



Parents,

Each year when the champions arrive in Akron, they exchange “badges” with champions from the other Regions and Local Race City Organizations from around the world. Because you are representing a Local Race City Organization, we want to make sure that you are aware of this tradition so that your champions can take part in this event.

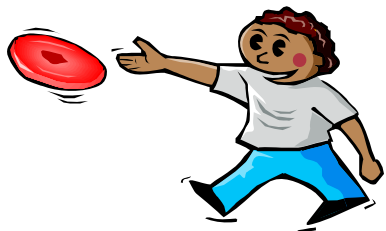
Some champions order their badges through *Badge-A-Minit*. You can reach *Badge-A-Minit* via telephone at 1-800-223-4103 or visit their website at www.badgeaminit.com. We also suggest contacting other licensed Local Race City Organizations in your area to inquire if they would be likely to share their badge-making supplies.

One evening during the AASBD Race Week, the champions have the opportunity to attend a “Badge Trading” session where they exchange badges and trinkets from their hometowns. We suggest bringing approximately 300-600 badges for trading. Families will ask the champions for their badge all week long.

Another tradition that requires advanced preparation takes place during the Welcoming Ceremony on Monday of the AASBD Race Week. Each champion is taken into the Welcoming Ceremony area in Downtown Akron via police escort. The champions are then lead on to a stage one at a time as an announcer tells the crowd a little bit of history about the champion. While the announcer is speaking, the champions often throw trinkets to the crowd. Items such as Frisbees, t-shirts and water bottles have been used in the past. **We ask that you do not have them throw their badges, pencils or any other items that could be harmful.** Also, please do not bring gum or candy to throw out to the crowd. Each champion should plan on supplying his or her own bag of trinkets to be tossed during this ceremony. Please be sure to have the champion write his or her name clearly on the bag.

Welcoming Ceremony Throw out Items

- . **Items such as Frisbees, t-shirts, erasers, water bottles or any soft items have been used in the past.**



We ask that you DO NOT have the champs throw their badges, pencils, sharp items, glass items or any others that could be harmful to anyone in the crowd. Please do not bring gum or candy to throw out to the crowd.