



NEWS

June 8, 2001

CONTACT: GARY WOSK/MARC LITTMAN
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2712/922-2700
WWW.MTA.NET/PRESS/PRESSROOM
E-MAIL: mediarelations@mta.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1,500 Jobs Up For Grabs At Transit-Themed L.A. Youthfest LARGEST JOB FAIR IN CALIFORNIA IS CO-SPONSORED BY MTA, FREE TO PUBLIC AND FEATURES PRIZES, ENTERTAINMENT AND CELEBRITIES

The MTA will participate in the L.A. Youthfest Saturday, June 23, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the L.A. Sports Arena where employers such as MTA, UPS, Boeing, Oracle and the City and County of Los Angeles will try to fill immediate seasonal work and full-time jobs.

The event is free and will take place in a festival atmosphere featuring educational displays, live music, helicopter rides, \$30,000 in prizes, raffles and giveaways, free food samples and appearances by sports and entertainment celebrities.

Presented by the Transportation Foundation of Los Angeles, L.A. Youthfest is California's largest transit day and job fair and is targeting the nearly 534,000 students who attend middle and high schools throughout Los Angeles County. Attendees can apply for job openings in such areas as government, transportation, information and communications.

MTA Metro Rail safety volunteers will man a booth at the event to support the agency's Metro Blue Line Crossing Safety Awareness Program, and Operation Lifesavers.

Volunteers from MTA will focus on safety near tracks and trains and distribute safety-reminder items such as coloring books, folders, crayons, pencils, and stickers. Volunteers also will hand out safety literature, which

MORE...

Page 2 of 3 L.A. Youthfest

can be taken home and shared with all family members. In addition, an MTA Compressed Natural Gas bus will be on display with information on ways to combat vandalism.

Winners of a school essay contest, in which students learned how to use the MTA's Trip Planner at www.mta.net and described their adventures on MTA buses and trains, will be announced.

"As transportation technology enters the 21st Century, there is an ever-greater need to hire and train people to work in the field," said William J. Hoston, Chairman of the Transportation Foundation of Los Angeles. "At L.A. Youthfest, we are bringing together a number of forward-thinking companies committed to hiring and training the next generation of skilled employees."

In response to the need for future trained professionals, the Transportation Foundation has developed the Real Time Internship Program. This program will recruit, train, and provide students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the broad fields of transportation so that they will be ready to succeed in tomorrow's technological market.

Youthfest Highlights

- \$30,000 in cash awards and prizes, including computers, palm pilots, running shoes, scooters, tickets to amusement parks, sporting events and more
- Raffles and giveaways
- Live music and entertainment
- Sports and entertainment celebrities
- NBA and NFL players and athletes who have won U.S. Olympic Gold Medals

MORE...

Page 3 of 3 L.A. Youthfest

- Winners of 500-word middle and high school transit adventure essay contest to be announced
- Helicopter rides
- Display of alternative fuel vehicles

The Transportation Foundation of Los Angeles is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization originally established by the MTA in 1991 for the purpose of providing education, training, and the advancement of knowledge and understanding that will promote the ongoing development of public transportation systems.

Independently established and separated from the MTA in July 1996, the Foundation is supported by federal, state, and private/corporate grants. MTA is helping promote the event by distributing 50,000 take-ones onboard its buses and trains.

The event also is being sponsored by the Los Angeles city and county unified school districts, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, UPS, Boeing and California National Guard.

The L.A. Sports Arena is located at 3939 Figueroa Street in Los Angeles. The arena can be reached on public transit by using Metro routes 40, 42, 81, 102, 204, 354, 442, 444, 445, 446, 447, 550 or LADOT Southeast Dash.

For more information about L.A. Youthfest, call (213) 244-1433 or visit www.tfla.org. For Metro System trip planning, call 1-(800)-COMMUTE or visit www.mta.net.

###