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A Weekly Column for the
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Bikers Pedal Their Way through Missouri

Many of you might have noticed road signs, banners, and commercials advertising the second Tour of Missouri. And some of you might have even seen these cyclists pedal their way through our district.

Missouri recently hosted the second Tour of Missouri, a seven-day elite professional cycling event that brought trained cyclers and biking enthusiasts to our great state. Fifteen elite international eight-man teams representing more than 20 countries were scheduled to compete in the event. Some of these countries included Canada, Germany, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, European continental squads, as well as many teams from cities right here in the United States.

The 2008 Tour of Missouri began on Sept. 8 in St. Joseph, the origin of the Pony Express. Cyclists spent seven days racing through a series of relentless small, uncategorized climbs – some of which formed a panoramic view of the Missouri River, winding through flat, pastoral regions, pedaling through long stretches in the Mark Twain National Forest, witnessing breathtaking views of Missouri's wine country and the Capitol City, and finishing in front of City Hall in downtown St. Louis on Sunday, Sept. 14.

The 2008 Tour of Missouri took place in the following cities:

- **Monday, Sept. 8 – St. Joseph to Kansas City (90 mi/144.81 km)**
- **Tuesday, Sept. 9 – Clinton to Springfield (125 mi/201.13 km)**
- **Wednesday, Sept. 10 – Branson (18 mi/28.6 km)**
- **Thursday, Sept. 11 – Lebanon to Rolla (105 mi/168.95 km)**
- **Friday, Sept. 12 – St. James to Jefferson City (100 mi/160.9 km)**
- **Saturday, Sept 13 – Hermann to St. Charles (110 mi/177 km)**
- **Sunday, Sept. 14 – St. Louis (75 mi/120.68 km)**

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This spectacular event also provided Missourians from all ages with the opportunity to learn about helmet safety, health and wellness, science, and geography. This event also had a great economic impact on our state. Last year's event drew an estimated 365,000 spectators over six days and provided \$26.2 million of direct and indirect economic benefit for Missouri and its host cities.

Fans were able to follow the action of the cyclists racing through Missouri by watching live video online as well as receive daily updates that were posted on the Tour of Missouri's official Web site (www.tourofmissouri.com).

Although professional cycling is a team sport and the Tour of Missouri contains riders from all over the world, cycling is for anyone, any age, and any level of expertise. Missouri has many different types of trails in state parks and historic sites and federal funds are distributed to assist with developing trails in communities across the state.

With more than 900 miles of trails, there is something from everyone to enjoy in our parks and historic sites — with one of the most popular trails in the nation found right here in Missouri, the Katy Trail.

For more information on the Tour of Missouri, visit their official Web site. If you would like more information on Missouri state parks and historic sites, visit www.mostateparks.com or call 1-800-334-5946. And if you have questions or comments about any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.

