



PARKS AND RECREATION

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATHENS SOAP BOX DERBY
26th Annual Race Set For Saturday, June 5

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – May 11, 2021 – The 26th Annual Athens Soap Box Derby will be held on Saturday, June 5, on Washington Avenue in Athens in conjunction with MOOFest. The Athens Soap Box Derby is a preliminary to the 83rd running of the All-American Soap Box Derby world championships, which will be held in Akron, Ohio, the week of July 19-23, Covid permitting. Athens will be running three divisions: the Stock Division, the Super Stock Division, and the Super Kids Division.

The Stock division is the beginning class designed for racers 7-13 years old and is a lean forward car. The driver and car together, in the Stock Division, race at 200 pounds.

The Super Stock Division is for racers ages 9-18 years old and can accommodate a larger racer up to approximately six feet tall and 160 pounds. The driver and car together, in the Super Stock Division, race at 240 pounds.

The National Super Kids Classic Division is designed for special needs youth ages 7 to 18 and is a double seater car, driven by former Soap Box Derby drivers.

Drivers are still being sought for all divisions with some cars available for use first-come, first-serve.

On Saturday, June 5, beginning at 4 a.m., Washington Avenue from Hill Street to Long Street will be closed to automobile traffic and turned into a Soap Box Derby track.

A Soap Box Derby car rides approximately 3.5 inches off the ground and will attain speeds of approximately 21 miles per hour on Washington Avenue. The cars are entirely gravity powered and have a brake and steering wheel. The track is approximately 950 feet of racing, with a long runout area. The races are electronically timed and are double elimination, lane swap, wheel swap, time differential races. This means that each "race" consists of two runs down the hill with a common opponent. In the first phase of the heat, the cars race on their own wheels in a starting lane. When the cars cross the finish line,

the timer records the difference of the two racers. The racers are taken back to the top where they will switch wheels and lanes and make a second run. The lowest total time down the hill, in two runs under the same conditions, is declared the winner of the race.

The Soap Box Derby practice begins at 7:15 a.m., with opening ceremonies scheduled for 8:00 a.m. and the first heats immediately following. Live race coverage can be heard on WYXI radio AM 1390 and FM 94.5. Admission to the Athens Soap Box Derby is free.

The City of Athens is a full-service municipality nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains and has garnered a reputation as the “Friendly City.”

For more information, please contact the Office of Parks & Recreation at (423) 744-2700 EXT 3.

###