

Minnesota State Fair

Facts & Information

Food

More than 450 foods are available at 300 food concessions.

Deep-fried candy bars, hot dish, spaghetti & meatballs, key lime pie, walleye and pork chops are just a handful of the 60+ foods on-a-stick available throughout the fairgrounds.

Entertainment

The Grandstand Concert Series features some of the biggest touring acts in the country. This years headliners are Bonnie Raitt & Taj Mahal; Jason Aldean; Kid Rock & Lynyrd Skynyrd; Kelly Clarkson; Jackson Browne; Randy Travis; O.A.R.; Casting Crowns; A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor; REO Speedwagon & STYX; and Jeff Dunham.

Over 100 acts perform at the fair's numerous free entertainment venues.

Minnesota's most talented performers compete in the Minnesota State Fair Amateur Talent Contest Finals.

The State Fair mall parade featuring the High School Marching Band Competition begins at 2 p.m. daily.

Attractions

Mighty Midway features more than 30 carnival rides and 50 games of skill.

Kidway offers 30+ carnival rides for pint-sized fair visitors.

You'll find the most extreme thrill rides at Adventure Park.

The Space Tower, Haunted House, Ye Old Mill, River Raft Ride, Sky Ride and Sky Glider are permanent attractions and State Fair traditions.

Special Exhibits

The CHS Miracle of Birth Center is the birthplace of nearly 200 calves, lambs and piglets during the fair's 12-day run.

Heritage Square features nostalgic arts, crafts and gifts, as well as the State Fair History Museum.

Brand new in 2008, the International Bazaar is filled with fun and flavors from around the world.

It's a dog's life at the Pet Center where pet surgery and agility demonstrations take place daily.

The Eco Experience is an interactive environmentally-focused exhibit designed to educate visitors about sustainability, green living, organics and renewable energy.

Children learn about the agricultural process at Little Farm Hands, an interactive mock farm exhibit.

Agriculture & Competition

Livestock exhibitors vie for ribbons and cash in hundreds of competitions.

The largest juried art show in Minnesota is held at the Fine Arts Center.

Over 5,000 entries are displayed in the Creative Activities department's annual exhibition of Minnesota's finest handicrafts, baking and canning.

Honey, flowers, giant vegetables, crop and seed art, Christmas trees, wine and fruit are showcased in the Agriculture Horticulture Building.

History

Notable events in history that took place at the Minnesota State Fair include: the first airplane flight in Minnesota history (1910); legendary pacer horse Dan Patch set the world harness racing record at the Grandstand (1906); and John Phillip Sousa composed "Minnesota March" and performed it at the fair (1927).

The first Minnesota State Fair was held in 1859.

The Minnesota State Fair has been held in its present location (mid-way between Minneapolis and St. Paul) since 1885.

Corporate Information

The State Fair is governed by the Minnesota State Agricultural Society. The Agricultural Society is made up of delegates from the state's county fairs and various agri-business groups.

The Society is a financially self-supporting quasi-state agency charged exclusively with operating the fair and maintaining the fairgrounds. The Minnesota State Fair Foundation 501(c)(3) is the non-profit fundraising arm of the State Fair, which works to preserve buildings, grounds and educational programs.

The State Fair's mission is to: educate and involve our guests by providing a world-class showcase that is innovative, entertaining and fun.

Media

Nearly 25 local radio and television stations broadcast live from the fairgrounds daily.

Attendance

Typically, the fair attracts approximately 1.6 million visitors each year.

A record 1,762,976 people attended the fair in 2001.

The fair's daily attendance record was set on a Saturday in 1995 when 225,249 people visited.

Tickets & Savings

Admission:

Adults (13-64) - \$11; Seniors (65 & over) - \$9; Kids (5-12) - \$8; Children (under 5) – free; All ages pre-fair discount - \$9.

Discount Days:

Thrifty Thursday: Adults and seniors - \$9; Kids - \$6

Senior Days: Seniors - \$6

Kids Days: Kids - \$6

Ticket Deal Tuesday: Adults (13 & over) - \$9

Read & Ride Wednesday: (Public Library cardholders receive a discount off regular gate admission.) Adults (13 & over) - \$9;

Seniors (65 & over) - \$6; Kids (5-12) \$6

How do we measure up?

The Minnesota State Fair is the largest 12-day event in North America, attracting between 1.6 and 1.7 million visitors annually.

Minnesota's State Fair is the third largest event in the country and the second largest State Fair in the country.

The Minnesota State Fairgrounds covers 320 acres.

Getting to the Fair

Free park and ride shuttles run from a variety of locations within a short distance of the fairgrounds.

Express buses run from numerous locations throughout the Twin Cities.

Motorcycle, vehicle and bicycle parking is limited, but available on the fairgrounds.