



Firestone

GRAND PRIX OF ST. PETERSBURG

PRESENTED BY **RP**FUNDING

FACT SHEET / Fast Facts

NOTES OF INTEREST ABOUT THE RACE

Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding celebrates its 21st annual running, Feb. 28 - March 2, 2025. This event also serves as the NTT INDYCAR SERIES' season-opening event for the 15th time in its history.

This will be the 21st race event to take place on the temporary street circuit running on Bayshore Dr. and circling Pioneer Park, the Duke Energy Center for the Arts (Mahaffey Theater), The Dali Museum, extending onto the runway at Albert Whitted Airport, and bordering Tampa Bay and picturesque St. Petersburg Harbor and Marina. The former Champ Car World Series, which merged with INDYCAR in 2008, promoted a race on the same course layout in 2003.

The SCCA Trans-Am Series held the first racing events in St. Petersburg, 1985-1990 and 1996-1997.

Eight (8) races will take the green flag in 2025, highlighted by the NTT INDYCAR SERIES, the top open-wheel development series INDY NXT by Firestone, plus doubleheader features from USF Pro 2000 Presented by Continental Tire, USF2000 Presented by Continental Tire and Whelen Mazda MX-5 Cup presented by Michelin.

The 100-lap NTT INDYCAR SERIES race is set to take the green flag just before 12:30 p.m. ET on Sunday, March 2, with FOX, INDYCAR's new television partner, providing live national broadcast coverage (locally on FOX 13 Tampa Bay) starting at 12 noon ET.

The Honda and Chevrolet engines powering NTT INDYCAR CAR SERIES cars are equipped with a hybrid power unit (introduced in the middle of the 2024 season at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course) which will be utilized for the first time on the St. Petersburg circuit offering additional power (+120 horsepower) and enhanced overtake capability ("Push to Pass").

Helio Castroneves is the winningest driver on the streets of St. Petersburg. He won three times (2006, 2007, and 2012) and became the first driver with back-to-back wins. Juan Pablo Montoya started a streak of back-to-back winners with victories in 2015 and 2016; St. Petersburg's own Sebastien Bourdais claimed wins in 2017 and 2018; then Josef Newgarden accomplished the feat again in 2019 and 2020.

The back-to-back streak of race winners ended in 2022 when Team Penske's Scott McLaughlin won, earning his first career series victory and setting the track record for fastest 100-lap race in the process. Marcus Ericsson took the checkered flag in 2023 for Chip Ganassi Racing after passing Pato O'Ward late in the race on Lap 97. In 2024, O'Ward claimed victory after Josef Newgarden, the original race winner, was disqualified by INDYCAR officials for improper use of the "push-to-pass" overtake boost technology.

Team Penske is the winningest team on the streets of St. Petersburg with 11 victories (Helio Castroneves in 2006, 2007 and 2012; Ryan Briscoe in 2009; Will Power in 2010 and 2014; Juan Pablo Montoya in 2015 and 2016; Josef Newgarden in 2019 and 2020; and Scott McLaughlin in 2022). Team Penske's Will Power also tops the list with nine pole positions all-time.

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At the time of his achievement, Graham Rahal was the youngest driver to win an NTT INDYCAR SERIES race by securing the victory in the 2008 Grand Prix of St. Petersburg at the age of 19 years and 93 days old. Rahal was also the youngest NTT INDYCAR SERIES driver to win the pole position in qualifying at 20 years and 90 days old in 2009, also accomplished on the temporary St. Petersburg track. Colton Herta topped both marks in 2019 at Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas, at 18 years and 359 days old to win a race and 19 years and 83 days old to claim a pole position.

The official track record for fastest lap on the streets of St. Petersburg is 59.2706 (109.329 mph) set by Felix Rosenqvist during qualifying on March 9, 2024.

