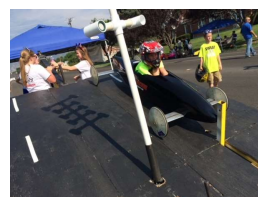




Photo Album

Gravity Gran Prix



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In the 1930s kids built coaster cars by attaching wagon wheels to wooden soap boxes. They would run these cars down hills on city streets





Soap Box Racing as a sanctioned event started in the Midwest in 1934





Salem began holding the derby in 2004

Salem's soap box derby is not affiliated with The All-American Soap Box Derby and the cars are not built to their specs

































Participation through the years



Salem

Spanish Fork

Payson





Guiding Philosophy and Core Principles

The core principle of our Gravity Gran Prix is to allow as many people as possible to have fun building and racing cars. All our rules stem from that core.

Soap box racing is a safe, clean, and inexpensive way to build and race your own car. It provides great opportunities for families and friends to flex their creative muscles and work together on a fun and rewarding project.

To that end, the rules are structured to provide everyone who wants to a fair shot at winning in a car they build. We are not affiliated with the All American Soap Box Derby and do not follow their rules. Our rules are designed to allow greater variety in design and lower cost cars.

All rules and guidelines we have developed specifically target the following areas.

Safety

It's no fun when someone crashes or gets hurt. We are committed to keeping all participants and spectators safe.

The obvious purpose behind many of the rules –brakes, steering, helmets, etc.—is to make the cars safe, both for the drivers and spectators. The safety measures we follow have evolved as we have identified problems, and will continue to improve.

Access

It's no fun to be left out. We have structured the program to allow everyone who wants to build and race a car, regardless of their economic circumstance, background, etc.

The spec wheel we use is low-cost and readily available. We also allow a good deal of flexibility in components and materials. A side benefit of this is the greater variety that we see in the cars that race.

Some of the rules are functional limits practical operation of the race. We have specifications to ensure that the cars properly go on and off the ramp and can be towed up the track after the race.

Parity

It's no fun to feel like you haven't been given a fair chance. We are committed to making the event fair for everyone.

Obviously we can't have a "level" playing field in our sport. But we do want the track to slope the same for everyone. The rules are designed to prevent anyone from getting an unfair advantage not available to others.

All competitions have strict guidelines to ensure equitable match-ups. Otherwise you just have an event, not a race. In this type of racing we restrict the most critical elements to making a car fast: weight and wheels. The low-cost spec wheel that we run is also low quality. But they are the same quality for everyone, and even if a person has access to a lot of technology, there isn't a lot of improvement that can be made to the wheels.

