



**Firestone**  
GRAND PRIX OF ST. PETERSBURG  
PRESENTED BY **RP FUNDING**

FACT SHEET / General Information

**ABOUT THE EVENT**

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<b>WHAT</b>	The 19th Annual Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding returns to the downtown streets and waterfront as the season-opening event for the NTT INDYCAR SERIES for the 13 <sup>th</sup> time. Five support series featuring open-wheel action and sports car racing will take the green flag.
<b>WHEN</b>	March 3-5, 2023
<b>WHERE</b>	Held on a temporary waterfront street course that includes a combination of adjacent downtown streets circling Pioneer Park, The Mahaffey Theater, Salvador Dali Museum and extending onto the runways of Albert Whitted Airport, which overlook the Tampa Bay and picturesque St. Petersburg Harbor and Marina.
<b>RACES</b>	10 total races NTT INDYCAR SERIES INDY NXT by Firestone Plus, <i>doubleheader features for the following:</i> USF Pro 2000 Presented by Cooper Tires USF2000 Presented by Cooper Tires Idemitsu Mazda MX-5 Cup presented by BFGoodrich GT America Powered by AWS
<b>OWNERS</b>	Kim Green and Kevin Savoree of Green Savoree Racing Promotions
<b>TRACK</b>	1.8-mile, 14-turn temporary street course
<b>INDYCAR</b>	Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg is the first of 17 rounds of the 2023 NTT INDYCAR SERIES schedule.
<b>FLORIDA</b>	Only NTT INDYCAR SERIES race held in Florida.
<b>SPONSORS</b>	Firestone has been the title sponsor of this event since 2014. RP Funding joined as the event's very first presenting sponsor in 2022.

## FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST PETERSBURG PRESENTED BY RP FUNDING / 2023 GENERAL INFO 2-2-2-2

**TV / STREAMING** NTT INDYCAR SERIES: Sunday, March 5 – Live race coverage nationally on NBC starting at 12 noon EST, including locally on WFLA NBC 8. All other INDYCAR on track sessions streamed live on Peacock.  
INDY NXT: Race broadcast live on Peacock.  
USF Pro 2000 and USF2000: Global live streaming can be found on the series' respective websites [usfpro2000.com](http://usfpro2000.com) and [usf2000.com](http://usf2000.com).  
Idemitsu Mazda MX-5 Cup: Livestream at [IMSA.com](http://IMSA.com).  
GT America Powered by AWS: Livestream at [gtamerica.us/live](http://gtamerica.us/live).

**COMMUNITY EVENTS** March 2: INDYCAR Party in the Park  
March 2: Wellcare Ambetter Health 5K on the Firestone Grand Prix Track

**VOLUNTEERS** Nearly 500 volunteers in 12 key specialty areas contribute to the success of the event.

### ON-TRACK PROGRAMMING

The **NTT INDYCAR SERIES** is North America's premier open-wheel auto racing series. It features an international field of the world's most versatile drivers – including two-time and reigning series champion Will Power, six-time series champion Scott Dixon, two-time series champion Josef Newgarden, four-time Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves and reigning "500" winner Marcus Ericsson – who compete on superspeedways, short ovals, street circuits and permanent road courses. The 2023 season consists of 17 races in the United States and Canada and is highlighted by the historic Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge. The NTT INDYCAR SERIES, INDYCAR, INDY NXT by Firestone, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and IMS Productions are owned by Penske Corporation, a global transportation, automotive and motorsports leader. For more information on the NTT INDYCAR SERIES, please visit [www.indycar.com](http://www.indycar.com).

**INDY NXT by Firestone** is the developmental series of INDYCAR as it advances drivers and team personnel to compete in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES and the Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge. INDY NXT by Firestone, formerly known as Indy Lights, focuses on the next generation of open-wheel racers and is the premier proving ground for young talent and innovative technologies. The 2023 season consists of 14 races in the United States. Past series champions include INDYCAR SERIES champions Tony Kanaan, Scott Dixon, Josef Newgarden, Paul Tracy and Cristiano da Matta. In 2022, 20 of the 33 starters in the Indianapolis 500 competed in the series now known as INDY NXT by Firestone. The NTT INDYCAR SERIES, INDY NXT by Firestone, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and IMS Productions are owned by Penske Corporation, a global transportation, automotive and motorsports leader. For more information on INDY NXT by Firestone, please visit [www.indynxt.com](http://www.indynxt.com). For more information on INDYCAR and the NTT INDYCAR SERIES, please visit [www.indycar.com](http://www.indycar.com).

## FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST PETERSBURG PRESENTED BY RP FUNDING / 2023 GENERAL INFO

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The newly rebranded **USF Pro 2000 Presented by Cooper Tires** (formerly Indy Pro 2000) has served as a vital step on the career path of many of today's top drivers. It is the third official step on the USF Pro Championships ladder. The series is sanctioned by USAC and owned and operated by Andersen Promotions. The 2023 USF Pro 2000 champion will receive a scholarship valued at \$664,425 to advance to INDY NXT in 2024. Additional prize money and awards include the Cooper Tires Pole Award for each race as well as season-ending awards for Rookie of the Year, Championship Team, Mechanic of the Year, Hard Charger, Move of the Year and Spirit Award. In total, the USF Pro Championships Presented by Cooper Tires will distribute over \$1.6M in prize money and awards.

The **USF2000 Presented by Cooper Tires** debuted in 2010 and is a continuation of the highly regarded USF2000 series which ran from 1990 through 2006, launching the careers of many of today's top drivers. Sanctioned by USAC, the series is the second official step on the USF Pro Championships Presented by Cooper Tires ladder - a clearly defined path to reach the top echelons of the sport. In addition to providing a vital training ground for rising stars, the series champion will earn a scholarship package valued at over \$433,000 to advance to USF Pro 2000 Presented by Cooper Tires, the next step on the ladder system.

Fresh off its inaugural season, SRO America's **GT America Powered by AWS** harkens to the history of single-driver GT sprint racing while providing a home to some of the most modern race cars in SRO's portfolio. GT America features a single-driver 40-minute sprint format, including GT3, GT2 and GT4 machinery. Makes such as Audi, Aston Martin, Porsche, Ford, McLaren, and Toyota are represented on the GT America grid with more expected to participate.

The **Idemitsu Mazda MX-5 Cup presented by BFGoodrich® Tires** is the signature spec series for Mazda Motorsports. Mazda-powered grassroots champions can earn a Mazda scholarship to compete in the series. The Mazda MX-5 Cup champion earns a \$250,000 scholarship.

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# Firestone

GRAND PRIX OF ST. PETERSBURG

PRESENTED BY **RP FUNDING**

FACT SHEET / History

## HISTORY

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**2023** The Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding will be the 19th annual running for INDYCAR racing on the streets of downtown St. Petersburg. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> time the race will serve as the NTT INDYCAR SERIES season-opening event.

**BEGINNING** The inaugural Grand Prix of St. Petersburg was in 2005 and won by the late Dan Wheldon, two-time Indianapolis 500 champion and local resident. A Champ Car World Series race did run on the circuit in 2003. No race was held in 2004.

**TITLE SPONSOR** Title sponsorship partners for the event have included:  
Firestone 2014 to present  
Honda 2005 to 2013

**PAST INDYCAR WINNERS** The winners of the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg include:

2022	Scott McLaughlin, Team Penske
2021	Colton Herta, Andretti Autosport
2020	Josef Newgarden, Team Penske
2019	Josef Newgarden, Team Penske
2018	Sebastien Bourdais, Dale Coyne Racing with Vasser-Sullivan
2017	Sebastien Bourdais, Dale Coyne Racing
2016	Juan Pablo Montoya, Team Penske
2015	Juan Pablo Montoya, Team Penske
2014	Will Power, Team Penske
2013	James Hinchcliffe, Andretti Autosport
2012	Helio Castroneves, Team Penske
2011	Dario Franchitti, Target Chip Ganassi Racing
2010	Will Power, Team Penske
2009	Ryan Briscoe, Team Penske
2008	Graham Rahal, Newman/Haas/Lanigan Racing
2007	Helio Castroneves, Team Penske
2006	Helio Castroneves, Team Penske
2005	Dan Wheldon, Andretti Green Racing
2004	No race held
2003	<i>Paul Tracy, Forsythe Racing (Champ Car World Series sanctioned event)</i>

**REPEAT WINNERS** Helio Castroneves (three wins: 2006, 2007 and 2012), Will Power (two wins: 2010 and 2014), Juan Pablo Montoya (two wins: 2015 and 2016), Sebastien Bourdais (two wins: 2017 and 2018), and Josef Newgarden (2019 and 2020) are the repeat winners on the streets of St. Petersburg.

