

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**WHEATON REGIONAL PARK TO HOST MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S
PITCH, HIT AND RUN COMPETITION**

WHEATON, MD – The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Wheaton Regional Park's athletic complex off Arcola Avenue in Wheaton will host Major League Baseball's local **Pitch, Hit and Run competition presented by Pepsi on Saturday, April 22 at 10 a.m.** (rain date is Saturday, April 29).

Pitch, Hit and Run is the official skills competition of Major League Baseball and includes local, sectional, team and national finals for boys and girls ages 7-14 (age is determined as of July 17, 2006). Pitch, Hit and Run encourages youth participation and emphasizes the element of fun in baseball.

Participants will compete in three events: 1) pitching for accuracy, 2) base running for speed, and 3) hitting for distance. They will compete in one of four age categories: 7-8 years, 9-10 years, 11-12 years and 13-14 years of age. Winners in each category and one all-around winner in each age group will qualify to attend the sectional competition in Frederick at Harry Grove Stadium, home of the Frederick Keys, where they will have the chance to qualify for the team championship. Winners from the team championship qualify for the national finals to be held at PNC Park in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in July.

“There is no registration fee, so every kid can participate in this fun event,” said Michael Tchou, Park Manager at Wheaton Regional Park. “As proof of age, they'll have to show a copy of their birth certificate to register.”

“This is a great opportunity for kids to showcase their pitching, hitting and running capabilities, and it's a great way for local organizations to kick off the baseball season,” said Phil Bryan, Maryland state coordinator for Pitch, Hit and Run.

Park Police officers will be on hand for demonstrations, and food and beverages will be available for purchase. Donations of equipment, tickets and other items from the Bowie BaySox will be given to participants.

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