



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Cincinnati Soap Box Derby 2019 Season opens in April** *Drivers encouraged to sign up. Cars provided and no entry fee*

**Cincinnati, Ohio** – The Greater Cincinnati Soap Box Derby (GCSBD) organizers unveiled their 2019 race schedule which includes some new venues along with driver favorites – and one that’s a bit of both. Also new this year, registration fees to enter the races have been dropped. Organizers hope removing the financial obligation will attract more drivers to the sport.

“Aside from the cost of the car, entry fees were \$300 for a full season and that’s an amount many families couldn’t afford,” said Doug Newberry, president of GCSBD “so now we are looking at new and past sponsors to help raise the money to allow kids to continue to race.” Newberry rattled off a list of previous car sponsors: WCPO, BMW Store, Compass Self Storage, Fifth Third Bank and others. He hopes that they will recommit to sponsorship in 2019.

Race Director, Stan Kokotajlo is excited about the 2019 schedule, “The Derby helps bring a lifetime of learning and family fun to area youth through gravity racing. Giving local racers the opportunity to participate at no cost this year on a diverse set of street tracks will bring excitement to the race season.”

The new race schedule will have kids racing on streets in St Bernard, Golf Manor, Ault Park, College Hill and Florence, Ky. Ault Park was the site of the annual Cincinnati Soap Box Derby race during the 1960s and 70s. Through a partnership with Cincinnati Parks, the Derby will return there on Sunday, June 2 for the “Local” race that will send the winners to Akron to represent Cincinnati and compete in the All-American Soap Box Derby. “Having the Local race back at Ault Park in June will revive a long racing tradition to the Greater Cincinnati area,” said Kokotajlo

#### **Challenge to Communities and High Schools**

Along with the free admission to race, the Derby organization is offering 40 of their Derby cars for kids who don’t have a car. Because of the anticipated demand, cars will be limited to one per community or neighborhood. Organizers are resurrecting the Mayor’s Cup Trophy, initiated by then Mayor Mark Mallory in 2007 that pitted drivers from competing Cincinnati neighborhoods against each other for a trophy, bragging rights and a cash prize. Newberry says the trophy and bragging rights will return but cash prize won’t return unless a sponsor emerges.

In Northern Kentucky, Chris Chailland, Beechwood High School physics teacher, is challenging other high and junior high schools in Greater Cincinnati to form a team and race. “I’m trying to find a way to teach students physics at a younger age, and this seems like a great opportunity.” Chailland already has a soap box car and plans to get students as young as 12-13 years-old to be on the team. GCSBD will also provide

cars to teams that sign up in this competition. The different race series will take place on the same dates and tracks.

### **How to get involved**

To compete in the Derby, a driver must be at least seven years old and have two people to act as their pit crew. Pit crew members can be parents or older teenagers who can assist with loading and unloading the cars from trailers throughout the day. Races usually run on Saturdays or Sundays from 7 am to 5 pm.

To compete in the JHS/HS competition, drivers and pit crew should be 12 years old or older and have an affiliation with a school.

Drivers must also complete a driver orientation program on April 6 in Florence, Ky. This free event is also a “Fun Run” for parents and kids who are curious about Derby racing where they can try out a car.

Driver registration will take place in late March. GCSBD is asking potential drivers or their parents to sign up on their mailing list so they can be notified when registration opens.

To sign up, go to: <http://signup.cincysbd.com> or to ask specific questions, email: [info@cincysbd.com](mailto:info@cincysbd.com)

### ***2019 Cincinnati Soap Box Derby Schedule***

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|---------------------|---|
| <b>April 6</b>      | <b>Driver Orientation and “Fun Run”</b><br>Florence Freedom/UC Health Stadium<br>Florence, Ky     |
| <b>April 27</b>     | <b>St. Bernard Grand Prix</b><br>Washington Ave<br>St. Bernard, Oh                                |
| <b>May 18</b>       | <b>Golf Manor Grand Prix</b><br>Bremont Ave<br>Golf Manor, Oh                                     |
| <b>June 2</b>       | <b>Cincinnati Soap Box Derby (the Local race)</b><br>Observatory Ave<br>Ault Park, Cincinnati, Oh |
| <b>August 17*</b>   | <b>College Hill Grand Prix</b><br>Larch Ave<br>College Hill neighborhood of Cincinnati, Oh        |
| <b>September 7*</b> | <b>Florence Grand Prix</b><br>Florence Freedom/UC Health Stadium<br>Florence, Ky                  |
| <b>October 5*</b>   | <b>Location TBD</b>   |

*\*Dates subject to change.*