

ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE

Aug. 26 – Sept. 6, 2021

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR



Welcome to the Great Minnesota Get-Together! We offer a variety of services so that our guests can make the most of their visit to the 12 best days of summer. This guide applies to the 2021 Minnesota State Fair, Aug. 26 through Labor Day, Sept. 6. (All information subject to change.)

This guide contains information on:

- Electric Mobility Scooters, Strollers, Wagons and Wheelchairs
- Transportation & Parking
- ASL Interpreting Services
- Grandstand Shows
- Sensory-Friendly Visits
- Service Animals
- Mighty Midway & Kidway
- Dining Guide
- Other Services (Large-Print Maps and Daily Schedules)

Before you come to the State Fair, please visit the Updates page of our website for the latest information on the 2021 State Fair: mnstatefair.org/updates/

For a map of the State Fairgrounds, visit our website at mnstatefair.org/general-info/maps/

Electric Mobility Scooters, Strollers, Wagons and Wheelchairs

HomeTown Mobility, an independent vendor, provides electric mobility scooters, strollers, wagons and wheelchairs for rent at five locations inside the main gates of the fairgrounds. Hours are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Advance reservations are recommended; see below for details on how to make a reservation.

If renting on-site, equipment is available on a first-come basis and subject to availability. Cash, credit and debit cards are accepted.

Guests are welcome to bring their own electric scooters and wheelchairs. Please note that battery charging of personal mobility equipment is not available at HomeTown Mobility; please see below for alternate locations.

Note: Guests arriving via group charter buses enter the fairgrounds at Gate #18 on Randall Avenue.

How to Reserve

HomeTown Mobility is now accepting reservations for full-day rental of wheelchairs and electric mobility scooters. (Half-day rentals and wagon and stroller rentals must be made on-site.)

Reserve online, or call HomeTown Mobility's home office at 877-928-5388 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. (During the fair, Aug. 26-Sept. 6, HomeTown's office is also open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.)

Note: Reservations must be made 24 hours in advance. Cancellation must be made 48 hours in advance to receive a refund, less a \$5 cancellation fee per rental unit. Reservations made by phone are subject to a \$5 call-in fee; this fee does not apply to reservations made online.

Rental Fees

- Electric mobility scooters: \$65 per day or \$45 for half-day rentals (hours for half-day rentals are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. or 3-11 p.m.)
- Wheelchairs: \$25 per day
- Wagons: \$17 per day
- Single strollers: \$15 per day
- Double strollers: \$17 per day

Note: Reservations made by phone are subject to a \$5 call-in fee.

Where to rent on the fairgrounds

- North side of Como Avenue inside the Loop Gate (Gate #9): The Oscar Johnson Park & Ride bus and Metro Mobility drop off and pick up here; accessibility parking, subject to availability, is provided in the West and East Como lots
- West side of Cosgrove Street between Wright and Dan Patch avenues (near Gate #5): Some Park & Ride buses pick up and drop off at Snelling Avenue and Midway Parkway
- North End (inside Gate #2): Metro Mobility, Uber and Lyft drop off and pick up here; accessibility parking, subject to availability, is provided in the Camel Lot
- West End (inside Gate #16): Most Park & Ride and Express Buses pick up and drop off here; accessibility parking, subject to availability, is provided in the Robin Lot
- On the southwest corner of Randall Avenue and Underwood Street (inside Gate #18): Charter buses pick up and drop off near this gate

Electrical Outlets for Recharging Electric Mobility Scooters

If you need a regular electrical outlet plug-in for charging an electric mobility scooter battery, there are two options on the fairgrounds: Care & Assistance south of West End Market is open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily (9 p.m. on Labor Day). Also, on the south side of the Grandstand outside between the entrance doors, outlets are designated with disability signs.

Transportation & Parking

On-Site Parking

Parking spaces designated for vehicles with a valid disability parking certificate are available in the Camel, Robin and West and East Como lots on the State Fairgrounds on a first-come basis. Please note that these lots often fill up early each day, and there is no guarantee that space will be available. The cost is \$16 per day (cash only).

