

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Porsche Club of America St Louis Region

High Performance Driver Education

Why should I register for this event? I'm not really interested in racing.

There are so many reasons to register for this event, perhaps you have a love for cars, for driving fast, an interest in improving your car control, know someone who currently tracks their car or just want to learn more about this sport, either way, you're sure to come away with improved skills and a new appreciation for high performance driving! With an emphasis on education, encouragement and excitement, this non-competitive event is designed to ensure that you have a safe yet exhilarating driving experience on the track and fun off the track meeting others with similar interests!

Can I drive my own car/daily driver at this event?

Yes! You can drive any car that has been deemed safe by a qualified mechanic (Pre-event Inspection), with the exception of SUVs, trucks or vans, although Porsche Macan and Cayenne are acceptable at PCA events. Whether you have a dedicated race car, a brand new car, or a 20 year old car that has been well loved, you will get to know your car and yourself better while you learn high speed driving techniques and car control skills. If you have a convertible car, a roll bar is required, which most modern convertibles have. See "What is this broomstick test" for more information on roll bars and requirements.

What do I need to know before I participate in HPDE

Attitude is everything and a desire to learn will make a world of difference! The purpose of the High Performance Driving Education is to teach driving techniques and car control skills, all within the ability of the driver and their vehicle. You do not need a race car to participate, but certain vehicle requirements have to be met, which is the content of another frequently asked question "Can I drive my own car/daily driver at this event?". There's no need to worry about how fast (or slow) you'll go, everyone drives at their comfort level, with guidance and encouragement from their Instructor.

Are HPDEs safe?

HPDEs are set up to be very safe and the Porsche Club of America-St Louis Region has been conducting DEs for more than 30 years! Cars on track operate under strict rules which minimize the likelihood of dangerous encounters with other cars. Passing occurs only in designated zones and only by "permission" from the driver being passed. Occasional off-track excursions into the grass happen; they are normally controlled stops, with track personnel and in-car Instructors supervising safe re-entry onto the track, and followed by a chat with the Chief Driving Instructor just to make sure everything and everyone is okay. It's important to note that as a beginner or novice driver, you're not driving your vehicle anywhere near its limits. Worldwide Technology Raceway and PCA ensure that proper safety and medical crews are on-site during HPDE events.

HPDE FAQs

How does an HPDE work?

HPDE participants (students) will spend time on the track and in the classroom. For safety and comfort reasons, participants are grouped according to their ability and experience for track sessions. Typical 2-day HPDEs will have run groups for Beginner, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Instructors.

Classroom instruction, where basic concepts for skilled high performance driving are covered, is required for first time students, however any registered participant may attend class instruction. Detailed schedules are provided prior to every event.

Will I hurt my car by doing HPDE?

Probably not. Basically, it's up to you as to how hard you want to drive your car, but you can expect some tire and brake pad wear. There is also the occasional track debris, but it's not much different than driving your car on the highway. Of course, cars can break down no matter where they are driven. So long as your car passes the pre-event tech inspection, your risk of a breakdown should be no greater at the track than on a local road.

What about insurance? Is my car covered while on the track?

Most standard auto insurance policies do not cover HPDE events, you may want to double check with your insurance provider to be sure. There are a number of companies that offer on-track insurance coverage easily found by searching the internet.

How do I prepare my car for track day? Where can I get the pre-event technical inspection done?

All vehicles are required to have a pre-event technical inspection form completed by a qualified mechanic no more than 30 days prior to the event. A thorough explanation of how to prepare for track day is provided in the additional document, Pre-Track Prep.

How do I know if my vehicle has auto-braking/collision avoidance and how do I disable it?

If your car is a 2016 or newer, it may be equipped with one of these safety features. It is important that you know if your vehicle has this feature, you can check your vehicle manual to confirm and learn exactly how to disable it. You may need to disable this every time you restart your car before your track session. PCA does not allow vehicles on the track unless this feature can be disabled.

Can I bring a guest to the track?

Yes, friends and families are welcome to come and support you, if you're comfortable with that. As a first time participant, please understand that there may not be a lot of downtime as you'll spend part of each day in the classroom and on the track. What downtime you do have should be used to relax, hydrate and prepare for your next session. For that reason, we recommend that guests arrive sometime mid afternoon. All guests must check in with the onsite Registration Office to sign waivers and obtain a guest wristband. It should also be noted that **only** event participants are allowed to ride in a vehicle on the track and **only** with an Instructor, meaning that no one is allowed to "give their friend a ride".

HPDE FAQs

What if rain is forecasted for track day?

Do not fear, track days are held rain or shine! It's common to be a bit nervous about driving in the rain, however, your Instructor will be there to help you identify and navigate changing surface conditions and teach you how to adjust your driving inputs accordingly. In short, wet conditions allow you to practice basic techniques at lower speeds. Our HPDEs are run with the windows down, it's a good idea to bring a towel for wiping down your vehicle's interior if rain is forecasted.

What should I wear at the track?

Long-sleeved shirts and full-length pants are strongly recommended while driving on the track. Non-synthetic clothing is preferred, so basically jeans and a cotton t-shirt are great. If the forecast is for especially hot weather, you may consider bringing a short sleeved shirt or a second t-shirt to change into. Likewise, if rain is forecasted, you may want to bring a rain jacket and/or a second shirt. Footwear must be closed-toe, non-slip with a relatively smooth sole, which will make transitions from the accelerator to the brake easier. Those with long hair, typically tie it back to ease the helmeting process.

What should I bring to the track?

- Tech Inspection Form
- Driver's License
- Insurance Card, Vehicle Registration
- Vehicle Manual
- Credit Card for gas
- Helmet, if you have one
- Covid Mask (just in case it's needed)

Optional:

- Torque Wrench, Wheel Nut Lock Key, if necessary
- Tire Pressure Gauge
- Microfiber or Window Cleaning Items
- Plastic Tote for belongings
- Folding Chair
- Something to Drink (bottled water is supplied)
- Snack
- Sunglasses, Sunscreen
- Hair band
- Extra T-shirt, if needed
- Rain Jacket, if needed