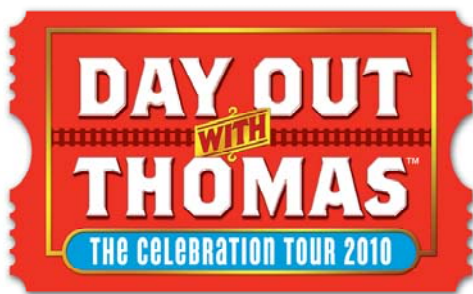


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**DAY OUT WITH THOMAS™ : THE CELEBRATION TOUR 2010
COMES TO ESSEX STEAM TRAIN FOR HIS 65TH BIRTHDAY BASH!**

NEW DATES IN 2010!

Thomas the Tank Engine™ To Visit May 8 – 9 & 15 -16

Essex, CT – All aboard for the best birthday party ever! Thomas the Tank Engine™ is coming to Essex (*the only Day Out With Thomas event in Connecticut in 2010*) to celebrate with all of his fans. Thomas, the beloved and courageous storybook engine, is set to roll into **Essex Steam Train** for the **Day Out With Thomas™: The Celebration Tour 2010**, presented by HIT Entertainment, a worldwide leader in children's entertainment, and sponsored by MEGA Brands, a leading toy company. This fun-filled event offers preschoolers and their families the opportunity to take a ride with a 15-ton replica of Thomas the Tank Engine, star of the popular *Thomas & Friends™* series. Children will ride along with their favorite hero on his latest adventure. The tour, now in its 15th year, will make stops in more than 45 US cities and is expected to welcome more than one million passengers in 2010. This year also marks Thomas the Tank Engine's 65th publishing anniversary and fans are invited to partake in some choo choo-riffic celebratory activities!

WHO: Thomas the Tank Engine

WHAT: • A 25-minute (approximate) ride with Thomas the Tank Engine

- An opportunity to meet Sir Topham Hatt, Controller of The Railway
- Activities for the whole family, including arts & crafts, storytelling, video viewing, live music, magic, face painting, Kaboose the Clown, and the thrill of climbing aboard a Diesel Locomotive Simulator to drive the engine, toot the horn and ring the bell!
- **NEW!** A special display at every DOWT location celebrating 65 years of Thomas the Tank Engine

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- **NEW!** 2010 commemorative merchandise and giveaways, including a mini-view finder giveaway that tells the story of Thomas' upcoming adventure, *Misty Island Rescue*
- **NEW!** A photo opportunity with Roary the Racing Car
- **NEW!** An authentic railyard experience complete with a tour of Essex Locomotive Works

WHEN: New Dates in 2010: May 8-9 & 15-16

TIME: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

WHERE: Essex Steam Train, 1 Railroad Avenue, Essex, CT 06426

Tickets for ***Day Out With Thomas: The Celebration Tour 2010*** are on sale now and available by calling Ticketweb toll-free 866-468-7630, or by visiting <http://events.hitentertainment.com> or www.essexsteamtrain.com. Ticket prices are \$18 plus tax for ages 2 and up (service charges and fee may apply).

For more information and directions contact Essex Steam Train & Riverboat at 800-377-3987 or visit www.essexsteamtrain.com. For information on *Thomas & Friends*, visit www.thomasandfriends.com

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CONTACT:

On-site: Susan Dee; susandee@snet.net