

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Sample Itinerary*

Welcome to the Great Minnesota Get-Together! The State Fair features the best of Minnesota's industry, agriculture, entertainment, innovation, fine arts, food and merchandise from around the globe! It's all packed into 320 acres and 12 fun-filled days. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes and dress in layers, as mornings and evenings can be cool while the afternoons may warm up considerably.

Listed below are some suggestions on how to manage your time at the fair. As you begin to explore, consider stopping by one of the State FairWear Gift Shops or State Fair Foundation Kiosks to pick up a Blue Ribbon Bargain Book. Inside you will find hundreds of dollars in money-saving coupons on merchandise, food, beverages, rides, games, attractions and more. Save some green, buy Blue – books are only \$5!

Looking to squeeze even more out of your day at the fair? Consider winding your way around the grounds on a self-guided **History Walking and Cell Phone Tour**. Learn about State Fair history and – new this year – hear sounds of the past on a cell phone tour by calling (877) 411-4123.

Play the Alphabet Word Game, collecting words that you see, read, hear, feel or taste as you stroll through the fair. Win a ribbon in Baldwin Park, where there are free educational activities and a chance to meet Minnesota authors.

Brochures on the tour and game are available at all State Fair Information Booths.

9 a.m.

Our friendly staff will greet your motor coach at the bus parking lot where everyone will receive a daily schedule and map of the fairgrounds. You may want to consider scheduling a continental breakfast and welcome session for your group at the **Blue Ribbon Picnic Area**. Next stroll through **Heritage Square**, an 1800s-themed area with a working blacksmith and woodturner, an authentic log cabin and the **State Fair History Museum**.

Heading east out of Heritage Square, just north of the Skyride, you will notice a new free attraction: **Doggies of The Wild West**. There are free family-friendly performances every day of the fair at noon, 3 and 6 p.m.

10 a.m.

Time for some shopping! The fair has unique gifts available at the **Merchandise Mart**, **State FairWear Gift Shops** and the first and second floors of the **Grandstand**. The **Warner Coliseum** also has a concourse full of merchandise, and it's air-conditioned! Discover a global shopping experience at the **International Bazaar**. Here you will find a wide variety of vendors, lots of live entertainment with an ethnic flavor and a **Festival of Nations Demonstration Stage**.

Make sure to squeeze in a visit to the **animal barns** off Judson Avenue. See livestock competitions and demonstrations featuring a wide variety of swine, horses, cattle, sheep, poultry and more!

11:30 a.m.

Heading north on Judson Avenue to Clough Street, you will arrive at the **CHS Miracle of Birth Center**. This exhibit is celebrating its 11th anniversary as the birthplace during the fair of nearly 200 animals, including calves, lambs and piglets. The **Ag Magic Show**, located on the Christensen Farms Stage outside the CHS Miracle of Birth Center, is an educational and engaging show using magic to teach kids about agriculture. Shows are at noon, 4 and 6 p.m. Aug. 25 to Sept. 4; 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Sept. 5.

Across the street is **DNR Park**, a beautiful exhibit encompassing Minnesota's forests, rivers and wildlife. The **DNR Garden Stage** features fascinating presentations on birds of prey. Look for show times in your daily schedule.

Noon

Need to sit for a while? Head north to the corner of Carnes Avenue and Underwood Street. Here you'll see **Ye Old Mill**, the oldest ride on the fairgrounds. This attraction has seen its share of marriage proposals, and many couples come back year after year to travel down memory lane in the little boats!

12:30 p.m.

Hungry? Walk to Underwood Street and head north to the **Food Building** for lunch. Look for booth signs that indicate special deals and discounts. Many of our concessionaires participate. Then stop by a **State Fair Information Booth** and pick up a self-guided walking tour of the fair's beautiful gardens, historical buildings or whimsical tree sculptures.

1:30 p.m.

Stop by the J.V. Bailey House off Judson Avenue and Cooper Street to see "**Fairs, Circuses, and All Things Fun: Selections from the Minnesota Museum of American Art**" on display daily 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

2 p.m.

Everybody loves a parade – especially the **Daily Mall Parade**! Grab a spot on the curb and enjoy the marching bands, visiting royalty, horses, costumed characters and various floats. The best places to watch are near the Leinie Lodge Bandshell or from Family Fair in Baldwin Park, where parade units are announced.

3 p.m.

Stop by the **Fine Arts Building** on Cosgrove Street to see Minnesota's largest juried art show, or walk across the street to the **Eco Experience** in the Progress Center to discover the many ways to improve both your life and the environment. See how Minnesota is going green!

4 p.m.

Head "up north" to every Minnesotan's favorite place – **The North Woods**. Catch an **IRONJACK Timber Team Show** daily at 11 a.m. and 1:30, 5 and 7 p.m. Even Paul Bunyan would be impressed!

5 p.m.

You'll find two new fair extravaganzas at Underwood Street and Murphy Avenue. A field of microphones welcomes everyone for community karaoke at the **Giant Sing Along**, a participatory

public art installation presented by Bremer Bank. Kitty corner at The X-Zone, your heart will pound as you watch the Flippenout Extreme Trampoline Show at noon, 3 and 6 p.m.

6 p.m.

Head to the **Leinie Lodge Bandshell Stage** for the **State Fair Amateur Talent Contest Semi-finals**. A favorite with fair fans for over 25 years, the show features the best amateur performers selected from auditions that took place in late July. Nightly winners have the chance to perform in the **Talent Contest Finals** held at 8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 4 in the **Grandstand!**

8:30 p.m.

Bandshell Tonight! A free concert series featuring national performers starts every night at 8:30 p.m. on the **Leinie Lodge Bandshell Stage**. Grab a bench early, as these shows attract large crowds.

10 p.m.

Take a walk through **The Mighty Midway** under the stars and twinkling lights while you wait for the nightly **Fireworks Spectacular!** You'll be able to "ooh and aah" from almost anywhere on the fairgrounds, but if you happen to be atop the **Ferris Wheel**, what a way to end the day!!

*This itinerary is designed around a day of very active walking.
Remember to drink lots of hydrating fluids and rest your feet from time to time.

For more information, contact:

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