

An Open Invitation to attend your first High Performance Driving Event (HPDE) sponsored by the BMW CCA Buckeye Chapter

BMW Car Club
of America
Buckeye Chapter



Okay! This is it – it's time for you to play too! Come join us at Mid-Ohio and drive your own car around a real world-class racetrack! You'll have an instructor who will sit in your car with you and coach you how to drive your car properly and safely. Drivers will have the unique opportunity to learn how to drive their car on a track at speed with no oncoming or cross traffic, nor radar traps. What more could you want, *this is heaven!*

But first let's make it clear – this is not racing, it is a school, and safety is the most important objective of the school. We strongly discourage lap timing, and we cannot tolerate any unsafe driving or behavior. Our instructors are familiar with high-performance cars and their amazing torque and speed, and they know how to teach the proper techniques for staying on the track and driving safely. This driving school offers student-specific classroom sessions as well as in-car instruction for all students. Instructors and students will communicate by way of a helmet headset system; no yelling or hand signals – all you need to do is listen, follow instruction and learn the techniques offered to you throughout the weekend, and then do them over and over again!

We strive to make a positive impact on the lives of our students and their families by teaching proper car handling and defensive driving techniques, specifically for performance vehicles. The most critical aspects of our teaching cannot be obtained from textbooks, or inside school cars that do not resemble your car. The most effective method of instruction is in your own car.

Buckeye Chapter BMW CCA High Performance Drivers' Schools take place at the world-famous Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio. The track is an hour north of Columbus Ohio; learn more at www.midohio.com.

This year, drivers are placed in one of three run groups, depending on track experience and type of car. Approximately 25-30 fellow students, of similar capabilities, will be on track in each run group – so few cars on a 2.5-mile course gives you plenty of room to learn and improve your skills. All C-level students (students with some on-track experience, preferably at Mid-Ohio) will have an instructor in the car, adhering to COVID-19 safety guidelines. Solo A, Solo B and C-level students are required to attend the daily morning meeting and their group's classroom sessions. Sorry, for the health and wellness of our volunteer instructors, *we will not be able to accept novice students this year.*

The classroom is performance-specific, with topics about seating, hand and eye position, track analysis and corner analysis (turn-in, apex, track-out). Restrictions on passing are strictly enforced. Professional corner workers are present at all flag stations. Professional medical and rescue personnel are always present. Run group size is limited to assure maximum quality and quantity of track time.

The FAQs

Is this racing? No. It is a High-Performance Driving Event (HPDE). The instructor will instruct you as to when you can pass, what you can do, etc. No one keeps score or times you. The idea is to learn the "line" (the optimum path through the corner) on the track, and for you to gain experience as you learn the limits of your car and yourself.

Is it safe? This isn't a race. Mid-Ohio is mostly quite forgiving, and features big areas of safe run-off. Plus, you can't pass another car without the car in front of you signaling that it's okay – and no one can pass *you* without your approval. All but the most advanced groups pass only in designated areas of the track.

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How fast will I go? Not as fast as you think, but Mid-Ohio has two long straights. It does not require a lot of skill to go fast in a straight line. You will learn how to drive through some very interesting turns at speeds that seem impossible until you learn how. The course has many fun, twisting, up-hill and down-hill turns that reward smoothness. The emphasis is on driving well – not on going fast.

What safety equipment do I need? A helmet is required. It must have a Snell 2010 or 2015 label. Beyond that, you need to wear natural fiber shirts (can be short-sleeved), closed-toe shoes, and long pants while on track. You will want to bring water, snacks, and sunscreen, too. A good quality dial-type tire gauge and a lug nut torque wrench is also handy, but likely can be borrowed from another student at the track. You will also be putting numbers on your windshield so we can identify you (included in your registration packet). You might want to learn the meaning of the safety flags in advance, but we will review them in the Saturday morning student meeting. We will teach you everything you need to know to be safe and have fun.

Do I need a race car or exotic sports car? No way! Whether you are driving an old 2002, a Honda Civic or a new M4, you are going to have fun. Most people bring their daily drivers to these events. We encourage novice student/drivers to bring their everyday car just the way they drive it to work or the mall. No special track tires are needed. You will see all types of BMWs, and other everyday cars, as well as some tricked-out race cars. Most driving school participants are going to be driving a similar type of car to what you are. Vans or trucks aren't allowed, nor are convertibles without full roll cages, but basically anything else will be fine. Again, you aren't trying to race – you are here to learn your car and the track.

The car will need to be inspected for safety before you come to the track; a pdf checklist may be found under Driving Schools on buckeyebmwcca.org. *Race-prepared cars must be cleared in advance by the Chief Instructor and Tech Chief.* Anything loose in your trunk, interior and glove box must be removed; there should be nothing rattling around in the car to distract you.

Am I going to wear out my car? No. You will put a little wear on your brakes. Expect the car to get dirty from the brake dust. Other than that, you aren't going to wear out your tires or anything like that. Modern cars with street tires and stock suspension are very capable and durable. Good brakes and tires are essential. Fresh fluids and a recent brake fluid change are recommended.

How much track time do I get? Don't be surprised if you are on the track for nearly 1-1/2 hours each day (spread out over 3 - 4 sessions). That's plenty. Before each session, you will have some classroom review/training with the classroom instructor. Our goal is to have you on the track as much as possible; we call it "seat time". You can read about it, but to learn it you must feel it.

I don't intend to ever race a car; why should I do this? You will learn driving skills that you will use every day; skills that could possibly save your life and those of your family.

1. Driving well requires *all your attention*.
2. You have to *have your mind ahead of the car*. Anticipate before it happens.
3. *Brake in a straight line*.
4. *Don't surprise the car*.
5. Learn the *feel of the car near the limit of adhesion*.

If this has not convinced you to enroll in our next school, come visit us at Mid-Ohio to see what it is all about. Take a ride with an instructor "at speed" to experience what can be done with a car and a knowledgeable driver. We think you will then be ready to enroll in the very next school.

We look forward to seeing you there! – BMW CCA Buckeye Chapter Driving Events Committee