

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth registration open for Pitch, Hit and Run Contest

COLUMBIA, MO (May 19, 2005) -- The registration deadline is approaching for the local competition of the Pepsi Pitch, Hit and Run Contest. Sponsored by Columbia Parks and Recreation, the skills competition will be held at 9 a.m. on May 28 at the Douglass Park Ballfield.

Males and females between the ages of 7 and 14 are invited to participate. There is no fee to enter.

Pitch, Hit and Run is the official skills competition of Major League Baseball. In the pitch component of the competition, participants must throw strikes at a designated target. In the hit component, participants are tested for distance and accuracy by hitting a ball off a tee, and in the run portion, participants are timed starting from second base, touching third base and then home.

The events are individually scored and converted to a point total. Top finishers at the local level move onto the sectional competition. From there, top scorers advance to the team championship level in June. The event culminates with the national finals, which will be held in Detroit at the 2005 Major League All-Star Game.

The registration deadline for the local Pitch, Hit and Run is May 25. Registration forms are available at the Columbia Parks and Recreation office at 1 South 7th, the Armory Sports Center at 701 East Ash and the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC) at 1701 West Ash.

A birth certificate is required for registration. For more information, call 874-6378.