



Pinewood Derby (PWD) Workshops: What to Expect

www.troop1028.org/pwd-workshops.html



Note: this information flyer is based on Pack 77 PWD rules, so if you are in different Pack, refer to your own Pack rules if there are any discrepancies.

1. Workshop Overview and Philosophy

The Pinewood Derby car construction process is meant to be a SPECIAL Scout/parent bonding experience and Mr. Eric and the workshop crew are at your disposal for help as needed but we will NOT build your car for you. Ask any former Scout what their most memorable Scouting experience was, and I will bet they will say building and racing their derby cars with their mom or dad's help!!

2. Workshop Format and Participant Rules

- Sessions are 90 minutes in length and run back-to-back, 3 sessions per afternoon
- Space is limited to a maximum of 8-10 car builders (i.e. all Scouts, siblings, parents and all-comers who want to make a car) per session
- If at all possible, at least 1 adult per Scout is requested for safety reasons
- Siblings and parents are welcome to work on their cars for the All-Comers race during the workshops, with priority being given to finishing the Scouts first
- Most importantly, the Den leaders or a delegate will be responsible for crowd control and for helping us in making sure that everyone is following the safety rules
- These will be "leave when you are finished" meetings so if you finish early, you can take off early – just remember to take everything with you, including all little parts!

3. Car Racing Rules Reminder

- As a reminder, each race entrant is allowed to race only one car. Scouts should plan to race in their standard category (with their Den) unless they want to race an old car (i.e. not built this year) which means they will be placed in the All-Comers category.
- Friends/parents/siblings are invited to build and race in the All-Comer category too!
- Some Packs also have a LEGO derby for anyone who wants to design & build a car, but isn't yet in Kindergarten. Base kits are \$10 on Amazon & run on the PWD track.
- On raceday, you must race only your own registered car (i.e. one car per person!)

4. What to Expect at the PWD Workshop

- Each session will start with a safety briefing and instructions for the tools we will be using. Mr. Eric will run the saws to do the rough cutting, but Scouts can use various belt sanders, drills, and other fairly safe power and hand tools with ADULT permission and very close ADULT supervision. If you don't feel comfy doing anything, ask Mr. Eric or the workshop crew to do it for you.
- Mr. Eric will help with the rough cutting and the Scouts can sand and detail their cars, plus he'll have a bunch of random fins and parts they can use, and can make special parts from scrap wood if needed
- Note that all Webelos/AOLs must complete ALL steps WITHOUT adult help (other than safety-related supervision), so will have to use hand saws to cut out their cars. This is truly miserable and takes a long time but luckily builds a lot of character!

5. What to Wear

- Definitely wear street clothes (not your uniforms) as we will be making a lot of sawdust and gluing all kinds of crazy stuff (plus possibly spray painting)
- Tennis shoes or similar "non-open top" footwear is required in the workshop
- If your Scout is sensitive to noise, you might want to consider headphones
- Safety gear: we provide earplugs, dust masks (shared), and safety glasses (shared)
- You are welcome to bring and wear your own mask if you like, they actually help with dust control nicely when you are sanding

6. What to Bring

- **Your entire derby car kit and all parts. If you already opened it, be sure to put the wheels and axles into a Ziploc bag to ensure none get lost!**
- All extra parts (drivers, trim, windshields, lights, engines, flux capacitors, hyperdrives, etc.) that you plan to add. Note that LEGO figures make perfect drivers!
- All weights that you plan to use: the easiest weights to use are the screw-on under-body weights available at the Scout Shop or Michael's. These have segments which you can break off with pliers to adjust the weight prior to the race. Another option are the weight tubes which can be inserted in a hole in your car and covered with putty.
- Eric typically has a limited supply of tubes and under-body weights for sale for around \$4, if you don't bring your own. He also has a bunch of lead fishing weights, washers, and odds and ends which are free but harder to use.
- An idea or sketch of what you want your finished car to look like - see the actual-size sketch sheet on our website. **Remember to not plan any cuts near the axle slots.** If you come with an idea or better yet the side and top cut-lines already traced on your car block, the construction will be much quicker. If you are stumped, Eric will have several design pattern books you can look through at the workshop.

7. What About Painting and Decorating?

- If the weather is decent, we may be able to spray paint outside. However, to look good you really need two coats of primer, light sanding, and then the final color after it dries, so don't plan on getting it totally done this time. Eric suggests at the most you try to prime it here and then take home the color you want.
- If anyone would like custom stickers made for your car, just email Mr. Eric exactly what you want and how big you want it to be. You can google images from the web and email him the file. He can also put Scout pictures on if you like.

8. Final Tidbits

- Remember that your car must fit through our size checker, so if you have an especially tall or wide car we would recommend checking that before race day. We've had to trim and chop off fins on race day before and as you can imagine, it can be traumatizing for Scouts to watch.
- Eric will be available all day on race day so either he or the tune-up table volunteer(s) can help with final tweaks then, as long as you get your car completed and registered by the deadline (i.e. don't ask us to put your wheels on 5 minutes before the race)

Useful Mr. Eric and Troop 1028/1029 info and resources

- PWD workshops, resources and tips: www.troop1028.org/pwd-workshops.html
- Troop 1028 and 1029 info / calendar (please join my Troops!): www.troop1028.org
- His crazy MG/YA Fantasy book series on Amazon (think Harry Potter, Indiana Jones, Stranger Things, and The Goonies): www.cartouchechronicles.com