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Day Out with Thomas™: Leader of the Track Tour 2011
Pulling into the Boston Mills Station

Peninsula, Ohio – It's "Steamies" versus "Diesels" and our favorite No.1 engine is right on track! Thomas the Tank Engine™ is set to roll into Boston Mills Boarding Station for the *Day Out With Thomas™: Leader of the Track Tour 2011*. All little engineers are invited to cheer him on and take a ride with Thomas. The event, which takes place **Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, and Friday through Sunday, May 27, 28, and 29,** will be hosted by Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR) and presented by HIT Entertainment and sponsored by MEGA Brands, a leading toy company.

For 66 years, children have been captivated by the courageous adventures of Thomas and his engine friends. Pulling out of the station for its 16th consecutive ride on the rails, the *Day Out With Thomas™: Leader of the Track Tour 2011* will visit more than 45 cities in the United States and Canada. *Day Out With Thomas™* is the only place for families to take a ride with a 15-ton replica of everybody's favorite No. 1 engine, Thomas the Tank Engine™, and enjoy Thomas-themed activities at the Imagination Station, including stamps, temporary tattoos, and hands-on arts and crafts. Each year the tour grows, traveling to new destinations, adding new activities, and welcoming new visitors.

Thomas the Tank Engine™, star of Thomas & Friends™, on PBS KIDS® and Sprout® kicks off his *Day Out With Thomas™: Leader of the Track Tour 2011* in March and is expected to welcome more than one million passengers through November. During the *Day Out With Thomas™: Leader of the Track Tour 2011*, children will ride with Thomas up steep hills, around deep, blue lakes, and help him win the race

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against the diesel engines—if only in their imaginations. *Day Out With Thomas*™ activities include:

- A 35-minute (approximate) ride with Thomas the Tank Engine™
- The opportunity to meet Sir Topham Hatt™, Controller of the Railway
- A Thomas & Friends™ Imagination Station; featuring stamps, temporary tattoos, hands-on arts & crafts activities and coloring sheets.
- Commemorative activities, merchandise and giveaways to celebrate the 2011 Thomas & Friends™ DVD movie *Day of the Diesels* (September 2011, Lionsgate), including:
    - A video viewing area that shows how steam engines work differently from diesel engines
    - Diesel engine tattoos
    - A special giveaway character wheel showcasing Steamie and Diesel engines from the world of Thomas & Friends™
- Storytelling, video viewing and live music

The tour provides a unique, interactive family experience at every station, offering a variety of entertaining activities that reflect the local flavor of each stop. At Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, activities will include: inflatable bounces, model railroad display, a maze, a play area, and a Touch A Truck display.

The approximately 25-minute train ride with Thomas the Tank Engine™ will depart every hour, rain or shine, with departure times at 9:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. daily. Tickets for the *Day Out With Thomas™: Leader of the Track Tour 2011* are $18 plus tax for ages two and up.

Tickets are on sale now by calling toll-free 866-468-7630 or logging onto www.ticketweb.com/dowt. For more information and directions contact Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad at 800-468-4070 or visit www.CVSR.com.

For general information or to find a *Day Out With Thomas™: Leader of the Track Tour 2011* event near you, visit www.thomasandfriends.com/dowt.

For media use only: For high-resolution downloadable artwork or additional information please go to www.hitnewsonline.com and select *Day Out With Thomas™: Leader of the Track Tour 2011* artwork.

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CVSR is a private sector, not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) volunteer supported organization celebrating its 39th year of providing passenger rail service and is operating in partnership with Cuyahoga Valley National Park and is dedicated to the preservation of passenger rail transportation in Cuyahoga Valley and along the historic Ohio & Erie Canalway.

About Thomas & Friends™

Thomas the Tank Engine™ was created by a father for his son over 65 years ago and today is enjoyed by families in more than 185 territories and in 30 languages. The #1 blue engine and his friends invite children to enter a world of imagination through the tracks of a train and the words of a story. Children embark on adventures with their engine friends while experiencing timeless life lessons of discovery, friendship and cooperation. Thomas & Friends™ makes tracks to great destinations on PBS KIDS®, PBS KIDS Sprout℠ and with downloadable episodes available through iTunes. For more information about the world of Thomas the Tank Engine™ and his friends, please visit www.thomasandfriends.com.

About HIT Entertainment

HIT Entertainment is one of the world's leading independent children's entertainment producers and rights-owners. HIT's portfolio includes properties, such as Barney™, Bob the Builder™, Thomas & Friends™, Pingu™, Fireman Sam™, Angelina Ballerina™ and Rainbow Magic™. HIT represents Chapman Entertainment's Fifi and the Flowertots™ and Roary the Racing Car™ in North America, as well as Wallace & Gromit™, Shaun the Sheep™, Timmy Time™ and Aardman Classics from Aardman Animations. HIT also acts as representative for The Wiggles® in the UK. Launched in 1989, HIT's lines of business span television and video production, content distribution, publishing, consumer products licensing and live events and has operations in the UK, US, Canada, Hong Kong and Japan. HIT is a part-owner of US-based preschool channel, PBS KIDS Sprout℠. For more information, visit www.hitentertainment.com.

About MEGA Brands

MEGA Brands is a trusted family of leading global brands in construction toys, games & puzzles, arts & crafts and stationery. They offer engaging creative experiences for children and families through innovative, well-designed, affordable and high-quality products. Visit http://www.megabrands.com for more information.

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