



Girls Incorporated®  
of Indianapolis

Girls Incorporated®  
of Hamilton County



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### **Soap Box Derby Races Conclude Joint Camp hosted by Girls Incorporated of Indianapolis and Marian College**

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INDIANAPOLIS—

The public is invited to Wilbur Shaw Hill on July 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. to cheer on the soap box derby car racers who are 11- to 14-year-old girls attending a special summer day camp hosted by Girls Incorporated of Indianapolis and Marian College. Racers will also hold pit tours to explain how they built their race cars. In addition, campers will discuss their experiences with mentor and race car driver, Lyn St. James, who hosted a special tour of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for campers on Wednesday, July 9.

Girls Incorporated of Indianapolis and Marian College are sponsoring this first ever specialty day camp—Camp GEMS—for girls interested in math and science because of a plan they developed last summer. The two week day-camp features numerous opportunities for girls, ages 11 to 14, to explore their interests in the study of science and math in a gender-equitable environment that helps to support girls in their future goals. Camp began on July 7, and campers have spent two weeks honing their math and science skills to prepare for race day.

The culmination of this camp will occur on Friday, July 18 when campers will race the two soap box derby cars that they built this week as a practical extension of the new skills that they learned in camp. The soap box derby car kits were donated by Lyn St. James, who was Rookie of the Year at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 1992.

Girls Incorporated CEO Patricia Wachtel said, “We are delighted to partner with an extraordinary institution of higher learning like Marian College to offer girls a chance to explore their gifts and talents in science and math on a campus that has so many wonderful facilities for this purpose. At a stage in their lives when girls often are discouraged from pursuing their science and math career dreams, our campers will be working in the beautiful “life sciences” outdoor laboratory at Marian College. We are especially grateful to Lyn St. James for donating the soap box derby car kits that provide a challenging practicum for the campers. We hope that everyone will turn out to cheer for our campers as they test their cars on Wilbur Shaw Hill.”

Janice Hicks Slaughter, the director of K-12 programming and outreach at Marian College, added that the hands-on experiences the girls will gain from Camp GEMS are crucial to their ability to learn science principles. “We know from research and our own observations that a



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student's interest in math and science grows as their confidence and ability grows," she continued.

The race will take place at Wilbur Shaw Hill, at 30th and Cold Spring Road.

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#### About Marian College

Marian College ([www.marian.edu](http://www.marian.edu)) is the only Catholic liberal arts college in central Indiana. It is a private, co-educational school offering classes to both traditional and non-traditional students. Located two miles north of downtown Indianapolis, Marian College is a Catholic college dedicated to excellent teaching and learning in the Franciscan and liberal arts traditions. **Marian College will become Marian University on July 1, 2009.**

#### About Girls Incorporated of Indianapolis

Girls Incorporated of Indianapolis and Girls Incorporated of Hamilton County ([www.girlsincindy.org](http://www.girlsincindy.org)) have a mission to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. We offer hands-on, educational programs addressing the unique needs of girls, ages 6-18. Key programs encourage girls to develop strong, healthy relationships, be smart about college and career planning, and make bold, empowered life choices. Professional facilitators deliver programs at a variety of outreach partner locations throughout Marion and Hamilton counties. Programming takes place during the school day, in the community after school, throughout the summer, and occasionally on weekends. For more information, please visit our web site.