**TEAM WINS** Team Penske has the most wins on the streets of St. Petersburg, having won 11 races in the history of the event.

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## FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST PETERSBURG PRESENTED BY RP FUNDING / HISTORY

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**FASTEST RACE** 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.)*

**FASTEST QUAL. LAP** The fastest qualifying lap time registered on the streets of St. Petersburg was on February 26, 2022 by Will Power with a time of 59.3466 (109.189 mph).

**FASTEST RACE LAP** The fastest race lap was set by Conor Daly, on February 27, 2022, with a time of 1:00:9868 (106.253 mph).

### **HISTORIC FIRSTS**

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Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg has had the privilege to see a number of “firsts” take place on its track. Among them are the following:

- 2023** First race of the INDYCAR’s development series as INDY NXT by Firestone; Series will use Firestone tires exclusively for the first time since 2013
- 2022** NTT INDYCAR SERIES driver Scott McLaughlin wins his first race with the series
- 2020** Site of the NTT INDYCAR SERIES season finale for the first time in its history where a new INDYCAR champion was crowned
- 2019** NBC Sports broadcasts its first race as the exclusive U.S. television partner for the NTT INDYCAR SERIES
- 2018** New aerodynamic body kit for the Indy car debuts into INDYCAR competition
- 2018** New chassis debuts for Pro Mazda series (now known as Indy Pro 2000 Championship)
- 2017** Sebastien Bourdais is first INDYCAR SERIES driver at St. Petersburg to go from last to first to victory while also leading the most race laps
- 2017** Colton Herta becomes youngest driver in INDY NXT by Firestone history to win a race
- 2015** Street/road course aero kits for the NTT INDYCAR SERIES make its competition debut
- 2015** The new Dallara chassis for INDY NXT by Firestone makes its debut
- 2013** NTT INDYCAR SERIES driver James Hinchcliffe wins his first race with the series
- 2012** The new NTT INDYCAR SERIES Dallara chassis – known as the DW12 – makes its debut, racing for the first time at St. Petersburg
- 2012** Engine manufacturer competition is reintroduced with Honda, Chevrolet and Lotus fielding entries

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## FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST PETERSBURG PRESENTED BY RP FUNDING / HISTORY

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- 2011** First street/road course to see double-file restarts in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES
- 2009** Graham Rahal is the youngest driver in INDYCAR SERIES history to qualify on pole position
- 2008** Graham Rahal wins his first INDYCAR SERIES race, becoming the youngest driver in INDYCAR SERIES history to win a race
- 2007** The first event to feature both INDYCAR SERIES and American LeMans Series (now known as the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship) races
- 2005** First event to feature an INDY NXT by Firestone double-header weekend
- 2005** First non-oval event for the INDYCAR SERIES

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FACT SHEET / Track Build

**WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BUILD THE FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST. PETERSBURG RACE TRACK?**

The Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding is run on a 1.8-mile, 14-turn temporary waterfront circuit that includes a combination of adjacent downtown streets circling Pioneer Park, The Mahaffey Theater, the Salvador Dali Museum and extending onto the runways of Albert Whitted Airport, which overlook the Tampa Bay and the picturesque St. Petersburg Harbor and Marina.

<b>START DATE</b>	February 6, 2023
<b>END DATE</b>	March 17, 2023
<b>RACE DATES</b>	March 3-5, 2023
<b>INSTALLATION</b>	Typically 25 days to construct allowing for rain delays
<b>TEARDOWN</b>	Teardown and entire removal from site completed within two weeks
<b>CONCRETE</b>	18,000 feet of steel-reinforced concrete block (each 12' in length) resulting in 20 million pounds of concrete being moved and 1,500 blocks placed into position; with four (4) concrete blocks per load, Stepp's Towing hauls 375 loads of concrete block during construction on flatbed trailers
<b>FENCING</b>	22,000 feet of chain-link spectator fencing lining the track; 18,000 feet of panel fencing (1,500 total panels) securing the steel-reinforced concrete barrier blocks
<b>TIRE WALL</b>	More than 12,000 tires are used to build the track's tire wall safety system
<b>TRACK WIDTH</b>	Minimum track width is 26 feet; maximum track width is 63 feet
<b>FRONT STRAIGHT</b>	A front straight that is 2,350 feet or 4/10th of a mile long
<b>BRIDGES</b>	Five bridges into the infield
<b>NEW GRANDSTANDS</b>	Multiple new grandstands will be erected this year. The new structures will provide five inches of additional leg room at every seat.
<b>SUITE ENHANCEMENTS</b>	Each suite section will feature new fold-down chairback seating offering exceptional comfort.
<b>PADDOCKS</b>	Six race car paddocks
<b>THE CREW</b>	Approximately 250 workers will contribute to the effort



