



News From the Pittsburgh 250 News Bureau

For Immediate Release

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PNC Legacy Trail Riders Race to Finish Line, Start of Pittsburgh's 250th *"Imagine Ending Hunger" food drive part of concert, major fireworks on Oct. 4*

PITTSBURGH, PA – Sept. 29, 2008 – Pittsburgh is gearing up for a big birthday bash in Point State Park on Sat., Oct. 4 as **PNC Legacy Trail Ride** bicyclists arrive from Washington, D.C. via the Great Allegheny Passage and C & O Canal Towpath, kicking off a two-month celebration marking the naming of the Pittsburgh region in 1758. Everyone attending the festivities is asked to bring a non-perishable food item to support the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's "**Imagine Ending Hunger**" food drive.

About 80 cyclists left the nation's capital on Sat. Sept. 27 for the week-long **Venture Outdoors 250 Bike Tour**. They will arrive in Pittsburgh next Saturday, joining the last of 108 riders racing in stages to Pittsburgh in a 24-hour **PNC Legacy Relay**, carrying a Congressional proclamation marking Pittsburgh's 250th birthday. Their 335-mile route retraces a young Colonel George Washington's trailblazing journey from Virginia to the forks of the Ohio. Washington, D.C. Archbishop Donald Wuerl will bless the start of the PNC Legacy Relay in Georgetown on Oct. 3.

As both groups of cyclists reach downtown, families are encouraged to join in the **PNC Legacy Trail Community Ride** at PNC Firstside Center to ride or hike to the finish line at Point State Park. Anyone interested can still register at www.bike250.org.

The PNC Legacy Trail Ride will conclude with a **concert** with Joe Grushecky and the Houserockers, Etta Cox, B.E. Taylor and the MCG Jazz, as well as the region's largest ever **fireworks display** launched from downtown skyscrapers and other sites. (*see attached schedule*)

The events mark the beginning of **Pittsburgh Celebrates 250**, a two-month birthday party that includes the **Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts**, a performing and visual arts celebration; the **Festival of Lights**, which will illuminate and decorate buildings and outdoor spaces; and many other events. Pittsburgh Celebrates 250 pays tribute to our region's past, present and future. Events will encourage residents and visitors alike to "imagine what you can do here" and join together in celebrating our region's bright future.

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In addition to receiving donations, the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank will be selling commemorative T-shirts on Oct. 4; downtown on Liberty Ave. at Commonwealth, across from Point State Park, and on North Shore Drive between PNC Park and Heinz Field. The cost is \$15.

“Completing the Great Allegheny Passage will be a lasting achievement of Pittsburgh 250 providing enjoyment for generations to come,” said **Jim Rohr**, chairman of the Pittsburgh 250 commission and CEO of PNC Financial Services Group. “It is also a symbolic union of all the forces animating Pittsburgh 250: history, the region's importance in the formation of the country, our environmental legacy, human accomplishment and hope for the future. These attributes describe the Pittsburgh region of 1758, as well as today.”

By following the footsteps of the Great Allegheny Passage to where young George Washington and a force led by British General John Forbes captured Fort Duquesne from the French in 1758 and named the site "Pittsburgh," cyclists will relive history where some of the most important events in the founding of our nation took place.

About Pittsburgh 250:

Pittsburgh 250 is the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the naming of the region in 1758. With the support of business, government and civic leaders from across the region, Pittsburgh 250 has three goals: improve awareness of Southwestern Pennsylvania as a global leader in arts, science and quality of life through an integrated regional marketing effort; support the completion of lasting signature projects that connect the region's past to its future; and improve the region's competitiveness for future generations by encouraging grassroots participation in improving communities, attracting visitors and living healthier lives.

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