

2025 Race Week Guide

July 13-19

aasbd.soapboxderby.org

Updated July 12, 2025

Welcome to Akron!

Congratulations on qualifying for the 87th running of the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby World Championship!

If you have questions, please email raceprograms@soapboxderby.org. Soap Box Derby staff and volunteers are available to assist at any time before and during the event.

Contact Information and Addresses

Phone:	330-733-8723
Email:	raceprograms@soapboxderby.org
Race Week website	aasbd.soapboxderby.org
International website	soapboxderby.org/worldchampionships
Online Store:	commerce.soapboxderby.org
Topside	1000 George Washington Blvd., Akron, OH 44312
Spins Bowling Akron	2911 E. Waterloo Rd., Akron, OH 44312
Canal Park Stadium	300 Main St, Akron, OH 44308
Lock 3 Park	200 S. Main St., Akron, OH 44308
Shaw JCC of Akron	750 White Pond Dr. Akron, OH 44320
Race Day Parking	789 Derby Downs Drive, Akron, OH 44306 Located in gravel and grass lots
Akron Civic Theatre	182 South Main Street, Akron, OH 44308



Important Info and FAQ

Badges, Hometown Items and Trading

Throughout the week, Champs get the opportunity to attend “Badge Trading,” where they exchange badges and special items they bring from their hometowns. We suggest bringing approximately 300- 600 badges for trading. Families and volunteers will ask the Champs for their badges all week long. It is not mandatory, but we want to make sure that you are aware of this tradition so that your Champs can take part.

Champ Good Luck Car Messages

Want to write and give a message to a Champ wishing them “good luck” in Saturday’s race? Visit aasbd.soapboxderby.org to fill out a Champ car message online or by hand. These messages will be placed in the Champs’ cars for them to read on Saturday morning before the race. Online message are due Saturday, July 12 at 5 p.m. and handwritten messages by Thursday at 7 p.m..

Banners and Signs

Families are encouraged to bring banners to support their Champs. Banners should be no higher than 3’ and no longer than 6’. Do not hang banners on Derby Downs fencing before 7:30 am on Sunday, July 14. Banners posted prior to this time will be removed.

Tents

Do not place or set up tents/canopies on Derby Downs grounds before 7:30 am on Sunday, July 14. Tents set up prior to this time will be removed. Also, when setting up, please avoid the zoned-off areas. The ISBD is not responsible for tents/canopies placed on our grounds or for items left in them.

Champ Apparel

All Champions **MUST** wear their provided Champion t-shirts each day they are participating in a Race Week activity – this includes all day Sunday, Monday for the parade and opening ceremonies and during bowling; Tuesday during the races and to the JCC Swim Night; Wednesday during the Challenge race and the Open House; Thursday at the All-star and Legacy races and the Topside Show; and Friday at Derby Downs . And all-day Saturday. The shirts may **NOT** be altered.

ID Badges

Champ ID badges as well as all other official badges **MUST** be **worn** while at the track. There are no exceptions.

Important Info and FAQ

Weekday Traffic and Parking

George Washington Blvd. will be closed to traffic, both ways, on Sunday and Tuesday-Saturday. Anyone with an official badge/Champ ID can show the police officer their badge and get through to Topside. Spectators need to divert around GW using Hilbish Rd.

THERE IS NO SPECTATOR PARKING AT TOPSIDE DURING THE WEEK.

Guests are allowed to park in the median on GWB for the Topside Show on Thursday. The road will be closed until 7 p.m.

Weekday Shuttles

Limited shuttle service will be running on race days, Tues.-Fri. They run from the parking lot to starting line to Topside.

Race Day Parking and Shuttle

Parking for spectators is **only available on Derby Downs Rd. lower lot** - there is no parking at Topside. Shuttles start at 6:30 a.m. and run from the parking lot to Topside, stopping at the starting line.

Food Vendors

There will be various food vendors at Derby Downs/Topside throughout Race Week and Race Day, but the days can be long, so it is advised to bring your own food and drinks as well.

ATMs

There are no ATMs located at Derby Downs. There are a number of local and national ATMs that are just a short drive from the grounds.

Water Stations

There will be water stations located throughout Derby Downs for your convenience. The stations will be located at Office Tent, at Topside (two stations), at the Starting line, and at Run Out.

Restrooms

There are no permanent, public restrooms at Derby Downs. Restrooms will be located throughout the grounds.

Pets

To ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone, only trained service animals are allowed to accompany their handlers within the grounds of Derby Downs.

Important Info and FAQ

Sun Protection/Insect Repellent

There is very little overhead coverage at Derby Downs. Tents are allowed, but don't forget sunscreen and other forms of protection. Ohio can also be hot, muggy and buggy in July. Bring plenty of water and insect repellent, as well.

