

# A Day in the Life of an Autocrosser

By Jerrett Jan

Prepare for the event by ensuring that your car is in working order and packing things you will need at the event, such as an air compressor (the kind that plugs into your car's cigarette lighter is fine), tire pressure gauge, blue painters tape (for numbers, if needed), your helmet (you can also use a loaner helmet), sun block, a hat to protect you from the sun, plenty of water, adequate clothing (for very hot or very cold weather), snacks, and possibly a lunch (most venues have food outlets nearby). It can be pretty cold in the mornings at events that occur early or late in the season, so consider wearing layers to those events. Do not underestimate the value of gloves and a knit cap in cold weather. Also consider an inexpensive rain suit (Academy Sports is a good source), as wet clothes and/or soggy shoes/socks can ruin your day.

Arrive at the event early in order to allow plenty of time to setup your vehicle, check-in, pass through tech inspection, and walk the course several times before the drivers meeting. You should arrive no later than 8:00 AM.

Once you arrive at the event, you should focus on checking in, preparing your car, and passing tech inspection. Once you have completed these tasks, then you can begin walking the course.

Walk the course as many times as needed. Most people walk the course at least twice, but often times more, if time allows. If you are a novice or just seeking additional instruction, then ask an experienced driver to join you on the course walk in order to offer advice.

You must attend the Drivers Meeting.

After the Drivers Meeting, you will know the order of your drive and work assignments.

If you work first, then immediately begin to prepare for your work assignment by using the restroom (you might be out there for a while), grabbing some drinking water to take with you, and preparing for the weather. Check in with timing to get your work assignment and proceed to your designated area. Try not to hold up the event by arriving late to your work assignment.

If you drive first, then immediately begin to prepare by using the restroom (the session might last a while), grabbing some drinking water to take to grid for refreshing between runs, and preparing for the weather. Proceed to the grid area as soon as you are ready. Try not to hold up the event by arriving late to grid.

After you drive or work, then prepare to switch to the opposite for the second half of the session.

Enjoy a nice lunch between the morning and afternoon sessions. Many drivers travel in groups to favorite restaurants while others like to eat in a group(s) at the site. Just ensure that you have returned on time and are prepared for the next session.

Drive your runs in the second session and perform your work assignment.

Fun Runs are optional and unofficial runs that drivers can make after the event. These runs do not affect the outcome of the event, and there are no course workers to pick up cones. Many drivers use this as extra practice or a chance to try another driver's car. If the event coordinator allows for fun runs following the event, then anyone participating in fun runs must assist in tearing down and packing up the site, since those normally responsible for this task must wait for fun runs to complete.

If there are no fun runs at the event, then course workers returning at the end of the second session are asked to stack cones on their way in. This makes it easier to pick up the cones later.

When the event is complete, then the site is torn down, packed up, and we all leave with visions of pointer cones dancing in our head.