event's success. In addition, Cub Scouts build confidence and take pride in their own growing skills and hard work.

Can I use the car that I used last year / can I use the car my cousin built for his?

No. A kit is provided to each scout and there is an expectation that scouts will build their car with the help of their coach or parent.

How many times do the scouts race?

We use a four lane track. Each scout will race on each lane once for a total of 4 races

My scout won all 4 of his races, but he finished 10th. What happened?

Remember that while cars do race each other, they are mainly racing the clock. If 4 races are run by each scout, all 4 times are added together. Whoever used up the least amount of time, wins. A scout may have won all four

races, but took a bit more time doing it. There is typically only tenths of a second that separate first from tenth place in the pinewood derby.

How do you determine who wins a close race?

We use a electronic starting/finish line that sends exact times to a computer where it is tracked and reported.