

RA SOAPBOX DERBIES



DERBY DATES

**STATE DERBY: Second or third Saturday in October
IN FRONT OF THE STATE CAPITOL
DOWN DEXTER AVENUE**

**SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL MISSIONS/MEN'S MINISTRIES/ROYAL AMBASSADORS
OF THE ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
1-800-264-1225, extension 268 sstephens@alsbom.org**



RA SOAP BOX DERBY

Soap Box Derbies began in Dayton, Ohio when a news photographer was asked to cover a race of boy-built cars in his home community. The newsman liked the idea so well that he promoted it throughout the country.

The goals for the Soap Box Derby are to teach youngsters some of the basic skills of workmanship, the spirit of “doing your best” and the perseverance of continuing the project to its end.

Alabama RAs began Soap Box Derbies in the year 2000 as an outreach tool, a method of interesting boys in the Royal Ambassador program and to achieve the previous mentioned goals.

To make this event one that most anyone can enter, participants cannot spend more than \$200 on their car the first year. Hopefully, most of the cars will be from recycled parts. If anyone purchases wheels, plywood, etc., and donates it to the cause, that amount is still considered in the \$200. If items donated have been lying around (leftover from other uses), they can be considered as recycled and not included in the \$200. Another \$100 can be invested in the car after the first year, making the maximum investment up to \$300.

RA RACE

1. Your pre-registration helps us stay in contact, should there be any changes in the event. Please send us your contact information by e-mailing sstephens@alsbom.org. or calling 1-800-264-1225, ext. 227.
2. Divisions will be:

AGE	<u>CARS</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lad - 1-3 grade • Crusader - 4-6 grade • Challenger - 7-12 grade • Counselor-Adults (This race will be run if time permits.) 	10" and Under Wheels Over 10" to 14" Wheels Over 14" Wheels Obstacle Course Push Car (Wheel size is not considered.)



3. Two race categories will be run: Push Car Obstacle Course, and Downhill Speed.

Push Car Race is a 2-person timed event by grade. One boy drives down (through the cones) and then the other boy pushes back. They exchange places on the return leg of the race.

4. A “Safety Board” of 2 adult volunteers will determine if entries meet the requirements and intent of the derby. They will inspect braking and steering first.
5. The State Race begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. The location is: IN FRONT OF THE STATE CAPITOL, DOWN DEXTER AVENUE.
6. The State Race registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
7. A car can be driven by all from your church, **provided they have had experience driving the car.**
8. A free DVD with engineering drawings of the frame of the soapbox car is available from the Royal Ambassador desk of the Alabama Baptist State Board of missions.
Call 1-800-264-1225, Ext. 268 or e-mail: sstephens@alsbom.org
9. COST: Registration fee is \$10.00 per car. Payable at the race. No fee at the Congress Race.

The registration fee is used to offset the cost of the police officers (who provide a secure racing area), the barricades, and awards.





CAR AND RACE SPECIFICATIONS

1. Cars must have four wheels. The outside of the left wheel to outside of the right wheel must be 40 inches or less. Maximum wheel base is 6 feet. This is so it will fit on the ramp.
2. Braking system is ESSENTIAL. Braking must be to both rear wheels simultaneously – independent braking is dangerous in the speed event. Break must be foot controlled. Hand brakes are dangerous in that the driver may take both hands from the steering wheel to apply the brake.
3. **IMPORTANT RULE:** Car Height - for every inch of lower body height, the width from outside of one wheel to outside of the opposite wheel must be at least 4 X that height.

TO CHECK YOUR CAR: Measure from the ground to the lowest part of the frame. Multiply the number by 4. This gives you the minimum outside to outside width of the wheels.

EXAMPLE: The car has a 14 inch wheel and measures 7 inches from the lowest part of the frame to the ground. $7 \text{ inches} \times 4 \text{ inches} = 28 \text{ inches}$. The car must be at least 28 inches from the outside of the right wheel to the outside of the left wheel. (If the distance between the wheels is 36 inches wide, the car is well within the requirements.)

This rule will greatly reduce the chance of a rollover.

