

SWIFT awards \$25,000.00 toward S.T.E.M. based program, *The Gravity Racing Challenge*, in partnership with the Piedmont Area Soap Box Derby Foundation, Inc.

Grant funding will further STEM education partnership between the Soap Box Derby and public schools in a six county area.

Piedmont Area Soap Box Derby Foundation, Inc. has received a corporate donation from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) to bring integrated STEM program to area schools in Culpeper and surrounding Counties.

Elementary & middle school students will get firsthand experience in engineering design and STEM core concepts thanks to a recent donation from SWIFT. The \$25,000.00 corporate donation was recently presented to the Piedmont Area Soap Box Derby Foundation, Inc. to promote the *Gravity Racing Challenge Program*. These funds will provide funding for public schools to partner with the International Soap Box Derby® (ISBD) and their increased focus on STEM education initiatives. Through the Gravity Racing Challenge Program, students will receive hands-on experiential learning utilizing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math to build and race a Soap Box Derby car against other teams during the Gravity Racing Challenge Race, held at Paul Bates Raceway on April 30, 2016. Each team will focus on the physics used to build their car while also competing on a national level for other contests that open the door to the Arts (STEAM). Teams will not only compete locally in racing, but will have the opportunity to enter national contests for photography, design, press releases, poster design and Infomercials.

“We’re thrilled that SWIFT recognizes the educational value of Soap Box Derby racing in the Culpeper area,” said ISBD President and CEO Joe Mazur. “This is a tremendous opportunity to be involved with a hands-on STEM activity with meaningful, project- and standards-based, intercurricular learning opportunities.”

“With the guidance of the ISBD in Akron, Ohio, we are now able to provide an educational platform for our local kids to integrate hands-on learning with the excitement of racing while developing STEM core concepts,” said Frankie Gilmore, Race Director of the Piedmont Area Soap Box Derby Foundation, Inc.

SWIFT realizes how important STEM & STEAM based activities are to our young students . . . our future workforce of tomorrow. SWIFT has been a longtime supporter of the local schools, community college and four-year universities and sees this as another opportunity to help develop that path to higher education.

The Piedmont Area Soap Box Derby Foundation would like to Thank SWIFT and their employees for their generosity in making STEM/STEAM based activities affordable for area schools in our six county areas, participating in the Piedmont Area Soap Box Derby’s Gravity Racing Challenge. To find out more about the Gravity Racing Challenge program, visit <http://www.soapboxderby.org/education-program/grc-stem-team-competition>.