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## **The Toro Company and Indianapolis Motor Speedway Provide Local Students with Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Indy 500**

*Toro is the official provider of lawncare equipment for the IMS grounds*

**BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – May 17, 2004** – The Toro Company (NYSE:TTC) today announced it has joined forces with long-time customer, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS), to provide local students with a behind-the-scenes look at turf and grounds management. Twenty FFA (Future Farmers of America) students from Indianapolis' Science and Technology of Agriculture and its Resources (STAR) Academy will attend an educational career day at IMS on May 18, 2004.

The event will include an educational session about careers in turf and grounds management, lawn equipment safety tips, a tour of the IMS 750-acre grounds and lunch in Toro's suite on Gasoline Alley. Through a Toro-sponsored essay contest that asked STAR Academy FFA students to describe how they would spruce up the IMS grounds if they were head groundskeeper, the 20 top essay writers were selected to participate in the event. The top two essay writers have also been invited to help prepare the grounds on Saturday, May 29 for Race Day, and will each receive four tickets to this year's Indy 500.

"The IMS and Toro-sponsored event is a wonderful opportunity for our students at STAR," said Sonya Lord, STAR Academy Director. "It is the perfect combination of educational information with the excitement of the Indy 500, an event that means so much to our community in Indianapolis."

STAR Academy is a magnet program in Indianapolis's Emmerich Manual High School designed to prepare inner-city students for agricultural studies in college and careers in agriculture. The school will celebrate its tenth anniversary this year.

"We are thrilled to leverage our relationship with IMS to provide this gift to STAR Academy students," said Rick Lohman, Director of National Accounts at Toro. "It's part of Toro's culture to give back to our communities and the industries we serve. Students interested in agricultural studies are the perfect recipients of this donation."

In addition to the educational career day at the IMS, Toro's Giving Program will also present STAR Academy with a \$1,000 charitable donation.

### **About The Toro Company Giving Program:**

The Toro Giving Program enhances the health and well being of all Toro communities through active outreach and involvement. The primary giving focus is to support organizations that preserve the outdoor environment. Contributions are also focused on programs that enhance education, health and welfare, culture, the arts, and civic projects. The Toro Foundation, an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, facilitates much of Toro's giving through matching gifts, volunteer grants and elective grants. Toro also provides scholarships, employee volunteer opportunities, and product and in-kind donations.

### **About The Toro Company:**

The Toro Company (NYSE: TTC), with \$1.5 billion in sales annually, is a leading provider of outdoor maintenance and beautification products for home, recreation, and commercial landscapes around the world. Together with its distributors, Toro provides innovative products, agronomic expertise and exemplary service that helps consumers and professionals maintain their landscapes. Visit the company website at [www.thetorocompany.com](http://www.thetorocompany.com). Distributor information is available at 1-800-803-8676.