



## **News From the Pittsburgh 250 News Bureau**

**For Immediate Release**  
**Photos available on request**

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*Three Signature Events Highlight Yearlong Pittsburgh 250 Celebration  
Anniversary Year Showcases Region as Global Leader in Arts, Science, Quality of Life*

PITTSBURGH, May 2, 2008 – Pittsburgh is showing the world why it was named “America’s Most Livable City” by the Places Rated Almanac and a top worldwide destination by Frommer’s Travel Guide with Pittsburgh 250, the yearlong celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the naming of the region. Three signature events highlight a 2008 calendar filled with commemorative activities that showcase southwestern Pennsylvania as a global leader in arts, science and quality of life and one of the best places in the world to live, work, visit and invest.

Other Pittsburgh 250 events scheduled throughout 2008 include the Pittsburgh premier of “My Tale of Two Cities” on November 28 at the Byham Theater as part of a reunion event. The Carl Kurlander film, screened at The Sonoma Valley Film Festival, is about Kurlander’s return to his hometown of Pittsburgh. In addition, the Federated Investors Parade of Champions, a Pittsburgh 250 celebration, will welcome back some of Pittsburgh’s most famous sports heroes during a three-day fan festival June 20-22 at the Senator John Heinz History Center and Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum.

“Pittsburgh 250 gives our region the unique opportunity to tell its great stories and

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encourage residents, visitors, business decision makers and talented young professionals to 'Imagine Pittsburgh' in a new light," said Mike Langley, chief executive officer of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, a private sector leadership organization whose aim is to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in the region. ACCD is spearheading Pittsburgh 250.

The following marquee events highlight the Pittsburgh 250 celebration.

**The American Eagle Outfitters Tour of Pennsylvania, presented by Highmark Healthy High 5<sup>®</sup>**

Winding from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, the American Eagle Outfitters Tour of Pennsylvania, presented by Highmark Healthy High 5<sup>®</sup>, is a cycling race featuring 20 teams of six riders each (ages 18 to 24) from the United States and around the world. The route roughly follows the Forbes Road – a historic road that British and American troops cut across the Pennsylvania wilderness in 1758.

Covering 450 miles over six days from June 24 to 29, 2008, the Tour is sanctioned by USA Cycling and will feature future stars of the Olympics and Tour de France. The stage race offers \$150,000 in prize money and will be televised on the Versus cable network.

A new book titled Pennsylvania's Forbes Trail: Gateways and Getaways along the Legendary Route from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh is available for sale in May 2008. The book provides unprecedented access for families, tourists and others to the American history, diverse culture and outdoor activity along the trail. The soft-cover, 208-page book is fully color illustrated and contains, among other things, 42 themed one-day tours, original illustrations, photographs, maps, and lodging and dining recommendations. For more information, go to <http://www.forbestrail.org>

**The PNC Legacy Trail Ride Celebrating the Great Allegheny Passage and the Grand Reopening of Point State Park**

To celebrate the completion of the Great Allegheny Passage, Pittsburgh 250 will host the **PNC Legacy Trail Ride Celebrating the Great Allegheny Passage** and the **Grand Reopening of Point State Park** on Oct. 4. When completed, the Great Allegheny Passage will be the longest hiking and biking trail in the eastern United States. The 150-

mile trail connects with the 185-mile C&O Canal Towpath at Cumberland, Md., to create a 335-mile traffic and motorized vehicle-free route between Pittsburgh, Pa., and Washington, D.C. The Great Allegheny Passage features breathtaking views and many points of interest along the way. With an average grade of less than 2 percent, it is also one of the most accessible trail experiences in the world.

The two-day event will include an inaugural trail ride during which teams of trail groups and bike clubs will relay a proclamation by the U.S. Congress from Washington, D.C. to Pittsburgh, Pa., and a large-scale community bike ride from the town of McKeesport to Point State Park in Pittsburgh and the PNC legacy relay. The celebration will also include the Pittsburgh 250 Festival of Lights, where the city's buildings are transformed into works of art with lighting, sound and motion.

#### **Pittsburgh's past meets the present at revitalized Point State Park**

On Oct. 4, 2008, Pittsburgh 250 will host a large celebration for residents and visitors who will mark the inaugural ride on the Great Allegheny Passage and the completion of the first phase of the \$35 million transformation under way at Point State Park that includes expanded riverfront access and public art. The celebration will also kick off the Pittsburgh 250 Festival of Lights, where the city's buildings are transformed into works of art with lighting, sound and motion.

Located at the confluence of the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers, the piece of land known as "The Point" in Pittsburgh once played a crucial role in the French and Indian War when British, French and Indian forces fought for control of the land. In addition to the three signature events, Pittsburgh 250 is working with several Pittsburgh-based organizations on dozens of other events throughout the region leading up to the November 25 anniversary of Pittsburgh's naming.

For more information on the three signature events and the many other Pittsburgh 250 initiatives, please visit [www.imaginepittsburgh.com](http://www.imaginepittsburgh.com).

## **Suggested Calendar Listings for Pittsburgh 250 Celebration**

**The American Eagle Outfitters Tour of Pennsylvania, presented by Highmark Healthy High 5<sup>®</sup>** is a six-day, 450-mile cycling race featuring 20 teams of six riders each (ages 18 to 24) from the United States and around the world. Racers of 15 nationalities will compete including at least one Pennsylvania-based team, the PA-Lightning. The USA Cycling-sanctioned stage race, to be held June 24 to 29, 2008, offers \$150,000 in prize money and will feature future stars of the Olympics and Tour de France.

**The PNC Legacy Trail Ride Celebrating the Great Allegheny Passage** and the **Grand Reopening of Point State Park**, set for Oct. 4, is a large-scale community bike ride from the town of McKeesport to Point State Park in Pittsburgh, where a celebration marking the inaugural ride on the Great Allegheny Passage, the completion of the first phase of the \$35 million renovation of Point State Park, and the launch of the city's Pittsburgh 250 Festival of Lights will be held. The celebration will commemorate the completion of the 335-mile, traffic and motorized vehicle-free Great Allegheny Passage trail connecting Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C.

### **About Pittsburgh 250:**

Pittsburgh 250 is the celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> 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 set 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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