

Introduction to Autocross



Introduction to Autocross kicks off the 2023 season for the North Hills Sports Car Club (NHSCC) and is the perfect way to learn what the club and Solo II competition is all about.

This non-competitive event is designed to cover all of the basics of how to prepare for and participate in an [autocross](#) event in a safe, controlled environment.



(8:30 – 9:30) The day begins with a classroom session where we review the basics, including registration, work assignments, and a typical event day schedule. We will also cover the basics of autocross driving and how to improve your driving skills and make the most of your car's capabilities. Students will be divided into run groups and assigned a car number and an instructor for the day.

(9:30 – 11:30) Your instructor will help you prepare your car for tech inspection, a requirement to compete. You'll then walk the course to learn the layout and key cones, a crucial skill for autocross. All students will attend a brief safety meeting and review of the group schedule. Finally, our instructors will offer rides in their own cars that are a thrill, but also demonstrate the difference between driving on the street and competing in an autocross.

(11:30 – 3:30) Your run group will cycle between driving, watching and working. When driving, your instructor hops in the passenger seat to offer guidance and advice. As you become comfortable with the course, you may choose to go out alone as well. When working, you will take a cone station and learn how to work the course, a big part of any autocross event. Its also a great opportunity to watch others and think about where you can make improvements. You'll also have "rest" time to watch the course, ask questions, eat lunch, and get to know your fellow students.

Introduction to Autocross is open to anyone, all you need is a street-legal vehicle and a helmet. Complete vehicle eligibility listings are available at <https://www.scca.com/pages/solo-cars-and-rules>. The club has some loaner helmets available, but we do recommend having your own (SNELL 2010 or newer) helmet, especially if you plan to run more events. Many models are available for under \$200.

Date: April 16, 2023

Time: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Registration: msreg.com/nhscclntro

Questions: dtelschneider(at)gmail.com

Cost: Members: \$35.00

Non-Members: \$40.00

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Schedule:

7:30 – 8:30	Course Setup <i>(Students are invited to assist)</i>
8:30 – 9:30	Classroom Session <i>(Students are divided into groups)</i>
9:30 – 10:45	Tech Inspection and Course Walk <i>(Prepare your car, learn the line)</i>
10:45 – 11:00	Driver's Meeting <i>(Run Group and safety briefing)</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Instructor Drives <i>(Ride along with an instructor)</i>
11:30 – 4:00	Course Instruction <i>(Instructor rides with you)</i>



FAQ:

Q: Will there be food?

A: The club will provide a grab-and-go lunch to eat during your rest periods. A 7-11 is also nearby with gas and food.

Q: Can Autocross damage my car?

A: As long as you remain under control and avoid cones, an event is no more wear and tear than taking a spirited drive on a back road. Our cones are flexible and usually only bruise egos, but be mindful of your splitters and fog lights.



Q: Do I need any special equipment?

A: No, but it helps to be able to check and adjust your tire pressure, mark your tires with chalk, and make car numbers with painter's tape. Note: The Club will have all of these on hand just in case.

Q: What do I wear?

A: We run rain or shine, hot or cold, and you will be outside for a large portion of any event, so dress for the weather and be ready to stand outside for an hour in whatever Pittsburgh throws at us.

Q: What if I suck at this?

A: Who cares? This event is all about learning how to autocross and having fun with your car. You might not be a national-level competitor by day's end, but you will be much better than when you started.

Q: Where can I learn more?

A: <http://www.nhsc.com>