



INTRODUCTION AND PARTY INVITATIONS

Hot Wheel™ cars are not only collectible toys, but a favorite for boys to play with their friends and on their own. It's a great toy to build a party theme around as it involves racing, cool cars, and all things that go fast! Invite your best *Hot Wheels*™ friends over for a speedy good time!

Create your own **Black and White Checkered Flag Invitations** the size of a party card. Add a small wooden dowel to make it look authentic. Write all of the details on the back of the flag, use white cardstock and add black strips for the squares so that it is easy for guests to read your invitation.

Alternatively, create **Tire Invitations**. Using black heavy cardstock, cut out a large black circle, place a Life Savers® candy in the center of the tire, and attach with a glue stick. Using white chalk, include all of the party details on the back of the invitation. Your birthday child can decorate the front with stickers and cool tire designs.

Use racecar language in your invitation: *RACE ON OVER TO MY PARTY!*

DECORATIONS

Create a start and finish line. When kids enter the party, have them cross a red start line made from red crepe paper. When you send the kids home, set up a yellow finish line for the kids to cross as they depart.

Set orange cones around the party area to create a race course.

Mark the party spot by hanging *Hot Wheels*™ balloons around the front of your home. Tape a sign saying, "Welcome to *Hot Wheels*™ World" to your front door.

Tape *Hot Wheels*™ street signs around the party room such as:

- Pit Stop — bathroom
- Gift Parking — gift table
- Party Animal Crossing — around the party area



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Hang some checkered flags or a *Hot Wheels*™ wall banner around the party area.

If holding your party outdoors, and if you have large tires available, place the tires on the ground and cover with a white tablecloth to serve as the party tables.

Cover the party table with a *Hot Wheels*™ table cover and ensure each place setting has a *Hot Wheels*™ plate, napkin, cup, and party visor.

Place a *Hot Wheels*™ stadium cup at the head of the table to mark the birthday child's spot.

Add a *Hot Wheels*® track centerpiece and use *Hot Wheels*™ cars that your child owns to create a table centerpiece.

Hang balloons in bunches for best effect by tying a colorful ribbon around the strings of several balloons, so they hang together. Try red, yellow, and blue for fun, or just black and white for a checkered flag effect.

Attach *Hot Wheels*™ streamers to a light fixture in the center of the party table to add to the festive environment. Create multicolor streamers by placing two different colored streamers back-to-back and twisting them (try black and white for a checkered flag feel).

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Greet the party guests as they arrive by welcoming them to "*Hot Wheels*™ World," and by giving them a *Hot Wheels*™ party visor or race helmet.

Optional: have the guests guess how many nuts and bolts are in a jar you filled earlier. Award the guest with the closest guess a ribbon or winner's medal at the end of the party.

While the party guests wait for everyone to arrive, have the kids create *Hot Wheels*™ T-shirts. Purchase white T-shirts (you may want to check sizes with your party guests' parents or choose a one-size-fits-all variety) and have the kids use fabric pens to draw their own cars. They can wear these T-shirts during the party and take them home as a goody.

Other crafts to do while the kids wait for everyone include:

License Plates or Traffic Signs. Cut construction paper into license plate shapes and into the shapes of common traffic signs (octagons, triangles and squares). Add a border using black construction paper. Cut two holes in the top, insert either end of a string into each hole, and knot the string so the license plate or sign can be hung from a hook, door knob or thumb tack. Pre-cut letters and numbers from construction paper



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so the guests can decorate their own license plate or traffic sign (e.g. "Curvy Road – John's Room," or "Stop! Deb's Room") to take home with them. **TIP:** These license plates and signs can also be made using self-adhesive backed foam so they can be stuck to a door or wall (and the holes and string aren't necessary).

Car Design. Outline a car shape on each piece of construction paper. If you have stencils, use them to create numbers from construction paper that the guests can use to add to their cars. Hand out a piece of construction paper with an outline of a car to guests, and encourage them to decorate it.

Obstacle Race. Design an indoor racetrack by draping a blanket over a table to create a tunnel effect. Use pop bottles as cones that guests must drive around. Lay down crepe paper streamers or rope/string as track borders. Post red paper "Stop" signs at a couple of spots along the track where the kids must stop before going further.

It's race time! Time each guest as they try to go through the racetrack. Have the racers begin by dressing up like a racer with gloves, helmet, goggles, shirt, pants, and racing boots. Then have them race through the obstacle course. Make sure to let them know that they must stop at each "Stop" sign. Award prize ribbons to the top racers.

Hot Wheels™ Racer. Have the children assemble their track sets and select their cars. Race two cars at a time. Award a series of prizes so everyone feels included.

