



## Jeff Meendering: Crew Chief, No. 00 Ford Mustang

**Birthdate:** May 21, 1977  
**Birthplace:** Grand Rapids, Michigan  
**Hometown:** Concord, North Carolina  
**Residence:** Concord, North Carolina  
**Spouse:** Ashley  
**Children:** Jeff Jr., Nathan

Being involved in the motorsports world was inevitable for Jeff Meendering. As a child growing up just outside of Grand Rapids, Michigan, in the small town of Marne, Meendering's family lived right across the street from Berlin Raceway. His late father Marv and a friend competed at the .4375-mile paved oval, as well as other tracks in the area.

Meendering's family moved to the heart of NASCAR racing in North Carolina when he was in sixth grade and his affinity for the sport grew. When he turned 16, Meendering bought a Street Stock and began competing at Concord Motorsports Park, a half-mile oval north of Charlotte. Not long after that, Meendering went to work for Hendrick Motorsports, where he started out sweeping the floors and emptying trash cans as a junior in high school.

After considerable success in the Street Stock division, Meendering moved up to Late Model stock cars and then Super Late Models. While he ascended the ranks on the track, Meendering did the same off the track as he worked his way up the ladder at Hendrick Motorsports. His responsibilities at his day job continued to increase, eventually helping spur Meendering's decision to sell his personal racecars in favor of a career outside the driver's seat and atop the pit box.

Meendering joined the No. 24 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series team working with driver Jeff Gordon in 2001 and was eventually promoted to car chief. While in that role, he served as an interim crew chief during Steve Letarte's suspension for a rules infraction in 2007. In that span, Gordon earned two top-fives and four top-10 finishes. At the end of the season, Meendering left the organization to take over as crew chief for the famed No. 43 Petty Enterprises entry driven by Bobby Labonte. The following season, the team earned two top-10s and 17 top-20 finishes and completed 99 percent of the laps run.

In 2009, Meendering joined Stewart-Haas Racing (SHR) as the car chief on the No. 14 team with Tony Stewart. During Meendering's tenure with the team, Stewart won the 2011 NASCAR Cup Series championship. After the 2014 season, Meendering moved to Joe Gibbs Racing, where he served as car chief on the No. 20 entry driven by Matt Kenseth.

Meendering's career path in NASCAR led him back to SHR at the end of the 2016 season to help start the organization's NASCAR XFINITY Series team as crew chief for the No. 00 Ford Mustang driven by Cole Custer.

"I've spent the majority of my career working with veteran drivers, so this opportunity presents a new challenge for me," Meendering said. "I'm excited to help build the XFINITY program at SHR and get to work with a young, rookie driver. Cole has spent a lot of time with the team at the shop and at the wind tunnel over the offseason and it's great to see his excitement as we get ready for the year ahead."

Meendering resides in Concord, North Carolina, with his wife Ashley and their two sons Jeff Jr. and Nathan.