


Signal Mountain Lions Raffle


Twenty years ago, a group of Signal Mountain Lions were looking for a major project to raise funds for their Charitable endeavors. They journeyed to South Pittsburg to observe their annual truck raffle and took notes. It was clearly a program that could be reapplied on Signal Mountain. As some wise person said (paraphrased), "imitation is the sincerest form of admiration", so the Lions on the mountain copied the South Pittsburg program. The South Pittsburg Club donated to our club a large tumbler with which to orchestrate the drawing each year. It is a treasured artifact in our Lions Club equipment and other clubs have borrowed it to start their own raffle.




ANNUAL LABOR DAY GIVE-A-WAY

**2003 Ford Ranger
XL Pickup**

\$50 Donation - Limited to 400 Tickets



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In 2000, a Pickup Truck was raffled by the Signal Mountain club, and 400 tickets were sold at \$50 a ticket. For almost a decade, this process was repeated each year, and the number of tickets were gradually increased to keep up with the escalating price of the grand prize.

In the early years, the State of Tennessee decided to require all forms of "games of chance" to be regulated. The state instituted a process to restrict such events to Not-for-Profit organizations. Consequently, the raffle took a sabbatical while the SM Lions applied to become a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, and after the application was approved, restarted the raffle. The first prize was changed to a compact sedan in 2009, and if the winner does not want a new car, an alternate first prize of \$13,000 may be substituted.

Meanwhile, as the cost of the first prize continued to grow, the number of tickets to

be sold also gradually increased. We now sell about 800 tickets each year. As the number of tickets to be sold increased, our local businesses stepped up their strong support for our community providing more secondary prizes. This year 50 different "secondary" prizes were awarded.

What does the club do with the proceeds? The Charity account in the club has no overhead because we are all volunteers. All the funds accumulated in the raffle, and the community picnics, are returned to worthy recipients.

The largest bequests are made in the form of 4-year College needs-based scholarships, awarded each year to students from Signal Mountain. The club is currently providing tuition and fees support to 14 different students at a range of institutions of higher learning.

In addition, funds are allocated to a number of different organizations, including the Signal Mountain Social Services, the Signal Mountain Library, the Lone Oak free Clinic, the Lions White Cane program (which includes The Tennessee School for the Blind, Tennessee School for the Deaf, the Leader Dog Program, the Tennessee Low Vision Program, Sight Restoration, Inc, Learning Ally, and World Services for the Blind) and Hamilton County Sight Services, furnishing eyeglasses to indigent individuals. The donations made by raffle ticket purchasers are put to good service.



The poster features the Signal Mountain Lions International logo at the top. Below it, the title reads "Signal Mountain Lions 2020 Labor Day Car Raffle". The main content is on a yellow background. On the left, a blue car is shown with the text: "Win a car, OR trade up for a different car/truck, OR take the \$13,000 cash equivalent!". On the right, a red car is shown with the text: "1ST PRIZE". Below the cars, the text reads: "2ND PRIZE a 1-18 BTU unit from Superior Heating & Air. Approximately 50 additional prizes will be awarded!". At the bottom, it says "Car supplied by Mountain View Auto Group, 101 East 20th Street - Chattanooga, TN 37406" and "MTN VIEW AUTO GROUP \$50 Donation".



2020 was a year of challenge. How could we sell the 800 tickets with such pandemic inspired constraints? The Raffle coordinator, Lion **Win Cooke**, worked tirelessly to inspire club members to go outside of their comfort zones (while also being socially responsible) to sell the tickets; some on line and some in a drive-by booth at the mountain Recycle Center.



We were successful far more than we had any right to be, and the last few tickets were sold on Labor Day, as we served the Bar-B-Q as a drive-thru operation. That day, at noon, Lion **Jim Field**, ably supported by a dedicated assortment of Lions, drew the tickets from the tumbler one at a time, saving the best for last, the winner of the car.

Please help us congratulate **Sanda Mohr** for winning this year's Lions Club Labor Day Raffle. Sanda is a Signal Mountain resident & long time Lions Raffle supporter. We would also like to thank all the businesses and individuals who contributed to the success of this, our largest annual fund raiser. Your support will allow us to continue our mission of giving back to our community.

To find out more about the Signal Mountain Lions Club, go to SMTNLIONS.ORG or join us for a chapter meeting at 6:30 on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at the MACC .



L-R are Craig Smith SM Lions Club President, Sanda Mohr and Win Cooke, Raffle Chairman

By George Davenport, November 2020