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FACT SHEET / Fast Facts

### ***NOTES OF INTEREST ABOUT THE RACE***

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Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding returns for its 19<sup>th</sup> annual running, March 3-5, 2023. This event also serves as the NTT INDYCAR SERIES' season-opening event for the 13<sup>th</sup> time in its history.

This will be the 20<sup>th</sup> race event to take place on the temporary street circuit running on Bay Shore Dr. and circling Pioneer Park, the Mahaffey Theater, the Salvador Dali Museum and extending onto the runways at Albert Whitted Airport, which overlook the 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.

Record crowd marks were set in 2018 and 2019, then again in 2022 when fans from 23 different countries and all 50 states attended. The 2020 and 2021 events were held implementing COVID-19 protocols for attendees, participants and workers. The 2020 race became the NTT INDYCAR SERIES season finale running in late October, then the 2021 race got delayed by over a month to late April.

Ten (10) races will take the green flag in 2023, highlighted by the NTT INDYCAR SERIES, North America's premiere open-wheel auto racing series, and INDY NXT by Firestone, plus doubleheader features from USF Pro 2000 Presented by Cooper Tires, USF2000 Presented by Cooper Tires, Idemitsu Mazda MX-5 Cup presented by BFGoodrich and GT America Powered by AWS.

The 100-lap NTT INDYCAR SERIES race is set to take the green flag at approximately 12:30 p.m. EST on Sunday, March 5, with NBC providing live national broadcast coverage starting at 12:00 noon EST. Practice and qualifying sessions will be available for live streaming on Peacock Premium.

Helio Castroneves is the winningest driver on the streets of St. Petersburg. He has won three times (2006, 2007, and 2012) and is also the first driver with back-to-back wins. Helio served as the grand marshal of the 2018 event and will drive for Meyer Shank Racing in this year's race. Juan Pablo Montoya started a streak of back-to-back winners with wins in 2015 and 2016; St. Petersburg's own Sebastien Bourdais claimed victories 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. Colton Herta won in 2021 from the pole position for Andretti Autosport leading 97 of 100 laps, also a race record.

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## FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST. PETERSBURG PRESENTED BY RP FUNDING / 2023 FAST FACTS

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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.

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 Firestone 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 59.3466 (109.189 mph) set by Will Power during qualifying on February 26, 2022.

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 2023.)*

The fastest race lap was set by Conor Daly, on February 27, 2022, with a time of 1:00:9868 (106.253 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).

Scout.com's *Stadium Journey* named the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg as #2 on the list of "Top 100 Stadium Experiences of 2016."

According to the City of St. Petersburg, the race generates an economic impact of approximately \$48 million annually.

Florida is a strong television market for the NTT INDYCAR SERIES. For the entire 2022 season, these DMAs ranked in the top 35 for average viewership ratings:

2. Ft. Myers-Naples
15. Tampa-St. Petersburg (Sarasota)
30. West Palm Beach
33. Orlando-Daytona Beach-Melbourne

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### **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 some 250 workers, and allowing for rain dates, typically it takes only 25 days to build.
- The process has become more efficient each year, with tear-down and removal completed entirely within two weeks.
- 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.
- 22,000 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.

### **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!

### **Key Community Events**

This year the event will feature two major community events on March 2nd to kick off the race weekend. The Wellcare Ambetter Health 5K on the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg Track provides runners and walkers the unique opportunity to race on the actual street course. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Police Athletic League of St. Petersburg. Taking place concurrently with the 5K, the INDYCAR Party in the Park is a free celebration open to all. The gathering will feature race cars on display, driver appearances, music, food and drink. The Party in the Park will take place in North Straub Park near the start/finish line for the 5K.

### **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 Bay Shore 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.

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