Maximum width of wheels is 40 inches. This is due to the width of the starting ramp.

4. The car must be able to start only by the force of gravity from an eight-foot ramp (sheet of plywood) elevated 16 inches (two concrete blocks) on one end. Make sure your car clears the ground enough to do this.
5. All cars must have bodywork without loose, sharp, or dangerous parts. The car must be enclosed to the point that the driver cannot fall out.
6. Occupants should wear: Helmets and shoes (no sandals). Motorcycle or batters helmets are better than bike or skating helmets because those have a tendency to slip down over the driver's eyes.

7. Steering must be done by driver's hands. Foot steering is dangerous in the speed event.
8. Once the race begins, all ballast (weight) must be permanently secured to the car. Weights may be removed for the push car race.
9. No motors, etc., allowed. The car must start and continue to roll only by the force of gravity.
10. Build your car with most any wheels, (except "Official Soapbox Derby" wheels) steering and body. For a winning car, work on style and weight distribution. Cars will be grouped by wheel size 10 inches and under, over 10 inches to 14 inches, over 14 inches. *SPECIAL NOTE: In the 2011 race we noticed the number of cars using the expensive "official soapbox derby" was growing. We researched the race results and noticed that those wheels gave an unfair advantage. To be fair to all, cars can no longer use those wheels.*
11. Expenditures per car must not exceed \$200 the first year. An additional \$100 may be invested in the car the second year. Thereafter, the total amount invested in the car must be less than \$300. Recycled parts are encouraged. Documentation of where parts were obtained and cost should be available to the race officials on day of registration, if requested.
12. Awards will be given for the following categories:
 - Fastest car in each division – first through third place. Trophy is awarded to the church, not the driver.
 - Best looking car
 - Most unique looking car
 - Time through an obstacle course of cones.
(This is a push car race. One driver and one pusher. They exchange places at the halfway point.)
 - Best sports and group having the most fun will win a "Best Of Race" trophy.
13. A "PERMISSION & MEDICAL HEALTH FORM" (the one on the back of this booklet or one similar) must be completed. Each driver must have this form signed by a parent or guardian before he is allowed to race. A leader, who accompanies the RAs to the race, will keep these forms and inform the race officials when they register at the derby.
14. **ALL DERBY DRIVERS MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE DRIVING THE CAR BEFORE ENTERING STATE RACE.**

RACE DAY INFORMATION

1. REGISTRATION (Day of)

Registration Cost: \$10 per car. This helps with awards and cost of barricades and traffic control provided by the Montgomery Police Department.

Procedure: Upon arrival at the site obtain a registration form from the registration desk. Take the registration form to the PIT BOSS for car inspection. He will check construction, braking, wheel base width and height ratio, and then if the car is approved, the “car number” will be taped to the car. Complete the registration form and return it to the registration desk.

You will also be informed as to the “wheel size” category your car will run in.

- 10 inches or under
- Over 10 inches to 14 inches
- Over 14 inches

2. DERBY RACES

Two types of races

- Speed Race (OPEN RACE & TROPHY RACE)
- Obstacle Course

Three Age Divisions

- 1st-3rd Grades
- 4th-6th Grades
- Challengers; 7th-12th Grades

Three Wheel Size Categories

- 10 inches and under
- Over 10 inches to 14 inches
- Over 14 inches

3. WHO CAN DRIVE?

Every boy from your church (who has experience driving your car) can drive in the OPEN RACE. From all your drivers, you will select one or two drivers to run in the TROPHY RACE in each age division.

- *For safety, please do not allow anyone not familiar with your car to drive it in the speed race.*

ONE OR TWO DRIVERS IN TROPHY RACE

In the Trophy Race, the car will run in lane 1 and lane 2 and the best of the two times will be the time we keep. You may use the same driver or switch.

You will selected these drivers from your OPEN RACE drivers.

TIMING IN THE OPEN RACE

Derby Timers will provide you with the times of all of your drivers, if you are at the finish line and ask them for the information. These times will not be recorded by derby officials.

OBSTACLE COURSE

This will be by grade (First-Sixth, Junior High, Senior High).

