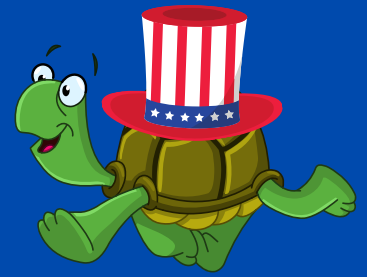


Sterling, KS Chamber of Commerce Old Fashioned 4th of July **BOX TURTLE RACES**



Turtle Decorations

Participants are encouraged to decorate their turtles the day of the event utilizing supplies from the Decoration Station to ensure the safe use of decor items on the turtles. All decorations will need to be removed from the turtle immediately following the race to enable participants to return turtles to where they originally found them without blemish.

Why Only Box Turtles?

The Hutchinson Zoo received a grant from the state of Kansas to help monitor the decreasing population of Box Turtles. In partnership with Hutchinson Zoo, participants are encouraged to register their turtles prior to the race so they can be weighed, measured, and their location of finding and return documented.

State Turtle Laws

Please note the state of Kansas limits the possession of any one turtle species to 2. A valid fishing license is required (unless exempt- like children). Legal turtle fishing equipment include hand, hook and line, setline, hand dip net, seine, turtle trap, or gig.

Did You Know?

1. Removing wild turtles from their home range may cause stress and discomfort. It is imperative to return your turtle to where you found it.



2. Turtles should NOT be left in full sun or in an overcrowded container. Please ensure your turtle has the proper food, water, and bedding leading up to the race.

3. The shell of a turtle is made of living tissue, full of nerve endings and a rich blood supply. When cracked, it's a very painful for the turtle.

Circle of Change

Just like humans, when you crowd turtles all together in the same space, they may end up passing germs to one another. The difference between humans and turtles is we are not climbing over strangers at our 4th of July event. In efforts not to crowd the turtles, the turtles will be released by hand in the center instead of from the historic mechanism.

This will allow turtles more space and decrease potential spread of illness and contamination.

