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Build a car, build a bond

By Steve Komanecky

I have a great idea for a Christmas Gift for your child this year.

How about a Soap Box Derby Car?

I know the car can be expensive, but as the master card commercial says, #”The experience and time you spend with your child building and racing their car is priceless.”

You will have an opportunity to teach your child about responsibility, respect, caring, honesty and have a whole lot of fun in the process. If the price tag is a little scary, I would recommend doing what almost every kid that has raced in Auburn has done - get sponsors. Local businesses have been very generous in assisting kids with their car expenses. All you need to do is get out there and ask.

For those of you who have no idea what the Soap Box Derby is all about, let me explain.

The Soap Box Derby is a youth gravity racing program for boys and girls ages 8 to 17 years. This program requires close adult-youth activities while building and racing the car. The construction of the car reinforces the importance of setting and completing goals while developing traits such as self confidence, perseverance and craftsmanship.

The All-American Soap Box Derby program is administered by the International Soap Box Derby Inc., an Akron, Ohio, based non-profit corporation. The Central New York Soap Box derby is sponsored by Nucor Bar Mill and run by the Auburn YMCA-WEIU and the City of Auburn.

It#’s been called the Greatest Amateur Racing Event in the world. The derby was started in 1934 in Dayton, Ohio, by a photographer named Myron “Scottie” Scott. In 1936, the race was moved to a new permanent site in Akron and to this day they still host the Soap Box Derby World Championships.

Incidentally, the winner of our local race goes directly to Akron to compete in those very same World Championships!

How can you get started?

First, contact your local Soap Box Derby director - that#’s me, Steve Komanecky at the Auburn YMCA-WEIU at 253-5304 to find out about upcoming meeting dates.

Second, decide which type of car you would like to build and race. This will be determined by the child#’s age and size; I can help you with that determination. Then you need to order your car kit, a set of z-glass wheels, a helmet and at least one spare brake pad.

To order contact All-American Soap Box Derby; P.O. Box 7225; 789 Derby Downs Drive; Akron, Ohio 44306 or call 330-733-8723. You can also visit www.AASBD.com.

You can register at the Auburn YMCA-WEIU for the 2006 Nucor Bar Mill Central New York All-American Soap Box Derby.

See you at the races.

For more information on programs offered at the Auburn YMCA-WEIU, call 253-5304.

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