



CITY OF  
**SANFORD**  
PARKS & RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT

*City of Sanford  
Florida*



The Soap Box Derby is a youth racing program that has run nationally since 1934. World Championship finals are held each July at Derby Downs in Akron, Ohio. The idea of the Soap Box Derby grew out of a photographic assignment of Dayton, Ohio, newsman Myron Scott. He covered a race of boy-built cars in his home community and was so impressed with this event that he acquired a copyright for the idea and began development of a similar program on a national scale.

The first All-American race was held in Dayton in 1934. The following year, the race was moved to Akron because of its central location and hilly terrain. In 1936, Akron civic leaders recognized the need for a permanent track site for the youth racing classic and, through the efforts of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), Derby Downs became a reality.

Each year since, with the exception of during World War II, youngsters from throughout the United States and several foreign countries have come to Akron with the racers they have built and driven to victory in their home communities.

There are three racing divisions. The Stock division is designed to give the first-time builder a learning experience. Boys and girls, 7 through 13 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. The Super Stock Car division, ages 9 through 20, gives the competitor an opportunity to expand their knowledge and build a more advanced model. Both of these beginner levels make use of kits and shells available from the All-American. These entry levels of racing are popular in race communities across the country, as youngsters are exposed to the Derby program for the first time. The Masters division offers boys and girls, 10 through 20, an advanced class of racer to try their creativity and design skills in. Masters entrants may purchase a Scottie Masters Kit with a fiberglass body from 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 races are held at Mike Kirby Park (formerly Derby Park) in Sanford. Loaner cars are available for any eligible child wishing to compete in the program. Check the full race schedule at [www.soapboxderby.org/central-florida](http://www.soapboxderby.org/central-florida). Any interested families should contact Eric Griffin at the City of Sanford Recreation Department at 407-688-5120.

Call soon to reserve your car