Beanbag Toss. Cut the black construction paper into the shape of a black tire, and cut a small hole in the center, just big enough for a beanbag to get through. Have guests take turns trying to throw a beanbag through the tire.

Pin the Car on the Racetrack. Classic "pin-the-tail" game, just with a racetrack twist. Draw a racetrack on a large piece of construction paper. Cut car shapes out of construction paper (trace around a car cookie cutter if you have one). Place tape, or spray adhesive on the car shapes so they stick (if using spray adhesive, let them dry sticky side up). Hand each child a car and tell them they are to pin the car on the finish line of the racetrack. Blindfold children, spin the child around, and point them in the direction of the racetrack.

Tire Toss. Using an inflatable tire and tennis balls, see who can toss the most balls through the tire.

Car Race. Using medium-sized cardboard boxes, create racecars.

- Cut out part of the bottom of the box and fold that part for the windshield
- Cut out handles on the sides
- Spray paint the outside of the box
- Glue leftover paper plates that have been painted black as tires
- Paint numbers on the front and back of the boxes



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Have the kids get into the cars and race across the party area or backyard and pretend they are racing cars, making “VROOM” sounds. These cars can also be used during the obstacle course.

PARTY MENU

Speedway Car Sandwiches. Make triple-decker sandwiches using the birthday child’s favorite fillings. Remove crusts and cut sandwiches in half. Put two halves together, holding them in place using two pretzel sticks for axles. Place half an olive or gumdrop at the end of each pretzel stick for wheels. Arrange the car sandwiches on a platter so it looks like they are racing around the dish.

Stop Light Krispies Treats. Using red, green, and yellow mini M&M’S®, mix into the Kellogg’s® Rice Krispies Treats® mix and cut out using a circle cookie cutter. Attach the three colorful Krispies treats using a stick in the shape of a stop light.

Gummy *Hot Wheels*™ Fruit Snacks.

Fruit Wheels. Cut out rings of grapefruit or pineapple and place a small cherry in the center.

Racecar Sugar Cookies. Prepare sugar cookies according to recipe. Cut into racecar shapes with cookie cutter. Decorate with icing and candy (this is a great step to get the birthday child involved). Use decorations to draw racecar numbers on the cookies.

Pit Crew Peanut Butter Power Balls. Gather the following ingredients:

- 1 cup creamy or chunky-style peanut butter
- 1 cup powdered milk
- 1-1/2 cups confectioners sugar
- 1 cup honey
- Wax paper
- Optional: shredded coconut or chopped peanuts

Combine peanut butter, powdered milk, sugar, and honey in bowl. Take some dough pieces, roll into 1" balls, and set on wax paper. Optional: roll in shredded coconut or chopped peanuts. Refrigerate until firm.

Raceway Sodas. Place a small amount of chocolate chips in the bottom of each guest’s cup. Fill the cups with cream soda.

Optional: For an extra fun look, add a few drops of red food coloring to the bottle of cream soda before pouring.



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Racetrack Cake. Cut a small semicircular notch from one cake, and then position the cakes together so they look like a figure eight. Cover the cakes with white icing. Place a small bowl in the center of each cake and sprinkle cookie crumbs around it to create the racetrack. Remove the bowls and add green sprinkles onto each icing circle for "grass." Press any remaining sprinkles onto the sides of the cake. Lay a white small licorice candy dotted line along the center of the chocolate cookie crumb racetrack. Use a pastry bag to create a white icing border around the edge of the cake. Create racing flags by taping small squares of paper or ribbon to the toothpicks and placing them on the track along with the cleaned *Hot Wheels*[®] racecars.

Traffic Light Cake. Bake 9" round (or smaller) cakes according to cake recipe. Frost one cake green, the other yellow, and the last red. Place the cakes next to each other on a large tray or a piece of cardboard covered with aluminum foil so they look like a traffic light.

Cookie Tires. Use Oreo[®] cookies and a dollop of frosting to attach a Life Savers[®] to the center.

Create a **Crank Oil Sundae Bar** where the kids create their own sundaes with ice cream, chocolate syrup (oil), nuts, cherries, sprinkles, and whatever else sounds good.

PARTY FAVORS

Prepare a *Hot Wheels*[™] treat sack for each child to be given out at the end of the party as a memento of the day. Fill each bag with items such as a *Hot Wheels*[®] car, stickers, disc launcher, bounce balls, and a boxed juice drink.

Take pictures of your *Hot Wheels*[®] car races and make sure to send them in your party thank you notes for a speedy memory.



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