

AUTOBAHN COUNTRY CLUB
PRESS RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

Thomas Herb
Chief Strategy Officer
Autobahn Country Club

3795 Centerpoint Way, Joliet, IL 60436
847-922-7592 | therb@AutobahnCC.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA NAMED OFFICIAL TITLE SPONSOR OF THE AUTOBAHN DRIVER ACADEMY

Multi-year partnership brings Toyota and GAZOO Racing vehicles to the country's original motorsports country club — powering performance, defensive and a new off-road program.

JOLIET, Ill. — July 1, 2026 — Autobahn Country Club, the country's original private motorsports country club, today announced a multi-year collaboration with Toyota Motor North America's Chicago Region, naming Toyota the official Title Sponsor of the Autobahn Driver Academy. The agreement aligns one of the world's most respected automotive brands with the gold standard in private motorsports education — and unlocks the next chapter of growth across every program at Autobahn's 350-acre Joliet campus.

Under the collaboration,, Toyota will provide its GAZOO Racing (GR) performance lineup to power the Driver Academy's Performance Driving programs — including Autobahn Rush, Autobahn Sprint XP, Performance Drive, and the Advanced Performance Series. Toyota will also outfit the Academy's Defensive Driving Programs — Teen Driver Safety and Advanced Law Enforcement Driving Skills — with vehicles featuring Toyota's advanced safety technologies. The agreement also launches a new off-road program at Autobahn powered by the Toyota TRD lineup, expanding the Academy beyond the circuit for the first time in its history.

The Title Sponsorship spans the full breadth of the Autobahn Driver Academy, which trains drivers of every level — from newly licensed teens behind the wheel to seasoned enthusiasts pursuing professional motorsports licensure through the Autobahn Race School.

FROM TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA

"We are proud to partner with Autobahn Country Club and support its world-class driving programs. By providing our GAZOO Racing lineup for the Performance Driving Academy, enthusiasts will have the unique opportunity to experience Toyota's motorsports heritage, performance, and track-ready engineering firsthand."

— Shane Sizemore, General Manager, Toyota Motor North America's Chicago Region

“At Toyota, our dedication to drivers extends beyond the showroom. Autobahn’s Defensive Driving Programs provide participants with practical skills and hands-on experience with Toyota’s advanced safety technologies. We’re also excited to support the new off-road program with our TRD lineup, showcasing the capability and durability our customers expect and what defines the Toyota brand.”

— Darius Eftekhari, Assistant General Manager, Toyota Motor North America’s Chicago Region

FROM AUTOBAHN COUNTRY CLUB

“For more than two decades, we’ve built the Autobahn Driver Academy into the gold standard for performance and safety instruction. Toyota’s commitment as Title Sponsor is the clearest validation yet of the quality of our programs and the caliber of the drivers we serve. Partnering with one of the world’s most respected automotive brands — and bringing the full GAZOO Racing lineup onto our circuits — allows us to take the Academy to a level no private club has reached before.”

— Tim O’Donnell, President & CEO, Autobahn Country Club

“This partnership is a strategic milestone in our Drive to 2035 vision. Aligning with Toyota and GAZOO Racing expands what’s possible across every level of the Autobahn Driver Academy — from teen drivers to the elite performance enthusiast — and opens an entirely new chapter with the launch of our off-road program powered by the TRD lineup. Toyota’s heritage, engineering, and breadth of vehicles let us push the Academy further, faster, and broader than ever before.”

— Thomas Herb, Chief Strategy Officer, Autobahn Country Club

ABOUT THE AUTOBAHN DRIVER ACADEMY

Whether you’re a first-time track-goer eager to master the basics and elevate your confidence behind the wheel, or a seasoned driver honing skills for competitive racing or a professional motorsports career, the Autobahn Driver Academy offers tailored training for every level. Programs span Performance Driving (Autobahn Rush, Autobahn Sprint XP, Performance Drive, Advanced Performance Series), Defensive Driving (Teen Driver Safety, Advanced Law Enforcement Driving Skills), and the two-day Autobahn Race School covering vehicle dynamics, passing drills, and practice races. Learn more at autobahncc.com/driver-academy.

ABOUT AUTOBAHN COUNTRY CLUB

Founded in 2004 in Joliet, Illinois — 45 miles from downtown Chicago — Autobahn Country Club is the country’s original private motorsports country club. The 350-acre facility features three road courses, a three-acre skid pad, a 40,000 sq. ft. clubhouse, on-site dining, member

garages, and 550+ members. The Autobahn Race School is Accredited by USAC, SCCA, PCA, and NASA, Autobahn is recognized as “The Gold Standard of Private Race Tracks.”

ABOUT TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA

Toyota Motor North America, headquartered in Plano, Texas, oversees Toyota’s operations across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Through TOYOTA GAZOO Racing and a long-standing commitment to driver safety and education, Toyota brings vehicles, technology, and people that make better drivers, on every road and every track.

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