

Tour Etiquette and Rules of the Road for PNWR Tours v2019

TOUR RULE #1: **A tour is not a competitive driving event!** However, tour planners attempt to conduct as much of a tour as possible on winding, secondary/back (paved) roads to enhance the driving experience as well as maximize the scenery. **Safety is paramount!**

REGISTRATION: Most tour sign ups are now conducted by using the PNWR website (www.pnwr.org) Club Express system with a registration link to MotorsportReg.com (MSR). This is accessed by logging on to the PNWR website using your personal login information. Look for the heading titled "let's Get Together" and then "Tours". Select the tour you want to register for and click on it. You can read the basic information about the tour on this page. Look for the box entitled "Sign up on MSR" or "Sign up here" and click on it to be forwarded directly to the appropriate registration page on MSR. If the tour announcement requires registration or just an RSVP, then please sign up by the deadline so the tour leader knows how many cars will participate. This facilitates group planning. **EVERYONE must sign the waiver form prior to tour start.** This will be done after arrival at the tour start point and will be monitored by the tour/group leaders. Participants who join at an intermediate point **MUST** sign the waiver prior to driving with the group. Minors under the age of 18 must sign a separate waiver form, which is also signed by their parent/guardian.

PARTICIPANT SAFETY MEETING: Plan to arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled departure time to be briefed on the day's route and sign the waiver of liability form. **It is a good idea to bring an FRS, multi-channel radio.** We currently use a base channel of 6-11 for tours. If there are multiple groups (there usually are), then we may use multiple channels for each group to eliminate cross-group interference. Tour/group leaders and sweepers will all have radios in their cars. In many rural areas there is no cell phone coverage. The tour leader will distribute route maps after confirming the waiver of liability has been signed. All drivers must have a current driver's license and automobile liability insurance.

REST STOPS: Rest stops will be taken every 60-90 minutes. Pull ahead slowly to the farthest parking space to allow all cars to get parked, and depart in an orderly and efficient manner. **Do not change groups at rest stops without notifying the tour/group leaders!** Also, do not depart the tour route without notifying your group leader. **Once you depart the published tour route, you are no longer considered part of the tour and may not be covered by PCA liability insurance.**

GROUP SIZE: We try to limit the size of each group to no more than 12 cars (max 15 cars) for safety and logistics reasons; another reason to sign up in advance and not just show up! Some tours limit the number of cars that can sign up due to capacity limitations at the destination venues. Groups depart at 5-10 minute intervals as determined by the tour leader.

CONGESTED AREAS/SEPARATION: **Be cautious traveling through congested areas and obey all traffic signals and speeds.** If you get separated from your group, follow your route directions, and call your tour/group leader or sweeper on your radio or cell phone. Leaders will pull over as soon as possible to regroup if cars get separated. **The sweeper should advise the group leader if the tail end of a group gets separated due to traffic or getting cut off at stoplights or 4-way stop signs.**

SPEEDS and PASSING: Spirited driving does not include excessive speeds or passing using poor judgment. Observe speed limits and traffic laws. Do not pass on **solid yellow lines** in your lane, **double yellow lines, on blind curves, in school zones, etc.** Don't weave in and out of traffic to catch-up to your group. Frequently, other cars will get mixed in with our group. If you need to pass other drivers, **be courteous**, and remember that we are representatives of the Porsche club and all of its members. With all the smart/camera phones out there, we/you are not invisible and locals will not hesitate to "document" a situation they deem unsafe or annoying. **When passing non-motorized vehicles (bicycles, horses, pedestrians), pull over far enough to pass safely but DO NOT step on the gas and pass at a high rate of speed or under full acceleration! Pass at a conservative speed, then accelerate when well past.** Drive with your headlights ON to increase visibility to other vehicles.

PASSING THE TOUR/GROUP LEADER: **Passing the tour/group leader or conducting side tours is not**

allowed. The tour leaders have traveled the route numerous times in preparation for the tour, know when to use caution and will dictate the speed at which the tour progresses. If a tour member passes the tour leader, that member will be considered as having left the tour and not be allowed to rejoin. If you need to leave the tour early, notify your group leader and sweeper and leave at a rest stop or regrouping point so that other cars behind you do not follow you by mistake. Once again, **if you depart the published tour route, you are no longer considered part of the tour and may not be covered by PCA liability insurance.**

EMERGENCIES: Let the group leader or sweeper know ASAP, raise the hood and turn on the emergency flashers. The whole group will stop when safe to do so, wait until the situation is resolved and the tour/group leader determines the appropriate time to resume the route.

FINALLY: Not observing the Pacific NW Region's Tour Etiquette may result in being banned from participating in future tours. Yes, it has happened before.

