

High Performance Driver Education (HPDE) Event – What to Expect

Goals

Our goal is simple: Audi Club Glacier Lakes driving events are designed and offered to educate, build skills and promote the application of advanced driving techniques that translate to everyday street driving. We use the racetrack to provide a safe and structured environment for our students. We stress this often - this is not a racing school.

Who can participate and what type of vehicle is needed?

Driver Requirements

Drivers at this event must:

- Be a member of Audi Club North America (ACNA) (Not yet a member? Sign up [here!](#))
- Be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license
- Complete and sign all waivers
- Wear an approved helmet at all times while on the track
- Wear appropriate clothing including long pants and a long-sleeve shirt of 100% cotton (no poly blends), and suitable (fairly soft, non-slip sole) closed-toe footwear.
- Must have an instructor in the passenger seat at all times on the track unless you are designed as "approved to solo" or are an instructor.

Vehicle Requirements

You do not need to own or bring an Audi to participate. Your car does not need to be a "track car" or race car. Most participants bring their "daily driver" to this education event!

Most makes and models with the exception of trucks, SUVs, vans, convertibles, T-tops, and Targas are accepted provided they meet minimum club safety standards. Final determinations of a vehicle's acceptability will be determined by the Event Master. If you have any doubts regarding vehicle acceptability, contact the event organizers (email: events@audiclubglacierlakes.org).

- Vehicles are not provided by the club.
- Your vehicle must receive a documented technical inspection ("tech check") by a competent entity or individual (dealer, authorized service center, mechanic, or another competent individual) within 30 days of the start of the event. A link to the required form is included in the registration page information.
- Your vehicle must be empty of all objects. Clean out the trunk, the glovebox, cubbies and cupholders, and the passenger compartment.

Guests

Guests are welcome to attend and observe the fun. All persons attending the event must sign the required waivers. Minors (under age 18) require a parent/legal guardian to sign on their behalf and that parent/guardian must be on-site at all times the minor is on-site.

Passengers are not allowed in student vehicles while those students are driving on the track. This means no passenger rides to spouses, friends, or foes by student drivers. Instructors may take a passenger on track provided that the passenger has signed all required waivers, is wearing an approved helmet and approved clothing, and meets the minimum age requirements set for the event.

What Happens at this Event?

There are few thrills that can rival safe driving at high speeds. Modern technology has given us cars with capabilities far above those required for everyday driving. Most drivers never really get the opportunity to experience their car's driving potential, or their own for that matter.

The HPDE mimics actual driving conditions on the street and is designed to probe the limits of your car and driver under safe, controlled conditions. The goal is to get the students accustomed to the experience of having to deal with adverse and unexpected situations on the road, and if/when that happens, the element of surprise is minimized. We will have drivers doing a **lot** of driving, doing the same exercises over and over to instill these reactions to adverse events as 'muscle memory' or instinctive reactions.

Typical Weekend HPDE Schedule

At any time during the event, if you need to unexpectedly leave the track and miss track time or classroom sessions, please let your instructor and/or the event master know so that they can adapt to the change as quickly as possible.

Friday Evening

Friday evening, at the designated location, typically the host hotel there is a driver meeting where you turn over your driver's license, helmet, and completed and signed 'Tech Check' form. Once the registration team reviews and confirms you've met requirements, you'll receive a driver's packet which includes your event schedule, wristband, color designation, car number stickers, and attendance tickets for anything you signed up for in your registration. You will be given an overview of the schedule for the weekend and be paired up with your instructor. This is both an informational and a social event and all novice and intermediate attendees are strongly encouraged to attend.

Saturday morning

The day starts with a mandatory driver meeting in the classroom room at the racetrack (the "track"). *Don't miss this or you may not be allowed on the track!* The Chief Instructor covers any last-minute changes to the schedule and sets the tone for the event. You will be talked through the track layout, Pit In/Out, and the specific rules for

this HPDE as defined by the event master for this HPDE. The event master for this HPDE will declare what rules you need to follow in the paddock area, how to get to your driving exercises, what the driving exercises consist of, what rules to follow when on the track, and how to have fun doing all of this. Don't worry if this seems overwhelming, your assigned instructor will be right by your side helping you learn what all of this means.

Novice & Intermediate Drivers

Saturday morning will consist of alternating car control exercises and classroom sessions in which you will learn high-performance driving skills.

Advanced Drivers

Saturday Morning you will be on the track for open lapping.

Saturday Afternoon

Novice & Intermediate

After lunch, Saturday afternoon, you will be driving your car on the track. Drivers get to exercise their morning car control sessions at higher speeds. A track is one of the safest places you can practice these exercises, especially with an instructor at your side guiding you through the topics you learned in the morning classroom and car control exercises.

