

Suncoast PCA Drivers Education at Sebring - A Guide for the Newbies!

We all remember the excitement, nerves and many questions involved with one's first track weekend, so hopefully this guide will lend a hand in preparing you for a great weekend!

Many participants will arrive the evening before the event (e.g., Thursday for 3 day events, Friday for 2 day events) and we can usually enter the track at, or before, 5 pm (this varies depending on who has rented the track for that day). The gate will then stay open for our participants throughout the weekend. We recommend you arrive no later than 7 am on Saturday and Sunday. If your initial arrival is the day of the event, you have from about 7 am to 7:45 to unload, set-up, register and get your car through inspection, so be prepared to move quickly and efficiently! You'll have a long day ahead of you, so if you are able, we suggest arriving the day before to set up and get registration and tech inspection out of the way- the morning is a lot less frantic.

Things you will absolutely need:

- *A car that has been inspected by a mechanic within the 30 days leading up to the event*
- *A tech inspection form, fully filled out by a qualified mechanic, personal information filled in and signed by both the driver and mechanic at the bottom of the form*
- *Helmet (Snell Rated SA2010 – until the end of 2021, SA2015 or SA2020)*
- *Lug nuts torqued to spec- TRUST NO ONE. EITHER DO IT YOURSELF OR WATCH YOUR MECHANIC DO IT.*

That's it. Really. You probably have a much longer list in your head if things your car needs to be "track prepared". But your Porsche, right from the factory, is often far more prepared for this event than we are- it was built for this!

ARRIVING AT THE TRACK:

To enter the track, you must first stop at the gatehouse by the bridge, sign a track waiver and receive a wristband. Then proceed over the bridge. If you did not reserve a pit spot, you can set up on most of the grassy areas or on the massive concrete area to your right (the paddock) when you cross the bridge.

REGISTRATION AND TECH INSPECTION:

Once you have arrived at the track, you must register and have your car inspected before going out on track. GO TO REGISTRATION FIRST, THEN PROCEED TO TECH INSPECTION.

Track registration and tech inspection are typically open the evening before the event, from 5-ish to 7-ish pm, and the mornings of the weekend, starting at 7 am. On most weekends, registration takes place at the base of the grandstand tower with tech inspection set up nearby. Exact times will be listed in the event schedule e-mailed to you a few days before the event.

All waivers should have been signed electronically in Clubregistration.net before the event. At registration, this will be verified and you receive the wristband of your run group (i.e., Green, Blue, White, Black or Pink; instructors also receive an Orange wristband). If you have guests, have them also see the DE Registrar so we can verify they have completed the required PCA waivers electronically.

TECH INSPECTION: COME PREPARED!

The tech inspection station is often easily located by either following the signs or just looking for a line of cars; it is usually located just past the fuel station. We are trying to move cars through the inspection line as efficiently as possible, so please come prepared, stay with your vehicle and keep the line moving.

BEFORE you come to the tech inspection station, your vehicle should be ready to go out on track. We inspect the vehicle to make sure **you** prepared **your** car properly. This means:

- Give your **signed and completed** tech inspection form to the tech inspector.
- Lug nuts will be torqued by the tech team
- Track numbers must have been applied to both sides of the vehicle. You can use painters tape if you don't have magnetic or vinyl numbers.
- Tow hook installed on the front of your car (yes you have a tow hook! It's in the car's tool bag....)
- Helmet out of the bag, sitting in your passenger seat
- All items out of the car! This includes floor mats, coins, glove box contents, spouses/significant others... and thoroughly inspect for any items under or behind the seats. If it is not firmly affixed to the vehicle, get it out! Bring a Ziploc bag or similar to put your important glove box contents into when you empty your glove box.
- If you are driving a convertible with the top down or a vehicle that does not have a roof, arm restraints are required, roll bar, or not.

The sticker placed at the top left corner of your windshield confirms your car has been through inspection and indicates your run group for track crew. Don't leave without a sticker!

LAST STEP!

After tech inspection, all students are directed to line up their vehicles in the "hot pits" in preparation for the orientation lap that takes place immediately after the morning drivers meeting (note - Helmets are not required for the orientation lap). Leave your car in the hot pits and proceed to the base of the tower for the drivers meeting and to be matched up with your instructor.

Then . . . Have fun!!!