



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How fast will I get to drive at DirtFish?

A: That depends on you, your abilities and your comfort level. However, speeds above 60 MPH are actually rare in rallying, given the nature of the roads. We can tell you that you will feel the thrill of driving on dirt and gravel faster than only a few people get to do, but do so in a way that is always within your abilities. Overall, the purpose of DirtFish is to allow you to experience driving on gravel and dirt, learn, and to have fun while making you a better driver.

Q: What if I'm not comfortable driving as fast as the other students in the class?

A: Our instructors are well-trained to help you stay in a zone that is comfortable, without being too comfortable, and you will never be pushed beyond what's safe for you and the others in the class. In fact, we like to say that you'll get "comfortable being just slightly uncomfortable." If you're ever too uncomfortable doing something the instructors are asking you to do, just say so.

Q: Will I have my own instructor riding with me?

A: You will always have an instructor in the car with you. Throughout the day you will have more than one instructor working with you, allowing you to learn from multiple instructors. Having an instructor ride with you is critical for two reasons, one being that the instructors can see what you're doing, and give you instruction and feedback in real-time. Secondly, rallying is all about having a co-driver riding with you, giving you instructions.

Q: What kind of things will I do during my experience?

A: First of all, lots of driving! Driving on a skid pad to learn car control skills, on a handling course to tune those skills further, on a slalom to develop the skills to turn the car by changing its balance, and on real rally stage-type roads. All of these driving experiences are in special areas of our 315-acre custom-designed facility - a facility developed specifically to help drivers learn about and experience rally driving.

Q: What about classroom instruction?

A: There is a minimum amount of classroom instruction; typically, just over an hour scheduled that is split into smaller sessions - just enough to give you the knowledge and background to do what you really came for... driving on gravel and dirt. Yes, the real classroom is behind the wheel of the car. However, you'll enjoy the time you do spend in the classroom, as we've developed what we believe is the most up-to-date, interactive and fun classroom training.

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Q: What if the weather is poor – raining, or even snowing?

A: Perfect! Rallying is all about dealing with varying conditions, and our facility is set up to handle them all, from hot and sunny to cold and raining, and even snow. In fact, because the conditions will change how you drive, some drivers will want to experience a course in the summer, and then again in the winter.

Q: How many other students will be with me, and how many instructors teaching us?

A: The typical number of students for our programs is 10 students, with 1 instructor in every car and 1 instructor outside of the cars at all times.

Q: What happens if I damage the car I'm driving?

A: Damage to our vehicles does happen, however our instructors are trained to help ensure it doesn't happen too often. Insurance is included in the price of our programs, so you do not need to purchase any additional coverage. You will not be liable for any crash damage unless we deem your actions to be outside of normal training or circumstances.

Q: Can I use my own car?

A: Yes, if your car is a rally car! Our cars are specially prepared for what you'll be doing, but if your vehicle is roll caged and ready to rally, we offer private coaching with one of our instructors in your own car with you at the wheel. Please inquire for further details and restrictions.

Q: Do I have my own school car, or do I share it with someone else?

A: You will be sharing a car with one other driver. While you are debriefing with your instructor, the other driver will be driving, and vice versa. You will also be able to compare to, and learn from the other driver(s). It is an effective and efficient method of learning.

Q: What about meals – do I need to bring my own?

A: We provide lunch as part of our 1-Day, 2-Day and 3-Day Programs, and refreshments are available. However, feel free to bring your own snacks and drinks. If you have any special dietary requirements, please inform us well in advance of your scheduled course.

Q: Are there any basic requirements or prerequisites I need?

A: You must be in good physical health and able to handle a HUGE adrenaline rush. It's most productive if you're already comfortable driving a manual transmission, but if you need some instruction or a refresher, no problem! Other than that, there are no other prerequisites. You will be required to sign our Waivers and Releases, so if you're a minor we'll require a parent or guardian to sign for you.

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Q: Is there an age requirement to take a class?

A: We require that the student be at least 15 years old, preferably with a valid permit. For any students under the age of 18, we do require a minor waiver be signed by the parents or guardian of the student before being allowed to take part in the experience.

Q: What days of the week are DirtFish experiences available?

A: We are generally open 7 days a week! Please call ahead or check our class schedule online.

Q: What if I need to re-schedule my experience?

