

HERITAGE EXPLORER BIKE TOUR AND FESTIVAL IS SET FOR THIS SATURDAY
Event Features Five Family-Friendly Bike Routes and a Free Community Festival

Scranton, PA (June 13, 2011) – The second annual Heritage Explorer Bike Tour and Festival will be held on Saturday, June 18, 2011, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mellow Park in Peckville, PA. Hosted by the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA) and Heritage Valley Partners, Inc., this non-competitive, family-friendly event is a great start to the Father’s Day weekend.

The Heritage Explorer Bike Tour offers four out-and-back routes that extend from Mellow Park north on the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail and quiet neighborhood streets. Each route has Station Stops on the course with complimentary water, snacks, and fun activities. Experienced bike marshals will patrol the course to guide riders and assist with repairs. All street sections and crossings will be marked and staffed. New for this year is a route just for the youngest riders with tricycles and training wheels. The “Blakely Lokie Tot Tour” will circle Mellow Park with interactive Tot Stops for the kids. The Bike Tour will run rain or shine. The routes with their mileage and start times are as follows:

- Union Dale Pusher 44 miles 8:00 a.m. start
- Carbondale Special 22 miles 8:30 a.m. start
- Powdermill Express 11 miles 9:00 a.m. start
- Archbald Limited 5 miles 9:30 a.m. start
- Blakely Lokie Tot Tour 1/2 mile 10:00 a.m. start

Registration is open for the Bike Tour. As part of the process, riders can choose their package and the route that they would like to ride. The following packages are available:

- Seniors / College Students - \$25 per person
- Adults - \$30 per person, and includes 2 children under 18
- Family - \$45 - Includes 2 adults and up to 4 children under 18
- Team - \$100 – Includes 6 adults, ages 18 & up

Riders can sign up for the Bike Tour in one of three ways:

1. Register online with credit card payment at www.HeritageExplorer.org under Registration. This option is available until Thursday, June 16, 2011, at midnight.
2. Register in person at LHVA’s office located at 538 Spruce Street, Suite 516, in downtown Scranton, PA. Payment may be made by cash or check payable to “Heritage Valley Partners, Inc.” This option is available until Thursday, June 16, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.
3. Register the day of the Bike Tour on Saturday, June 18, 2011. Payment may be made by cash or check payable to “Heritage Valley Partners, Inc.” Sorry – no credit cards can be accepted.

The Bike Tour has been expanded to include a Festival at Mellow Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free and open to Bike Tour riders and the community, the Festival offers live music and entertainment, a variety of demonstrations, vendors and exhibits, a tent packed with raffle baskets, and a special kids’ area. Food and beverages are available from several vendors on a cash basis.

The Festival features several notable local musicians under the big tent:

- 10:45 a.m. – Noon Singer/Guitarist Bobby Ross
- Noon – 2:00 p.m. Doug Smith and the Dixieland All-Stars
- 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Irish Balladeers

In addition, the kids’ area has family-friendly entertainment, including:

- 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Just Plain Crazy Face Painting
- 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Ryan Cornelius, Balloon Artist
- 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Rob Smith, Juggler

Mellow Park is located at the intersection of Keystone Avenue and River Street, behind Valley View Football Stadium, in Peckville. Free parking for the Bike Tour and Festival is available in the stadium parking lot, accessible from the 800 block of Main Street in Peckville. Mellow Park is an easy walk from the parking area.

LHVA is pleased to announce that the AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) team, Raven 2, arrived on June 6th to help prepare for the Heritage Explorer Bike Tour and Festival. They have prepped the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail and Mellow Park to get ready for the event, and they will staff key positions to assist during the day of the Bike Tour. Based out of Perry Point, Maryland, the Raven 2 team has eight men and women ages 18-24 who have committed to a full year of community service. The team includes Ambrosia Barnette, Alyson Keefer, Alexa Rossini, Michelle Faherty, Jen Hoyle, Franklin Brimage, Diego Akers, and Rick Kappler.

Proceeds from the Heritage Explorer Bike Tour and Festival will benefit the continuing development of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, a 75-mile rail-trail system from the New York State border to the Susquehanna River in Pittston. The planning committee is still accepting sponsors to help support the event.

For information about the Heritage Explorer Bike Tour and Festival, sponsorship opportunities, or to volunteer on the day of the event, please contact LHVA's office at (570) 963-6730 ext. 8200 or visit www.HeritageExplorer.org.

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, a State and National Heritage Area based in Scranton, works with community partners on projects that conserve, preserve, and educate the public about the region's historic, cultural, economic and natural resources. For general information about the organization, visit www.LHVA.org.