Advanced

Run group sessions on the track

Saturday Evening

After the track goes cold (closes) a social gathering is typically held at the track or nearby. We all meet up and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere of beverages, dinner, and sharing the exhilaration of the day we experienced. After this social, or after your last run group of the day, you are on your own for the evening/night.

Sunday

The day starts with a mandatory driver meeting, where the Chief Instructor and Event Master review with you Saturday's performance and you will be advised by the event staff about any course layout changes, any instructor changes, and there will be a reiteration of the track and paddock rules.

Sunday is typically run groups scheduled alternating between instructors, advanced drivers, intermediate drivers, and novice drivers. In between your on-track driving you may wish to work with your instructor to tailor your instruction to the skillset(s) you wish to work on.

Novice & Intermediate Drivers

Drivers in these groups also attend an additional classroom session to review and answer questions on what was learned Saturday.

Schedule Example

A typical schedule for the 2-day HPDE event is as follows. The schedule is tailored for each event based on which track is in use and the number of and experience level of the participants.

Saturday							
TIME	NOVICE	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED	INSTRUCTOR	RIDE ALONGS		
7:00-7:25	Gates Open – Car Preparation						
7:30-7:55	Car Preparation			Instructor Mtg.			
8:00-8:25	DRIVERS' MEETING - ALL						
8:30-8:55	Classroom		Exercise Set-up				
9:00-9:15			Open lapping Competition Course 9:00am thru 11:55am				
9:30-9:55	Exercises (Braking, Slalom, Accident Avoidance)	Exercises (Braking, Slalom, Accident Avoidance)					
10:00-10:25							
10:30-10:55							
11:00-11:25			Competition Course				
11:30-11:55	Classroom						
12:00-12:45	LUNCH – ON YOUR OWN						
12:50-1:00	DRIVERS' MEETING - ALL						
1:00-1:25	Donnybrooke						
1:30-1:55		Donnybrooke	Donnybrooke	Class/Speaker	Donnybrooke		
2:00-2:25			Class/Speaker	Donnybrooke			
2:30-2:55	Donnybrooke						
3:00-3:25		Donnybrooke	Donnybrooke				
3:30-3:55				Donnybrooke			
4:00-4:25	Donnybrooke						
4:30-4:55		Donnybrooke	Donnybrooke				
5:00 - 5:25				Donnybrooke			
5:30	Track Closed						
5:15 – 7:00	Track-Side BBQ and Social						

Sunday					
TIME	NOVICE	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED	INSTRUCTOR	RIDE ALONGS
7:00-7:35	Gates Open – Car Preparation				
7:40-7:55	DRIVERS' MEETING - ALL				
8:00-8:15	Classroom			Donnybrooke	
8:30-8:55		Donnybrooke	Donnybrooke		
9:00-9:25	Donnybrooke				
9:30-9:55				Donnybrooke	
10:00-10:25		Donnybrooke	Donnybrooke		
10:30-10:55	Donnybrooke				
11:00-11:25		Donnybrooke	Donnybrooke		
11:30-11:55				Donnybrooke	Donnybrooke
12:00-12:45	LUNCH – ON YOUR OWN				
12:50-1:00	DRIVERS' MEETING - ALL				
1:00-1:25	Donnybrooke				
1:30-2:05				Donnybrooke	Donnybrooke
2:10-2:45		Donnybrooke	Donnybrooke		
2:50-3:25	Donnybrooke				
3:30-3:55				Donnybrooke	
4:00-4:25		Donnybrooke	Donnybrooke		
4:30-4:55	Donnybrooke				
5:00	Track Closed				
5:05 – 6:00	Clean-up and Exit Track				

Safety First! Prepare for the event!

Safety is our primary concern at driving events. Our event team cannot foresee and codify every potential situation. The ultimate burden for safety is yours.

In preparation for the event, you need to make sure your car is safe, not only for you but for the instructors and drivers attending this event. This means, that your car needs to have working headlights, taillights, turn signals, brakes, steering, and suspension, and it must be free of any leaking fluids. If your car passes the required 'Tech Check' then you will be good to attend the HPDE – more on the 'Tech Check' later.

In the weeks or months prior to attending the HPDE, you should make sure your vehicle is current on all maintenance. Ensure brake pads and rotors have significant life (>80%) left in them. If brake pads are low, you can always bring a replacement set and change them at the event but realize you will be busy and could end up losing track time while you make repairs. Consider putting new ones in now, and carry the others as a "backup" set. Being current on maintenance also should certainly include engine oil and brake fluid as recommended by the manufacturer. An HPDE event will have you experience significant acceleration, braking, and cornering, so be prepared for those conditions.