A: No problem, as long as we have more than 60 days' notice. If it is within 46-60 days of your scheduled Driving Program, we will work with you to reschedule to a mutually convenient date, and you will be charged a \$100 rescheduling fee. If you provide notice within 16-45 days prior to your Driving Program, you will be charged \$200, and if you reschedule within 15 days of your scheduled Driving Program, you will be charged \$300.

Q: Can I purchase a gift certificate?

A: Absolutely. Just give us a call or purchase on our website (www.dirtfish.com). You can purchase a gift certificate for the value of a class or any monetary value. We also can customize gift certificates with a special message as well and send them via email as a PDF or send them as a hard copy in the mail to you.

Q: What should I wear?

A: First of all, wear clothes that you are okay with getting dirty. Other than that, wear clothes that are comfortable for you to drive in. We recommend wearing a shoe that is good for driving, such as a tennis shoe, running shoe or Converse. Better yet, wear your favorite pair of driving shoes. Of course, we provide a helmet with a head sock for you to wear.

Q: How much time will I spend driving?

A: Our Two Hour begins with 30 minutes in our classroom and 1.5 hours on one course. 10 students are split between 5 rally cars.

Our Half Day begins with 30 minutes in the classroom and 3.5 hours down on the courses. Typically, 10 students are split between 5 rally cars.

Our One Day, Two Day, Three Day, and Three Day Advanced Driving Programs are all formatted similarly. We schedule a little over an hour for classroom time – split up into a couple of short sessions everyday – and one hour for you to eat lunch (provided). The rest of the time is spent behind the wheel, or debriefing with your instructor.

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Q: Are all of your cars manual transmission?

A: We have a couple of automatic Subaru BRZ's available, but all of our WRX STI's are equipped with manual transmissions. If you are attending a rear-wheel drive Program, please call ahead of time to reserve an automatic BRZ.

Q: Can I bring a friend or family to watch?

A: You bet. They will be required to sign a Waiver/Release, and are able to watch from our designated spectator areas. Please give us a call for optimal arrival times.

Q: Do you offer group rates?

A: Absolutely! Please inquire within. Our office number is 425-888-7715.

Q: Do you offer corporate programs?

A: Yes we do. Give our office a call to create the perfect experience for your crew! We offer catering, team building events, a fully prepared PlaySeat Lounge, even a landing pad for helicopters!

Q: I'm coming from out of town - where do I stay while I am attending my Driving Program?

A: Accommodations are your responsibility, although we can absolutely recommend hotels that offer a DirtFish discount to you as a participant in our program. Upon registration, we will send a confirmation package to you that include a list of recommended hotels, cancellation and reschedule policy, and restaurants.

Q: What else can I do while I am not at DirtFish?

A: Lots! We're fortunate to be only 30 minutes from downtown Seattle, with the Space Needle, Experience Music Project, Pike Place Market and everything else the city has to offer. We're about 20 minutes from Bellevue Square, 35 minutes from Pacific Raceways, 20 minutes from Snoqualmie Pass ski resort; 10 minutes from all sorts of hiking trails; 10 minutes from Snoqualmie Casino; numerous golf courses; and just 5 minutes from being pampered at Salish Lodge Resort.

Q: Can anyone try rally?

A: Definitely! One of the best things about DirtFish is we make it really easy to try rallying: we provide the car, the course, and someone with experience to show you how it's done. It lessens the learning curve and shortens the amount of time it takes to slide like a pro. It can take years to master (and we're happy to help with that too), but if all you have is an afternoon we're here to help!

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Q: I noticed you have an Open Class car AND a Lites car! How can I sign up to drive one of those?

A: Due to their complexity and challenging driving requirements, these cars require some training and experience prior to trying them out. They are capable of serious speeds and have components that require specific skills to operate, so we want to ensure anyone driving them has the ability to both understand what the vehicle is doing as well as make the most of their time behind the wheel. We have developmental programs in place for anyone interested in driving them, please ask our sales team for more information.

Q: What are the differences between rear-wheel drive and all-wheel drive?

A: The biggest difference between the two is the gas pedal. An AWD car has a lot of traction and can accelerate quickly onto a straightaway, whereas a RWD car requires a lot of finesse to reach the same speeds. Though the RWD requires more effort and control to reach the same speeds as an AWD car, the challenge is very rewarding.

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