

PRESSRELEASE

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There's Still Time to Join the Soap Box Derby

Michigan City, IN (April 16, 2004) – It's been called "The Greatest Amateur Racing Event in the World," "The Gravity Grand Prix", and many other expansive euphemisms, but to most of the more than one million youngsters who've participated, it's just the "Soap Box Derby."

Michigan City's **Soap Box Derby will be held on May 22, 2004**, and **there is still time** to become part of this youth racing program which has run nationally since 1934.

"There is no entry fee for this race, but we need sponsors for cars," said Johnny Stimley, one of the race sponsors. "This is a great opportunity for local service organizations and car dealerships to advertise their businesses while helping local youth to experience the All American Soap Box Derby."

The goals of the Soap Box Derby program have not changed since it began in 1934. They are to teach youngsters some of the basic skills of workmanship, the spirit of competition and the perseverance to continue a project once it has begun.

The Stock division will be raced in Michigan City and is designed to give the first-time builder a learning experience. Boys and girls, ages 8 through 17 (weight limit is 125 pounds) compete in simplified cars built from kits purchased from the All-American. These kits assist the Derby novice by providing a step-by-step layout for construction of a basic lean forward style car.

"We need twelve cars for the race," Stimley said, "and **the cars must be ordered by May 1st**. It takes only 4-5 hours to assemble the cars, and each team will assemble theirs independently. Trial runs will be held the week prior to the race to help teams evaluate their car's performance. There will be a weigh-in at Rag Tops Car Museum on the night before the race. Medals will be awarded to all participants, and the top winner will receive a trophy."

The Michigan City race winner will participate in the national competition in Akron in July.

Order forms for the Soap Box Derby cars are available at Ryan's Irish Pub and Rag Tops Museum. Kits cost \$390 for white cars and \$395 for red or blue cars. Wheels cost \$90. Total costs, including shipping and handling, for white cars is \$505 and for red and blue cars is \$510. For more information on the All-American Soap Box Derby in Michigan City, call Johnny Stimley at 219/861-0309 (nights) or 219/872-0361 (days.)

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