



Tony Hawk entertains the crowd

Tony Hawk Event in Columbia, Missouri

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World renowned skateboarder Tony Hawk and his company, TH Events, scouted the Midwest to find a venue to perform a free skateboarding/BMX exhibition. The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department was delighted when Tony Hawk and TH Events settled on Columbia Skate Park for their event. Although other Missouri sites were considered, Columbia was chosen because its skate park is located within a roomy 533-acre park with plenty of parking, has easy access off of Highway 70, is centrally located in the state of Missouri, and has a Parks and Recreation Department that was willing and eager to do whatever it took to host a Tony Hawk skateboard event for their community.

The event started out with a “street skateboarding” demonstration by Tony Hawk and nine members of the Birdhouse Skate Team. It was

quickly evident that Tony Hawk, now 41 years old, still had skills. He glided effortlessly around the skate park and awed fans with jumps, grinds, handstands, and many other tricks that only serious skateboarders would be able to properly identify. An enthusiastic crowd both cheered and gasped as the Birdhouse Team showcased their stunts and risked a few falls. About 1,500 people gathered for the event, and Tony graciously took time to meet and sign autographs for many of his fans. After a 45 minute exhibition, Tony Hawk and his team moved to the half pipe.

Tony Hawk’s company, TH Events, trucked in their own portable 34’W x 48’L x 14’H half pipe for a vertical exhibition by Tony and five other BMX/skateboard athletes who specialize in riding the ramp. One of the highlights of the half pipe show was the challenge Tony made to X-Games gold medalist Lyn-Z Adams Hawkins to

land a 540 (one-and-a-half revolution) - a trick not yet accomplished on record by a female skateboarder. Tony offered Lyn-Z \$1,000 if she could successfully complete the feat in three attempts. Fans cheered at



the possibility of skateboard history being made before their eyes. Lyn-Z came painfully close, but couldn't quite stick the landing. Tony, whose claim to fame includes being the first skateboarder to land a 900 (two-and-a-half revolutions), posted this tweet on his Twitter page later that afternoon:

Lyn-Z attempting the 540



3:34PM Oct 17th
"even though she didn't make it today, my offer still stands for @lynzskate: 1k for a 540, anytime, anywhere and I'll pay up."

Both the skate park and half pipe exhibitions included amplified music along with an emcee. Quick-silver had kiosks set up to demonstrate Activision's new Tony Hawk RIDE video game. Monster Energy provided sample beverages. Local

Shakespeare's Pizza served 100 pizzas and bottled water for the skateboard fans free of charge. The Parks and Recreation Department provided staffing, security, parking attendants, bike rack barricades, a generator, equipment and assistance to unload the half pipe, portable toilets, arrangements for a paramedic team, and post-event clean up.

As the event came to a close, it was evident that all the hard work that went in to it was worthwhile. Many young skateboard fans could be seen with ear-to-ear grins as they headed toward the parking lot. One local elementary school student who attended the exhibition wrote an essay that was published in the Columbia Daily Tribune about his experience. The closing words of his composition entitled "Meeting Tony Hawk" aptly demonstrate the value of a parks and recreation department providing this type of an event for their community. Young Joey wrote,

*"On the way home,
I could only think one thing:
This was the best day of my life."*

*The gravity-defying
half pipe exhibition*



Local Government Week May 2-8, 2010

On February 17, 2010, Governor Jay Nixon issued an Official Proclamation from the Office of the Governor, declaring the first week of May as Local Government Week in Missouri. Also, a bill has been filed in the Missouri Senate, S.B. 1001, declaring the first week of May as Local Government Week each year in Missouri.

So, it is time to start your planning! We see this as an ideal opportunity to showcase city services and to create awareness of the important role city government plays in the lives of all Missouri citizens.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to create increased awareness of the vital programs and services you provide. First, consider if there are existing events taking place in your city during that week, which can be tailored to fit with the theme of Local Government Week. Also, you are encouraged to organize a number of events and activities designed to promote the work of local government.

*www.mocities.com
has additional
information and some
great event suggestions!*