



News From the Pittsburgh 250 News Bureau

For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh Pedals into the Future with The PNC Legacy Trail Ride *Region also celebrates 250th birthday with concert, fireworks on October 4*

PITTSBURGH, PA – August 14, 2008 – Thousands of bicyclists and hikers will participate in **The PNC Legacy Trail Ride** from September 27 to October 4, celebrating the Pittsburgh region's 250th birthday and its connection to Washington, D.C., with the linking of the Great Allegheny Passage to the C&O Canal Towpath, a 335-mile hiking and biking path that retraces Colonel George Washington's trailblazing journey from Virginia to the forks of the Ohio.

The PNC Legacy Trail Ride salutes the volunteers and corporate, foundation and government supporters who built the trail over the past 30-years and features four main events along the Great Allegheny Passage, ending on Saturday, October 4:

- **“Celebration Saturday”** in six Trail Towns on September 27
- **The PNC Legacy Relay** that speeds from Washington, D.C. to Pittsburgh in 24 hours
- **The Venture Outdoors Bike 250 Tour** from Washington to Pittsburgh, covering 8 days
- **The PNC Legacy Trail Community Ride**, in which cyclists and walkers from the Pittsburgh area may join the Relay and Venture Outdoors riders on their final sprint into renovated Point State Park in Pittsburgh

The Great Allegheny Passage features breathtaking views and historical points of interest from Pittsburgh to the C&O Canal Towpath in Cumberland, MD. With an average grade of less than 2 percent, it is one of the most accessible trail experiences in the world.

Celebration Saturday takes place September 27 between noon and 4 pm. six towns on the trail—West Newton, Connellsville, Ohiopyle, Confluence, Meyersdale and Rockwood—will celebrate the history and new outdoor amenities they share along the Great Allegheny Passage. Each town will offer trail-related activities, food, entertainment, and the unveiling of public art projects designed to create vibrant and attractive connections between the trail and the towns.

Beginning in Washington, D.C. on Friday, Oct. 3, the **PNC Legacy Relay**, involving 18 teams of six cyclists, will ride through the night carrying a Congressional proclamation to Pittsburgh.

On Saturday, Sept. 27, the **Venture Outdoors Bike 250 Tour** will depart Washington and arrive in Pittsburgh on Oct. 4. As the riders reach Downtown Pittsburgh, families are encouraged to join in the **PNC Legacy Trail Community Ride** at the Hot Metal Bridge or at PNC Firstside Center to ride or hike to the finish line at Point State Park. Anyone interested can register at www.imaginepittsburgh.com.

The PNC Legacy Trail Ride will conclude with a **concert** featuring 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 involving all three rivers.

These events, presented by the Colcom Foundation, kick off **Pittsburgh Celebrates 250**, a two-month birthday party that includes the Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts, a performing and visual arts celebration; the Pittsburgh 250 Festival of Lights, presented by Duquesne Light, 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.

“Completing the Great Allegheny Passage will be a lasting achievement of Pittsburgh 250, providing enjoyment for generations to come,” said **James E. 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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