

Pinewood Derby® 2024 FAQ

When will the track be up?

Pinewood Derby runs from March 27-April 8. The 2-story track is in the Great Hall at the Indiana State Museum located at 650 W. Washington Street in downtown Indianapolis. The museum hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Will the track be open to the public?

Yes! You may bring your own car, or use one of the museum's pre-built cars, to race down the track. The museum calls these Fun Runs and will allow Fun Runs the entire time the track is open except for Saturday, April 6, which is the official Pinewood Derby Championship Race Day. Only racers participating in the official race can race their cars that day.

Will there be official races?

Yes. The Pinewood Derby Championship Race Day is Saturday, April 6 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Does track use cost money?

The Pinewood Derby track is included with the price of museum admission.

Adults: \$20

Seniors: (ages 60+): \$18

Youth (ages 3-17): \$14

Children younger than age 3: Free

College students with valid ID: \$5

Boy Scouts with scout ID/uniform: \$7 per family member

Access Pass member: \$2 per family member

What are the rules of Pinewood Championship Race Day?

Race Format

- There will be one race for each of the following categories:
 - K – 5th Grade
 - 6th–12th Grade
 - Adults
- Each car will run on each of the track lanes.

All trophies must be picked up in person.

Pinewood Derby Car Dimensions

- The overall length of the car shall not exceed 7 inches.
- The overall width of the car shall not exceed 2 ¾ inches.

Derby Car Weight

- The car shall not exceed 5.0 ounces.
- The official scale shall be considered final.

Wood Wheels and Axles

- Absolutely NO graphite or other lubricant can be added to the cars inside the museum.
- Official BSA wheels must be used. The wheels may not be cut, drilled, beveled rounded or machined. You may remove the seams and imperfections from the wheels.
- No wheel covers are allowed.
- Four wheels must be on the car.

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Modifications

- Your full name must be permanently displayed on the bottom of the car.
- The car must have 1 ¾ inches clearance between the wheels.
- The car should have a 3/8-inch clearance underneath the body so that it does not rub the track.
- Wheel bearings, washers or bushings are prohibited.
- The car must not ride on springs of any type.
- No starting devices.
- The car must be freewheeling.
- No loose materials of any kind are permitted.
- If a car is visibly damaged and a repair is needed, the car owner may repair it with a race official present and then re-pass inspection. **Repair is limited to the damaged section of the car.**

Other Race Rules

- Everyone is welcome to race.
- Only one car per museum admission on championship race day, April 6.
- All cars will be given a brief technical inspection. The cars qualifying for the final races will be given a thorough inspection.
- Once a car passes inspection and is entered into the race, only officials can touch it.
- Any car weighing less than five ounces and not passing inspection may run for fun but will not be considered for prizes.

Can the track be rented out for special events?

No. If a group would like to use the track, they simply come to the museum, pay admission, and race as they need.

Will there be a “Best in Show” contest?

“Best in Show” takes place on April 6, alongside the official race. All entries for “Best in Show” must register their car by 2 p.m. on April 6 to participate. All entries for “Best in Show” are for the “Best in Show” contest only – “Best in Show” participants are not eligible to race in the Pinewood Championship Race.

What are the rules for “Best in Show”?

The “Best in Show” contest focuses on style over function, but entries must still meet the following guidelines:

- Participants must register in the appropriate age bracket to compete – youth (ages 5-16) and adult (ages 17+).
- The overall length of the car shall not exceed 7 inches.
- The overall width of the car shall not exceed 2¾ inches.
- Four wheels must be on the car.
- Car must be made of wood.

What are the categories for Best in Show this year?

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For Youth:

- Indiana: These cars must be representative of something about the state of Indiana, its commerce, or its culture.
- Out of this world: Celebrate the Solar Eclipse by creating a car inspired by space.
- STEM: These cars must be representative of science, technology, engineering or math.
- Most Creative: Uniquely designed cars that do not fit into one of the previously stated categories.

For Adults:

- Indiana State Museum: These cars must be representative of the Indiana State Museum or its historic sites, its collection, areas of research or expertise, mission or values.
- Out of this world: Celebrate the Solar Eclipse by creating a car inspired by space.
- Most Creative: Uniquely designed cars that do not fit into the previously stated category.

What other things are there to do at the State Museum?

The Indiana State Museum has three floors of exhibits! The first two floors cover Indiana prehistory and history while the third-floor hosts traveling and special exhibits. During April the third floor will have [*Towers of Tomorrow with LEGO® Bricks*](#), [*Woven Together*](#) and [*In the Abstract*](#).