Next, make a list of things that you might bring with you so that you are prepared to have a great time learning car control, driving fast, and meeting fellow enthusiasts in the community.

Some items to consider for your list that you may not have thought of include:

- Extra motor oil, a torque wrench, a tire pressure gauge
- Windshield cleaner and paper towels
- A tarp or a large plastic waterproof tub for your stuff. Everything must come out of your car and trunk - floor mats, loose change, empty water bottles, trash, loose electronics, media, clothes, paper, etc. - before you'll be allowed on the track.
- Bottled water (although we do provide this free at the events) or sports drinks and snacks
- A folding chair and/or a portable canopy/gazebo
- Sunscreen, bug repellent, hand cleaning gel, or wipes
- Rain gear, umbrella, bug repellent, hat, gloves

Driver Conduct Policy

Safety is our primary concern. *We neither promote nor condone illegal driving activities (e.g., speeding, texting while driving, etc.).*

Cars and drivers not judged to be safe will not be allowed on the track. However, the ultimate burden for safety is yours. The event management team cannot foresee and codify every potential situation. Thus, the event management reserves the right to make ad hoc decisions concerning the operation of the school. Your participation in the event is contingent upon your abiding by these decisions. One of these decisions may be that

inappropriate behavior on the part of a student is grounds for expelling a student from the balance of the event without a refund.

This is not a racing school. Racing is not allowed, and if you are deemed to be racing, you will be expelled from the event. There will be no refunds or recourse for students expelled from the event under this rule. There are other infractions that will get you expelled from the event – those will be covered by the event master and/or chief instructor.

Liability Waivers (there are two)

Entrants assume all risk of damage to persons and property during this event.

Club Waiver

You'll need to sign an **Audi Club Waiver** when you register. When you arrive at the track for the event, you will need to sign a **Track Wavier** before you'll be allowed to enter the track property. These waivers are standard in the sport and protect the Club and the Track from potential liability.

Insurance

Your car insurance likely does not cover you or your car for any type of loss at any sanctioned event at a facility that is not on 'public roads', such as a racing surface. Check your car insurance policy for coverage at an HPDE event. If your insurance policy does not cover any damage or loss at such an event, consider purchasing 'track insurance' that specifically covers certain damages at an HPDE. There are several companies now offering this type of coverage – search for "track day insurance" on the internet. Make your own decision if you want this coverage and sign up for it before the first day of the event.

Tech Check

In the weeks prior to the event, you must complete a "Tech Check" on your vehicle. It is recommended that you take your car to an authorized business to have them perform the check on your vehicle. The Tech-Check form is a checklist of items for a technician to evaluate for a technical assessment of your vehicle. (A copy of the form is available on our website: audiclubglacierlakes.org) The technician will review all things on the checklist, and if all are within requirements, will sign the checklist certifying the vehicle "passed" the safety inspection. Make sure the Tech Check form is complete when it is returned to you, and be sure to bring it with you to event registration.

Vehicles may also be examined on arrival by event staff to identify obvious shortcomings.

Note: Neither the technical inspection nor any onsite examination relieves the driver of their sole responsibility for the safe condition of their vehicles.

Clothing

Clothing plays an important safety role. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts are required and should be all cotton, with no poly blends. Shoes should have fairly soft, non-slip soles and closed toes. You're "up North" at BIR; temperatures will vary widely, so be prepared for whatever weather may come our way.

Driver Meetings

All driver meetings are **mandatory**. If you cannot attend them, you need to contact the event master in advance to see if this disqualifies you from event attendance. Contact them at Events@AudiClubGlacierLakes.org If you miss one during the event, expect to miss your next track session(s).

Run Groups

Run groups are what we refer to as a set of like drivers with similar vehicles and skills. All first-timer, or novice drivers will be in the same novice run group. Typically, there are Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Instructor run groups. If there are too many students to be safe in the same run group, we will create a second run group for that class. Your wristband color will define your assigned run group.

Weather

The event is held regardless of weather conditions unless there is severe weather approaching, which the track safety staff monitors very closely. We have held events wearing winter hats and heat running full blast, in pouring rain with standing water on the track, and in the blistering heat where drivers are drinking liters of water an hour to stay hydrated. It's a sport. And like other sports, attendees must be able to adapt to conditions. The only conditions that limit the event are those that encroach on safety.

Are you ready to give High Performance Driver Education (HPDE) a try?

We see significant improvements in drivers of all ages over the course of the event. The confidence level of each driver increases as their skills and capabilities increase. And the fact that it's so much fun is the icing on the cake! Are you ready to give a High Performance Driver Education (HPDE) a try?

Find an event at: <https://acgl.motorsportreg.com>