Inclement Weather – Lightning and Thunder 30/30

When lightning/thunder occurs and it is less than 30 seconds (or less than six miles) away, all activities will be suspended immediately, and everyone will need to seek shelter. If you are spectating and on the grounds, please go back to your car. If you are at Topside or the starting line, you can shelter in the Blue or White Buildings (space is limited). After 30 minutes of no lightning/thunder, then activities may resume. A horn will sound when racing can resume.

First Aid Kits

First aid kits are available to guests throughout Derby Downs grounds. AED units are located at the Office HQ Building, at Starting Line, and in the White Building.

Medical Assistance

For medical emergencies, an ambulance is located at run out during all racing events. In case of a medical emergency, dial 9-1-1 and the ambulance will be dispatched from run out.

Recycling

Recycle bins will be located next to each water station. Materials we are able to recycle include plastic, paper, and aluminum. Please help us continue our recycling efforts by placing the appropriate items in the recycling bins.

Race Day Live Stream – Spread the Word!

The World Championship races on July 19 will be streamed live on YouTube and at www.soapboxderby.org. We will also be live posting from Facebook, Instagram and TikTok throughout the day.

Social Media – follow and share!

The International Soap Box Derby can be found at:

Instagram [@intlsoapboxderbyhq](https://www.instagram.com/intlsoapboxderbyhq)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/soapboxderby.org>

TikTok [@soapboxderbyofficial](https://www.tiktok.com/@soapboxderbyofficial)

Local Favorites

Restaurants

<u>Dilly's Drive-In</u> Drive-in with burgers and shakes. 1921 Triplett Blvd, Akron, OH 44312	<u>El Patron Cuisine</u> Akron/Cleveland's Premiere Mexican Cuisine. 54 E Mill St, Akron, OH 44308
<u>Gio's Italian Restaurant</u> Traditional Italian recipes, pizza & a vast salad bar are offered in an old-school dining room. 1186 Canton Rd, Akron, OH 44312	<u>Iron Grill</u> Providing fresh, locally sourced, comfort food. 2215 E Waterloo Rd #408, Akron, OH 44312
<u>Luigi's Restaurant</u> Down-home institution offering hearty pies & other classic Italian eats. 105 N Main St, Akron, OH 44308	<u>Pav's Creamery</u> High Quality, Homemade Ice Cream. 2162 Front St, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
<u>Swenson's</u> Drive-in with burgers and shakes. 658 E Cuyahoga Falls Ave, Akron, OH 44310	<u>Wally Waffle</u> Breakfast/Lunch 100 North Ave, Tallmadge, OH 44278
<u>Strickland's</u> Local frozen custard, just around the corner from Derby Downs 1809 Triplett Blvd., Akron OH 44312	<u>Hoppin' Frog Brewery</u> Local beer maker and tasting room w pub food, also near Derby Downs. 1680 Waterloo Rd., Akron, OH 44306

Explore Places

<u>Akron Zoo</u> 500 Edgewood Ave, Akron, OH 44307	<u>Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, Akron</u> 27 Ridge St, Akron, OH 44308
<u>F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm</u> 1828 Smith Rd, Akron, OH 44313	<u>Pro Football Hall of Fame</u> 2121 George Halas Dr NW, Canton, OH 44708
<u>Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens</u> 714 N Portage Path, Akron, OH 4430	<u>The Great Escape Room Akron</u> 323 S Main St #201, Akron, OH 44308
<u>The Workz on the Riverfront</u> 2220 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221	<u>Urban Air Trampoline and Adventure Park</u> 160 Rothrock Loop, Akron, OH 44321
<u>Akron RubberDucks</u> AA minor league baseball team affiliated with the Cleveland Guardians 300 Main St., Akron, OH 44308	<u>Summit Metro Parks/Cuyahoga Valley National Park</u> www.summitmetroparks.org https://www.nps.gov/cuva/index.htm



