

ROAD RALLY 101

Road Rally is a scenic drive with a purpose, a chance to enjoy a day with a friend and share an experience, to find great roads and discover new and interesting places. It's entertainment and the least expensive form of motorsport competition around. It's the chance to finding a great story.

Rallies come in many varieties, primarily divided into GTA (game tour adventure) & TSD (time speed distance). GTA is what we do in our region. We observe and answer questions over a defined course. Occasionally there will be a mileage aspect to encourage staying on course. There are no precise time factors, rarely course checkpoints, no calculations. There are many variations and themes that can be used. TSD is the more demanding, calculation driven, precision driven type. Cincinnati Region does not offer TSD, although there are several clubs in the Midwest and nationally who do.

Participation requirements are simple. A driver, to focus on the road and keep the team safe, listen to the navigator and watch for the opportunity to execute the next route instruction. A navigator, to keep the driver on course and look for answers to the questions. You may bring your kids. You are allowed additional passengers, which helps in finding answers to questions (however this will affect the scoring). Any vehicle which can safely and comfortably accommodate the driver and navigator and allow them to communicate is allowed – from a smart car to a pickup truck to a van. Occasionally it will be necessary to adhere a number to your car for identification. Motorcycles are not appropriate.

Supplies needed are basic – a clipboard to hold the route instructions and provide a hard surface on which to write, markers/pencils/pens. It's nice to have some drinks (non-alcoholic, of course) and snacks, hat, sunglasses and sun screen (especially in an open cockpit car). GPS systems are allowed but may not be much help (unless you get totally lost-which you shouldn't).

Conduct of the event - You will receive a set of General Instructions and the Route Instructions. General Instructions (GI) will give you basic rules and helpful information. This might include whether to follow the main road or travel straight ahead, whether gravel roads exist or not, and special scoring for the rally. The Route Instructions (RI) give you turn by turn driving instructions and scoring questions. There may be call-back mileages provided (maximum miles to travel before next route instruction), or tulip drawings (to show you what the intersection looks like and which way to go). These will vary which each rally.

Beginning and end points will always be somewhere close to civilization where food, drinks, gas and restrooms are available. Sometimes check in registration is at a restaurant where you can have a sit-down breakfast and socialize before setting out on your adventure. We generally end at a family friendly restaurant where food and adult beverages are available.

Our routes have easy to follow instructions, frequently with tulip drawings, often with street names provided. We do not try to trap you or get you lost. If you do become hopelessly directionally challenged, a phone number is provided to help you find your way back on course. We will send you on twisty, hilly, scenic roads, and try to take you places you may want to return to explore later, when possible. Comfort breaks are available periodically along the course.

Scoring is primarily based on answering the questions along the course correctly. Most questions are interspersed within the route instructions, but sometimes there will be general questions that require observation along a section or even the whole route. Sometimes there are questions that will be asked after you complete the route. Points are assigned for each incorrect answer and low score wins. Other factors can be included in the scoring and will vary from one rally to another but will always be explained in the General Instructions and at the pre-rally safety meeting.

Scheduling – We generally hold 6-7 events 4-6 weeks apart between April and November. Points are earned by both driver and navigator to count for the Regional Road Rally Championship. On site registration lasts about 45 minutes followed by a brief safety meeting, with the first car out around 10:30 and every 1-2 minutes later. The drive can take from 2 ½ to 4 ½ hours, followed by awards presentation.

Officials required to put on a rally include the Rally Master, who sets the course and questions, the Safety Steward, who follows the route instructions, verifies accuracy and assures the roads are safe. Rarely there are Checkpoint personnel who are positioned along the course to observe progress and provide feedback to participants. If you would like to be an official or help with a rally let us know.

Membership in SCCA is required, but a Weekend Membership is available on site free of charge for all non-members. This covers you under SCCA insurance for the event and entitles you to a discount should you apply for full membership within 60 days of the event. A discount is applied to the entry fee if at least one member of the team is a full SCCA member.

Waivers - All adult participants are required to sign the standard SCCA waiver before departing on the event. This is also an insurance requirement. For participants and passengers under 18, a Minor Waiver is required to be completed in advance and signed by both parents (unless the attending parent has sole custody). The waiver is available on the registration site and must be printed in color. One form is for use if both parents are in attendance and can sign in front of an SCCA official, the other requires a notary signature. The form will cover all SCCA sanctioned events for the year.

Car safety is important. Please inspect your vehicle before arrival.

The following items must be in proper working order:

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| _____ Headlights (HI/LO beams) | _____ Rear view mirrors |
| _____ Parking, tail, directional and stop lamps | _____ Foot brake |
| _____ Horn | _____ Parking brake |
| _____ Windshield wipers and washers | _____ Tires (condition of sidewall and tread) |
| _____ Seat belts (securely installed for driver and all passengers) | |

Helpful hints

- Look a couple route instructions ahead. Sometimes turns will come right after the previous turn and can be missed if you're not prepared.
- Look a couple questions ahead. If you miss an answer, finding the next answer might alert you to your error and afford you the opportunity to go back and look for it. Be cautious with this, however. Questions are answered in order and always with the first instance. Just because you see an answer from later in the RI doesn't mean it's the right answer of that you missed one. We don't try to get you lost, but we may try to trick you on questions.
- Some people find it helpful to highlight questions or route instructions in different colors. However, we try to make them distinguishable from each other.
- Jot down mileage at each RI. sometimes call back mileages are provided.
- Always have GI available. They might help you make a route decision if you are uncertain. At the least they will contain phone numbers. You can always call for help without penalty. Sometimes it's fun to try to figure out what you did first, but not to the point of frustration. Keep it fun. If you do call, try to have your intersection information and the number of the last instruction you feel confident about.