

# Official Pinewood Derby Rules 2020

Page 1

## Majestic Mesas District Denver Area Council

### 1. Overview-- "What is a Pinewood Derby?"

The Pinewood Derby is a car race that is designed to be a parent-scout project. Please feel free to give guidance and minimal assistance to your Scout as they build their Pinewood Derby car, appropriate to their age. This is a chance for your Cub Scout to be part of a team (them and you), and to enjoy the spirit of friendly competition with their peers.

These "Official Pinewood Derby Rules" are written to help you keep it simple and fun for your child, and to know what to expect when it comes time for your scout to race their car. A special note to all parents and scouts: Together, please read the concluding article (Section 7) on sportsmanship. While everyone will be trying to win, it's always a good idea to start out by remembering the Cub Scout Motto, "Do Your Best," and some of the basic ideas behind good sportsmanship.

### 2. Ground Rules for District Pinewood Derby Participation-- "Who can race?"

#### *Participation guidelines:*

- A. The race is open to the scouts with the top 3 fastest cars in each Den of Lions, Tigers, Wolves, Bears, Webelos 1 and Webelos 2 Scouts registered to a Pack in Majestic Mesas District and are present to race.
- B. The car must have been built during the current program year (the school year in which the derby is held). Cars that have competed in a previous years derby are not permitted.

### 3. Car Specifications – "Are there car building rules?"

All cars must have been made from the official BSA Pinewood Derby kits. The body may be shaped, hollowed out, or built up from the base as long as it meets all other specs. Any additions to the original body, i.e. steering wheels, decals, paint, weights, etc., must be firmly attached. All add-ons must be able to clear the race track and not obstruct other race cars.

#### **Specific car construction details:**

- A. WIDTH: The car width at the wheels may not be modified. It must be the same as the original and must not exceed 2 ¾ inches.
- B. LENGTH: Overall length must not exceed 7 inches.
- C. WHEELBASE: Wheelbase may not be modified; it must be the same as the official kit.
- D. AXLES: Axles must be as furnished in the official kit; no solid axles are allowed. The use of washers, bushings, springs, or motors are not allowed. Any axle accessory must have been purchased at a BSA Scout Shop; no others accessories will be allowed. Axles may have been polished and pre-graphited.
- E. WHEELS: Wheels must be as furnished in the official kit or purchased from a BSA Scout Shop. Wheels may have been sanded to remove the flashing only. No reduction in size, thickness, or changes in shape will be allowed.

# Official Pinewood Derby Rules 2020

## Majestic Mesas District Denver Area Council

Page 2

F. WEIGHT: The weight of the race car must not exceed 5 ounces, as measured on the race scale used at registration.

G. MISC: Cars must be free wheel with no stored energy source or movable weights.

H. Only graphite is allowed for wheel lubrication. **No petroleum lubricants are allowed.**

### 4. Inspection and Registration

All Scout participants need to wear their Class A uniform .

A. The cars will then be subject to a technical inspection to verify that it meets the prescribed specifications (see 3. “Car Specifications” above for details).

**If a problem is noted, the Scout may be asked to correct it before the car is allowed to race.**

B. When the cars pass inspection, they will be placed in the race car lineup area.

C. Registration cutoff will be no later than 10:00 AM for all participants. Cars that have not registered by the cutoff deadline will not race, so plan to arrive early enough to get your car registered. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. (Later arrivals may enter in the “Open Class” if they still wish to race their car)

### 5. Competition – “How will the race be run?”

Every race has to have rules, and ours is no exception. Here’s what to expect:

A. Once all cars are registered, the competition brackets will be seeded. Scouts will race with other scouts from all ranks. **The computer will track the times by Den rank for award purposes.**

B. Each car will race one time in each lane (a four lane track) to determine winners in each division (Tigers, Wolves, Bears, Webelos 1 and Webelos 2). If a 2nd year Webelos scout has bridged into a Troop, they can still race since the car qualified when they were a Cub Scout.

C. Any non-functional decorations that fall off during competition will NOT be reattached during racing.

D. Ungentlemanly or unsportsmanlike conduct by any participant or spectator may be grounds for expulsion from the competition and/or the race area.

### 6. Rewards and Recognition – “What can I take home?”

The most important values in the Pinewood Derby competition are parent/scout participation, good sportsmanship and learning how to follow rules. The District Leadership is responsible for recognizing and encouraging these qualities in addition to traditional racing awards.

## Official Pinewood Derby Rules 2020

Page 3

### Majestic Mesas District Denver Area Council

The tangible District Pinewood Derby awards that each Cub Scout may receive are:

A. Trophies will be awarded to the first, second and third place finishers in each den

B. Cars from all ranks are eligible win the following trophies:

- a. **Best in Show.** This is voted on by the scouts and goes to the coolest looking car
- b. **Best Gas Mileage.** This award goes to the slowest car
- c. **Scout Spirit Award.** This goes to the Cub Scout who best exhibits their scout spirit by showing exceptional sportsmanship and a positive attitude throughout the Derby
- d. **Grand Champion.** This goes to the fastest car of all Dens in the Derby

#### 7. Sportsmanship – “How should I act?”

Two things the Pinewood Derby requires each participant to learn are 1) the craft skills necessary to build a car and 2) the rules that must be followed. Even more important, though, is how we act and behave while participating in the derby or any other group activity. This is called sportsmanship. The first thing to remember about sportsmanship is that everyone's skills are a little different. Your craft skills may be just developing, while someone else may be more experienced. Parents have different skill levels, too. Whether or not you feel that you have good car-building or racing skills, remember, you and your friends are individuals first and racers second. This idea is often called having respect for others. The second thing to remember is to follow the rules. Without rules, there would be no Pinewood Derby. You will never know if you are really good at doing something unless you follow the rules. This is often called being honest. The third thing to remember about good sportsmanship is that there are winners and losers in every competition. You accept this when you choose to compete. There may be times when you win and feel happy, and times when you lose and feel unhappy. Being a winner is easy, and losing is sometimes hard. If you win, you must not brag or gloat. If you lose, you must not feel jealous or bitter. To be a good sportsman, you must be able to say, "I did my best" and be satisfied with the results. You must also be able to appreciate and feel happy for someone else when they run a good race or build a neat car.

Good Luck!

#### OPEN Class Race

Any adult, sibling, friend or other individual can race in the open class race. The car must fit on the race track, meet the width/length requirements and not interfere with other cars. No petroleum lubricants are allowed. There is no weight restriction.