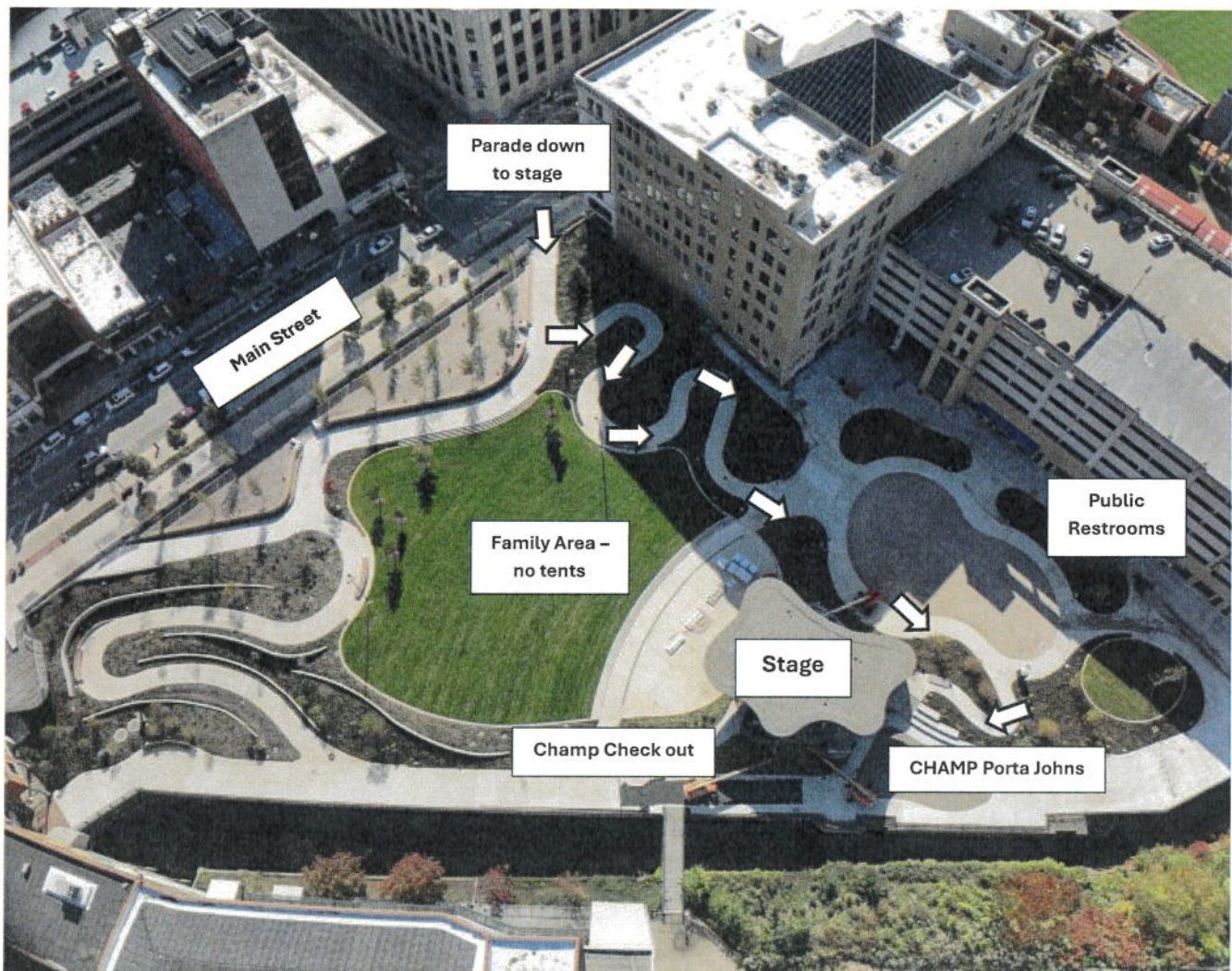
Topside: 1000 George Washington Blvd

General Parking & Trackside: 789 Derby Downs Drive

OPENING CERMONIES

LOCK 3 PARK

Please make sure your champ has eaten before the parade – Water will be provided
We are working on having food trucks along Main Street for you to purchase food



MISC

AKRON ZOO

500 Edgewood Avenue. Akron, Ohio

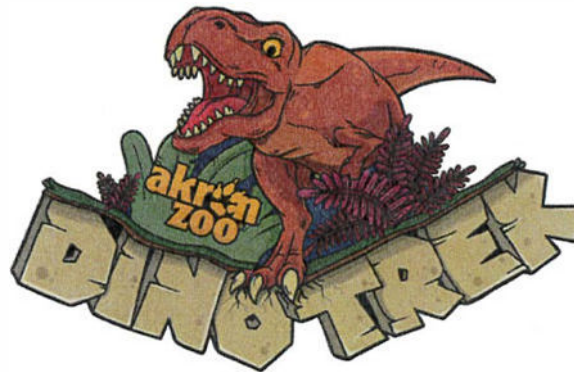
www.akronzoo.org



Discount Code ZOODERBY2025

Tickets - \$11 per person

The zoo store will be active July 7th



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SIREN'S CURSE

NEW IN 2025

**ONLINE
STORE
CLOSES ON
7/21/25**

International Soap Box Derby

Purchase your tickets online!
Event Dates: July 13-20, 2025

Log on at cedarpoint.com/save

Username: CPISBD
Password: derby

Go to cedarpoint.com for park operating hours.

Two Options Available!

Package includes Admission & parking OR Admission, Parking & Waterpark Admission

You can also purchase additional food and beverage items at the discounted group rates in the store.

