

Lobster Race Demographics

History: Conceived as an original idea to spoof the Kentucky Derby and acknowledge the impact of the horse industry in Aiken, the inaugural Lobster race was held in Aiken in 1984. The event began as a small get together of local friends and has continually grown into a large festival and Aiken's biggest reunion. Current Aikenites and those who have long since moved away return to enjoy the Lobster Race and renew old friendships. The event is always held the first Friday in May, the day before the Kentucky Derby in the festival area in downtown Aiken. A family friendly atmosphere is created with the unique lobster track and the headlining band's stage as the center of attention. Other attractions include a child's ride area, food vendors and local bands that compliment the festival ambiance.

Attendance	10,000 across Aiken County, Barnwell County and Augusta area
Charitable donations	\$600,000+ over 26 year history
Organizational Involvement	Special Olympics Hitchcock Healthcare Aiken County Tri-Development Center Aiken Shriners Boy Scouts of America Aiken Ambucs Cancer Society South Aiken High DECA Club South Aiken High ROTC Aiken Jaycees USCADance Team Law Enforcement Educational team

Community Stage Performances

Each year various community groups are invited to perform prior to the actual Lobster Races. There are usually 4-5 spaces allotted for performances. Any group interested in performing should contact the Lobster race committee by visiting the web site www.lobsterrace.com to determine if there is a time available for the group to perform. The performances are limited to 15 minutes per group. The performers and two group leaders are provided with free entrance tickets to the event.