

Heartland Flyer To
Celebrate National Train Day;
Local Events Planned
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Oklahoma Department of Transportation

Information Release



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On May 10 local activities are planned in which Oklahomans can take part in celebrating the rails. Nationwide efforts began in April to raise awareness of the vital role rail plays in our nation's transportation system, and those efforts will culminate on Saturday, May 10 for the first-ever National Train Day.

On May 10, 1869 in Promontory Summit, Utah, the "golden spike" was driven into the final tie that joined 1,776 miles of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railways. Transforming America, this ceremony created the nation's first transcontinental railroad.

Local celebrations will begin in Oklahoma City on May 10 from 7 -9 a.m. Visitors can enjoy refreshments at Santa Fe Station prior to the Heartland Flyer's departure at 8:25 a.m. The fun doesn't stop there! Communities along the Heartland Flyer's Oklahoma City to Ft. Worth route also have a variety of fun, planned activities.

Amtrak's celebration of National Train Day began six weeks prior to May 10 with special promotions, events, partnerships and an advertising campaign. On May 10, events will take place simultaneously at four of Amtrak's largest stations, Washington, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Serving as spokesperson for National Train Day is television personality Al Roker. Roker will experience first-hand the benefits of rail travel when he travels from New York to Washington by train for the day's festivities.

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(Editors and News Directors: For more information call the ODOT Media & Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)