At a 100-lap race distance, the fastest race was set by Scott McLaughlin on February 27, 2022, with a time of 1:51.27.3466 (96.899 mph). *(Race was shortened from 110 laps to 100 in 2020 and remains the same length for 2025.)*

The fastest race lap was set by Kyffin Simpson, on March 10, 2024, with a time of 1:00:8779 (106.443 mph).

The winner at St. Petersburg has gone on to win the NTT INDYCAR SERIES championship five times: Paul Tracy (2003), Dan Wheldon (2005), Dario Franchitti (2011), Will Power (2014) and Josef Newgarden (2019).

According to an economic study conducted on behalf of Visit St. Pete/Clearwater, the 2023 race generated an economic impact of approximately \$61 million, and the 2024 race drew an even larger crowd. Event attendance records have been surpassed in the past three successive events (2022, 2023 and 2024).

Florida is a strong television market for the NTT INDYCAR SERIES. For the entire 2024 season, these DMAs ranked in the top 25 for average viewership ratings:

Ft. Myers-Naples
Orlando-Daytona Beach-Melbourne
Tampa-St. Petersburg

What does it take to build a race track?

- The famous Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg 1.8-mile, 14-turn waterfront circuit is assembled by approximately 300 workers, and will be completed in just 18 days in 2025, matching an event record.
- The process has become more efficient each year, with tear-down and removal expected to be completed within one week in 2025.
- 18,000 feet of steel-reinforced concrete block resulting in 20 million pounds of concrete being moved; additionally, 18,000 feet of panel fencing are erected holding the blocks into place.
- 25,000 feet of chain-link spectator fencing erected.
- Over 12,000 tires are used in the construction of the course for the track's safety wall system.

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Did you know?

- If you drive an Indy car at its average race speed of 102 mph across the 4.1-mile Sunshine Skyway Bridge spanning Tampa Bay, your right rear street course tire would rotate 2,953 times during the two-minute, 25-second drive. That's roughly 18 revolutions per second!

Community Kickoff Events

Thursday, Feb. 27: 5K Run on the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg Track

Runners and walkers will have the unique opportunity to "race on track" during the 2025 Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding weekend. Online registration is available at gpstpete5k.com. The 5K starts at 5 p.m. ET on Bayshore Drive NE adjacent to North Straub Park, and all proceeds benefit the Police Athletic League of St. Petersburg (PAL). Since 2017, \$333,265 has been donated to PAL via contributions from the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg and proceeds from this 5K.

Thursday, Feb. 27: INDYCAR Party in the Park

The 5K Run will coincide with the INDYCAR Party in the Park community event which is open to all and free to enter. The party will take place in North Straub Park from 4-7 p.m. ET and provide fans the opportunity to see race cars up close, get driver autographs and more. After completing the 5K, participants are encouraged to join the gathering as top finishers will be recognized on the INDYCAR Party in the Park stage.

Dan Wheldon Way and Victory Circle Monuments

On March 7, 2012, the City of St. Petersburg dedicated and renamed a roadway to honor race car driver and city resident Dan Wheldon, who lost his life in a racing accident at the end of the 2011 INDYCAR season in Las Vegas. He was the first Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg winner and a two-time Indianapolis 500 champion. To memorialize the life and legacy of Dan Wheldon aka "Lionheart" and capture the rich history of INDYCAR racing in St. Petersburg, a collaborative venture between INDYCAR, Green Savoree Racing Promotions and the City of St. Petersburg was born. The result of that collaboration is the Dan Wheldon and Victory Circle Monuments located at Bayshore Dr. and Albert Whitted Park (outside Turn 10 on the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg race circuit and positioned just southwest of Dan Wheldon Way) which was unveiled and dedicated on March 21, 2013. Each year's winner has the honor of permanently placing an engraved plaque bearing his name on the monument as an annual tradition of the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding in Dan Wheldon's memory. A third wall will be constructed and added to the monument ahead of the 2025 event to make space for recent and future race winner plaques to be added, including victories by Scott McLaughlin in 2022, Marcus Ericsson in 2023 and Pato O'Ward in 2024.

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