



INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS DERBY

The ACEC-SC Emerging Leaders Board is excited to announce that the Infrastructure Works Institute Derby will be held...

DECEMBER 8, 2026

WHAT IS THE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS DERBY?

The Derby is a traditional wooden car race sponsored by ACEC-SC's Emerging Leaders Board (ELB) to add some fun and competition to the annual meeting and to raise money and awareness for the newly created **ACEC-SC Infrastructure Works Institute**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that informs stakeholders of the state's infrastructure status, invests in tomorrow's engineers, and advances the business of engineering in SC.

GET IN ON THE FUN

Step 1: Save the date! Look forward to racing on December 8, 2026

Step 2: Sponsorships for the derby itself and purchasing additional car kits are now available. Contact anne@acecsc.org for more information or to pick up your kit. **Conference sponsorships come with a complimentary derby car kit.**

Step 3: Build your car and bring it to the conference!

Cars must comply with car specifications on the following page

Ready, Set, Off to the Races!

Feel free to fit the theme and design your car based on a racing movie or show!

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CAR SPECIFICATIONS

Car Body

1. The main body structure must be made from wood.
2. Measurements:
 - a. Total Car Height: Not to exceed 3in.
 - b. Total Car Length: Not to exceed 7in.
 - c. Total Car Width (Including Wheels): Not to exceed 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.
 - d. Total Car Weight: Not to exceed 5.00 ounces. The official race scale shall be considered final.
 - e. Wheel Base: Any which does not exceed the 7" total length requirement above.
 - f. Clearance Between Wheels: Not less than 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. and not more than would exceed the Total Car Width requirement above.
 - g. Under Clearance: Not less than $\frac{3}{8}$ in.
 - h. Front End Width: Not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ in.
3. No part of the car may extend beyond the starting peg.
4. The wheels may not extend beyond the front or rear of the car.
- NEW** 5. Fenders are prohibited.

Axles

1. 4 Axles and wheels must be installed to the side of the car body directly across from one another / no more than a 45-degree angle. Rear wheels cannot be reversed.
2. Minimum axle diameter 0.084in.
3. Axles must have a nail head.
4. Lubrication: only dry powdered graphite or silicone will be allowed. No lubricating oil may be used.

Wheels

1. May be BSA, Maximum Velocity, or Awana.
2. May be CnCed, lathed, polished, and/or sanded to true edge of thread, surface, and circumference.
3. The tread / contact surface must remain flat and parallel to the bore.
4. No Angling, reshaping, canting, round crowning, tapering, H-ing, V-ing, or dishing the outside of the wheels and/or tread surface.
5. Lettering must remain visible on the inside and outside of the wheel. A wheel cannot be machined flat on the outside of the sidewall.
6. Minimum Tread Width: 7.50mm
7. Wheels have no weight restrictions as long as they meet the above requirements.

The following are prohibited: Springs; starting devices or propellants; liquids, wet paint, oil, sticky substances, or powders other than axle lubrication; glass or excessively fragile parts; wheel bearings, fenders, washer, bushings, or air shields; loose material of any kind (such as lead shot) in/on the car.

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RULES

DECISIONS OF THE RACE OFFICIALS ARE FINAL.

Registration

- Proceeds go to ACEC-SC Infrastructure Works Institute
- Race entry is included with each sponsorship and exhibit purchase (not included for attendees only)
- Entries without a sponsorship (team or individual) are \$75.00 each and are tax deductible.
- One car building kit will be provided with each registration. (email Anne Heiler at anne@acecsc.org to receive your kit.)
- Participants may purchase (at their own expense) alternative pinewood blocks, axles, wheels, and other accessories, provided they meet race specifications.
- Participants do not have to be present to race. See Race Rules for more information.
- NEW** • Participants are welcome to design their car to fit the year's theme: **Ready, Set, Off to the Races** - Create a car based on a racing-themed movie or show (Such as: Cars, The Cannonball Run, Talladega Nights, Cool Runnings, Hidalgo, Star Wars the Phantom Menace etc.). Your car design does not have to be 'on theme' to enter the competition.

Race Rules

- Check-in: begins at 7:30AM
 - Cars must be checked in by 10:30AM.

Inspections: All cars must pass inspection

- Cars will be inspected by a race official for compliance with Car Specifications. After cars are inspected, they will be moved to the "pit area" and may not be touched except to race. Cars that do not pass initial inspection will be given 30 minutes to make modifications and have the car reinspected. During the race, cars will only be handled by a race official. Lubrication of wheels and axles may take place prior to check-in and prior to the final race.

Racing

- Preliminary heat races will be conducted throughout the day. Cars will be randomly assigned to a heat. Each car will race once in each lane and the times will be averaged.
- In the event race equipment fails, the race will be re-run.
- During the race, if a car interferes with another car, the race will be re-run. If the same car interferes with another car again, then that car is disqualified.
- The fastest car of each group will move on to the next round until a final group of three is established.
- Prior to the final race, finalists will be allowed to re-lubricate; no other modifications will be allowed.

Prizes

- Prizes will be award for the 1st (one private sector, one public sector winner), 2nd, and 3rd fastest cars, as well as for the slowest car and a "Best on Theme" car based on voting by conference attendees. Participants do not need to be present to win.