Wheel size will not be considered. Two boys will participate in each run (only one run per boy). Drivers will swap at half-way point.

All boys from your church can participate, but they only get one try. If two drivers are in different grades, they will be entered as the highest grade.

4. LOCATION

PRE-RACE MEETING

ALL PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS NEED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING AT 9:45 AM AT THE STATE CAPITOL STEPS.

REST ROOM

The porta-toilet located on the south side of the starting ramp has been rented for our event.

FOOD

Burger King and Wendy's are two blocks north of the capitol. Chris' Hotdogs is on the south side of Dexter Avenue, a block beyond the finish line.

5. WHEEL SIZE

Select the wheel size that is best for your car and run in that wheel size category only. No changing of wheels needed.

This will allow more churches and cars to "place" rather than one church/car in all catagories.

RACE SCHEDULE

OPEN RACE

- Official times will not be kept.
- You may time your RA's. (Stop watches can be borrowed from the finish line judges or they may do the timing and give you a verbal time.)
- Races will be run by wheel size as much as possible.
- EACH BOY IS TO DRIVE ONLY ONCE!!!!!!
- Your church is responsible for getting the car back to the starting ramp during the OPEN RACE.
- The OPEN RACE may be a shorter run than the trophy race. This will make possible more runs within the time limits.

TROPHY RACE

- One or two boys from your church in each age division can drive in the TROPHY RACE.
- The two boys could be two who drove in the OPEN RACE or you could select two who will only have their turn when they drive in the TROPHY RACE.
- Car will run in both lanes to assure the best time.
- Car can only run in one wheel size category. You do not need to swap wheels to enter more boys, so select your best wheel size and go with it.

THIS IS HOW WE WILL RUN THE TROPHY RACE AT ALABAMA BAPTIST RA SOAPBOX DERBY IN OCTOBER

- The race officials have no way of knowing which cars should be in line under each category, so please be alert to the announcement by megaphone and sign.

HAVE YOUR CAR AND DRIVER IN PLACE AND READY TO GO!

- **The “OPEN RACE” will run and then the “TROPHY RACE”.**
- The **trophy race** will be decided by “best time”. Each run will be on a different lane.
- The car will run twice (you can change drivers); one on each lane. The best time of the two runs will count. As soon as the car is returned to the top, it should be placed in line (opposite lane).
- After the speed race, the car may proceed to the **obstacle course** and race. Each boy will run only one time in the obstacle course.
- If you have promised a boy the opportunity to drive, but you run out of events, please see the race director – Steve Stephens. We will try to find a time for him to race.
- Number of Runs:

Open Race – As many as needed and the time allows. Every boy gets one run.

Trophy Race – Two runs, one on each lane. Per age group, per car.

Obstacle Course – Wheel size is not considered.

Each car can be run by two people per age/grade classification. Run by 1st grade, 2nd grade, etc., not by Lad, Crusader, Challenger.

RA SOAPBOX DERBY

PERMISSION & MEDICAL HEALTH FORM

Before a boy can register and participate in the state RA Soapbox Derby, this form must be read and signed by his parent or legal guardian.

SOAPBOX DERBY RACING IS AN ACTIVITY THAT CARRIES WITH IT THE RISK OF INJURY.

Parent or Guardian: Though every volunteer involved does not intend to do anything that will cause harm, sometimes accidents occur. With this in mind, it is YOUR responsibility to ask the questions and look over the equipment used in the derby to the point that YOU are willing to give YOUR son permission to participate.

This permission means you will not hold any Derby volunteer and official responsible beyond what they would do for their own child. Please complete the form below.

I (parent or legal guardian) of _____
(Boy's Name)

understand the risk involved in Soapbox Derby Racing and give

_____ permission to participate in the event
(Boy's Name)

at the Soapbox Derby Race, _____
(Event Date)

(Signed by Parent or Legal Guardian)

He has my permission to participate as:

Driver of a soapbox car and spectator

Spectator only

Furthermore, should medical attention be needed for my son, I give permission to the church leaders, who chaperon the boys to this event, to obtain medical service needed for my son, _____.

My Insurance Carrier _____

My Insurance Policy Number or Group _____