

Rent-a-Ride Program at the ZOO

**Fulfill a dream!
Give as a gift!
Unique corporate outing or retreat!**

**We provide EVERYTHING but YOU!
An authentic race experience!**



The Kalamazoo Speedway's four-year-old Rent-a-Ride program competes on limited nights when the Zoo Stocks race. A virtual sell-out, men and woman can try out the sport or simply fulfill a lifelong dream of suiting up and taking the wheel of an authentic racecar and competing in an authentic race. The Zoo Stock class is a low-cost, entry-level division for men and woman who want to participate in weekly stock car racing but don't have the resources or experience to run in any of the four upper classes. Racers must be at least 16 years old to Rent-a-Ride (14 for all other drivers). New this year is a ["Try It Before You Buy It"](#) rookie night where potential drivers as young as 14 can try out a Rent-a-Ride on select Wednesday nights.

The Rent-a-Ride experience (\$295) includes a required mid-week orientation and practice session, all in-car and personal safety equipment, pit passes for the driver and two crew members, a track supplied safety/crew chief plus insurance. Drivers provide their own two-person pit crew, qualify their car through the hot lap session, run in a heat race plus race in the 15 lap Zoo Stock feature, earning points — just like the pros who run in the class from week to week. A "Crash Clause" deposit of \$300 is required. The Crash Clause will NOT be applied for normal wear and tear on the car or typical racing incidents. Designed to encourage responsible driving, the Crash Clause will be invoked only for reckless driving and/or intentional crashes.

The Rent-a-Ride program is available on limited dates in 2018 with a maximum of 6 Rent-a-Ride cars participating on any given night (May 11 & 25; June 8; July 13 & 27 and August 3). If a group or company identifies 4-6 participants, Kalamazoo Speedway will attempt to add another date.



The Rent-a-Ride program has been a popular gift (birthday, anniversary, graduation) with one novice driver taking the checkered flag on his birthday, never previously having been behind the wheel of a race car. It's not unusual for a Rent-a-Ride driver to take the checkered flag in one of the heat races.

With a nod to the lack of driver and crew experience, Zoo Stocks are front-wheel drive and run on stock tires. For the pros who race in the division each week this greatly reduces the need for extensive set-up knowledge. For Rent-a-Ride drivers, all cars are equipped with automatic transmissions so individuals can concentrate on things other than shifting. The Speedway tech department keeps all drivers on an equal playing field by inspecting the cars to make sure everyone is playing by the rules. Long known for going the extra mile, Speedway owner Gary Howe and his crew canvass the countryside for suitable cars and spend the off-season building 12-15 new Rent-a-Ride racecars for each season.

An immediate fan favorite, the Zoo Stocks average 18-20 entries per night, four to six of them being rentals. That's enough cars to make it competitive but few enough to avoid a demolition derby. Feature races run surprisingly smooth despite some rather unique displays of car handling.

Rent-a-Ride dates sell out early so reserve your ride now. Corporations and groups are welcome for a day or evening of team building or entertainment; group and corporate pricing is available. To reserve a car or obtain more information, contact the Speedway office at 269-692-2423 or Gary Howe at gary@kalamazospeedway.com.

