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## Viewpoints [Cincinnati.com](#) » [Community Press & Recorder](#) » Kids get chance to play like pros Last Updated: 2:33 pm | Friday, April 11, 2008

# Kids get chance to play like pros

Though they are too young for the big leagues, children from 7 to 14 years old can showcase their baseball skills at the Pitch, Hit & Run Competition through the Anderson Park District.

The event will be 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 19, at Beech Acres Park, Diamond No. 1, 6910 Salem Road.

This is the first year the park district has hosted the free event, which is nationally sponsored by Major League Baseball and Aquafina.

"(It's a chance) to get active, try a great American sport, show off their skills and enjoy the spring weather," said Scott Lahman, the recreation manager for the Anderson Township Park District.

Boys and girls will be broken down into four age groups (7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14) to compete with each other in three categories.

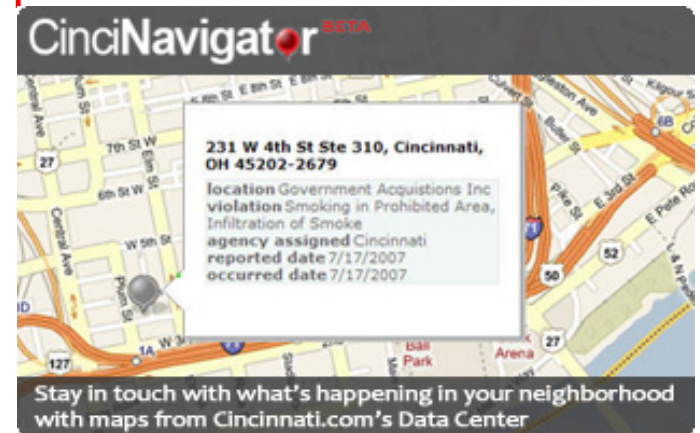
During the pitching portion of the competition, participants get six chances to hit the strike zone, which is 45 feet away and standard MLB size. Each strike is worth 75 points.

When they step up to the plate, each player has three chances to swing for the fences. Both accuracy and distance matter and, the best attempt counts toward the final score.

The final part of the competition has participants sprinting for home. For a total of 160 feet, the runners start at second base, round third and head for home plate.

Winners from each category and each age group will join an all-around champion at sectionals, which will be in May.

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Sectional winners have the chance to advance to the "Team Championship" at the Great American Ball Park in June, and can move on to the national finals in New York at the Yankees stadium during the 2008 All-Star Game.

Lisa Wakeland is a reporter for The Community Press. You can reach her at [lwakeland@communitypress.com](mailto:lwakeland@communitypress.com) or 248-7139.

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LISA WAKELAND

Reporter's Notebook

If you go

Where: Beech Acres Park, Diamond No. 1, 6910 Salem Road

When: 1 p.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, April 19

Details: Call 474-0003, ext. 4513, or [www.andersonparks.com](http://www.andersonparks.com)