Thanks--The PNWR Tour Committee

GUIDANCE FOR TOUR/GROUP LEADERS AND SWEEPERS:

- Tour Leaders, if possible, dry-run the tour route on the same day of the week and at the same time of day as the event is to take place. This gives you the best indication of what traffic will be like on tour day.
- Tour leaders should attempt to sign up their group leaders and sweepers IN ADVANCE of the event day, based on number of cars registered
- Tour leaders should provide group leaders and sweepers a copy of the tour route IN ADVANCE of the event so everyone is on the "same page" prior to the tour date
- It is a good idea for the group leaders to "dry run" the route on their computer using Google Maps or similar app to get a mental picture of the route and see if the directions make sense to them
- On the day of the tour, tour and group leaders should be at the starting area a minimum of 30 minutes before the other attendees and position their cars in a manner that other cars assigned to their group can form a line behind them or at least be in a block.
- The tour leader should brief the group leaders and sweepers on any last minute changes, including where there are good "regroup" spots along the route.
- Ensure leaders/sweepers have radios tuned to channel 6-11 or as assigned and know each other's cell phone number
- Hand out route maps/group numbers AFTER drivers and passengers have signed the insurance waiver unless otherwise coordinated Note: there is a separate form for minors.
- Use a waiver check sheet (or possibly wrist bands) to confirm everyone has signed the waiver.
- **Tour leader instructs the group leaders to brief their individual groups on:**
 - How they plan to drive the route and reemphasize safety, adherence to speed limits, esp in towns, and not using excessive acceleration/speed to rejoin the group—that's what regroup points are for
 - Whether they will be making regular radio calls for turns and hazards
 - Where the regroup points will be
 - Ask how many drivers have a radio. Attempt to have one radio in the center car of the group as a relay. Leader and sweeper must have a radio.
 - Brief the groups not to lag well behind the car in front of them to prevent the group from getting stretched out and "dusted off" at stop lights/signs
 - Reiterate that if a car gets separated, they attempt to contact the leader or sweeper as soon as possible
 - Brief everyone to drive with their headlights ON
 - Brief the sweeper on calls you'd like them to make regarding group position
- Sweepers, make sure that everyone in the group knows your car
- **Tour/event leader must complete the Post Event Report within five (5) days**
- **Tour leader asks for a volunteer/assigns someone to complete the Observer's Report, which has to be completed and submitted within ten (10) days**
- Tour leader turns in all signed insurance waiver forms and tour folders to the Tour Chairman

GUIDANCE FOR DRIVERS:

- Register/RSVP for the tour by the deadline. Do not wait until after the deadline then ask to join!!!
- If you will bring minor children (under age 18), make sure to list them on the registration form
- Show up on time (no later than 30 min prior to departure of first group) to sign the waiver and attend the participant's safety meeting. **Everyone must attend, not just the driver!**
- Show up at the meeting point with sufficient gas to complete the route. Don't expect the group leader to stop the whole group just because you don't have enough gas.
- Listen up during the safety meeting AND your individual group briefing
- Know your group number before arriving at the start point (it will be via email).
- Make sure you get the driving directions after signing the waiver of liability form
- **Reset odometer/trip meters to "zero"** before starting the route to more easily follow the directions/mileage on the route map
- **Keep up with the group by not lagging well behind the car in front of you**, but do not drive faster than your comfort level. **If you feel uncomfortable with the pace of your group, drop back to the end of the group at the first rest stop and/or ask to change to another group.** Other than the lead and last car, **drivers should always be able to see the car in front of and behind them.** Cars that leave excessive space between them invite non-tour vehicles to be interspersed within the group.
- Conversely to the above, don't "tailgate" the car in front of you, especially on curvy roads. It is unsafe and leaves no reaction time if the car in front must suddenly slow down/stop. Ask to change groups at a rest stop if you feel your driving style (and experience) does not match the group you are with.
- Remember to bring your FRS radio and tune it to Chanel 6-11 or other assigned channel. Their limited range is another reason not to get spread out within the group.
- **Make any concerns or issues known to the tour/group leader**
- **Don't drive in a manner that upsets the locals.....**BUT sometimes when you are in Group 4 and the locals just saw three other groups of Porsches pass by, they may have "had enough" for one day! Be respectful!! Waive!! Smile!!
- **Make note if any local resident along the route seems irritated (about anything) as you pass by. Note time and location.** Notify the tour group leader at the next rest stop. **THIS IS AN IMPORTANT POINT** as locals have been known to contact local media and the police if they think they observed unsafe driving practices by tour groups.

For reference, insurance, waiver forms, Observer's Report form and guidelines, and Post Event Report form can all be found under "Forms & Documents→Region Management" at pca.org AFTER logging in to the site. The Post Event and Observer's Report forms are under "Event Management Forms".