Wheelchair-Accessible Park & Ride

The State Fair provides a free Park & Ride lot with free wheelchair-accessible bus service exclusively for people with disabilities and their companions. The lot, open to those with disability parking certificates or disability license plates, is located south of the State Fairgrounds at Oscar Johnson Arena, 1039 De Courcy Circle, St. Paul, MN 55108. From Snelling Avenue, exit at Energy Park Drive; travel east past the Accord office building to the first left turn, and head to the north side of Oscar Johnson Arena. Parking is available on a first-come basis. Face coverings are required on all buses.

Buses run continuously 8 a.m. to midnight daily (11 p.m. on Labor Day). Passengers are dropped off and picked up at the Como Loop Gate #9.

Other Park & Ride Lots

The State Fair's free Park & Ride service includes approximately 30 lots in the metro area located closer to the fairgrounds. A select number of lots are serviced by buses that are mostly wheelchair accessible. All other lots are serviced by a limited number of wheelchair-accessible buses. Face coverings are required on all buses.

Other Express Bus Service

Metro Transit, along with Southwest Transit and Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, offers State Fair Express Bus service for a small fee from numerous locations with free parking throughout the metro area. All Express Bus service is wheelchair accessible. Face coverings are required on all buses.

Metro Mobility

Metro Mobility drops off and picks up passengers at two locations on the fairgrounds ([see map](#)):

- At the North End Gate #2
- At Como Loop Gate #9

Face coverings are required on Metro Mobility shuttles.

Rideshare Apps and Taxi Service

Learn more about designated drop-off and pick-up points at mnstatefair.org/transportation/taxi-and-rideshare/

Regular Route Buses and Light Rail Transit

Metro Transit regular routes 960, 84, 61, 3 and the A Line serve the fairgrounds. All regular route service is wheelchair accessible. Face coverings are required on all buses.

Passenger Drop-Off Areas

Drivers wishing to drop off passengers and then leave the fairgrounds or continue to a parking area should do so either at the Como Loop Gate #9 (1741 Como Ave.) or outside the North End Gate #2 (1807 Hoyt Ave.). Charter buses drop off passengers at Gate #18. HomeTown Mobility booths that rent wheelchairs and electric scooters are located just inside each of these gates.

ASL Interpreting Services

During the fair, ASL interpreters are available to assist guests 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. If you would like ASL interpretation during your visit, please contact us by email at accessibility@mnstatefair.org, by phone at 651-288-4448, or stop by the Admin Too Building on Cosgrove Street, east of the Bandshell. (Advance arrangements are recommended. Requests for interpreter services will be accommodated based on interpreter availability.)

Schedule

ASL interpretation is offered at these free shows each day, no reservations required.

MNHS Presents History On-A-Schtick

Daily at 10 a.m.; Located at the Schell's Stage at Schilling Amphitheater

Raptor Displays and Flying Demonstration: Daily at 11 a.m. ; Located at the DNR Garden Stage (no show Wednesday, Sept. 1)

The Raptor Center: Wednesday, Sept. 1, 11 a.m.; Located at the DNR Volunteer Outdoor Stage

Thank A Farmer: Daily at 1 p.m.; Located at the Christensen Farms Stage

All-Star Stunt Dogs Splash: Daily at 2 p.m.; Located at The North Woods Stage

Timberworks Lumberjack Show: Daily at 3 p.m.; Located at The North Woods Stage

Looking Inside the Hive: Daily at 4:30 p.m.; Located in the Agriculture Horticulture Building

Hmong Minnesota Day (select parts of the stage program will be ASL interpreted):
Monday, Sept. 6; Located in Dan Patch Park

Bandshell Tonight! Shows

ASL interpreting is also available upon request for evening Bandshell Tonight! shows at the Leinie Lodge Bandshell. Requests should be made at least 14 days prior to the concert. Contact accessibility@mnstatefair.org or 651-288-4448. Bandshell shows are free with fair admission.

Grandstand Shows

- Grandstand Concert Series: mnstatefair.org/grandstand/
- Buying Grandstand Tickets: mnstatefair.org/tickets/grandstand-tickets/
- Grandstand Info Guide: mnstatefair.org/general-info/grandstand-info-guide/

Note: State Fair admission is not included in the purchase of Grandstand Concert Series tickets. Customers must purchase admission into the fairgrounds in addition to the Grandstand ticket.

Wheelchair-Accessible Seating

There are several wheelchair seating locations in the Grandstand. These are available for purchase online, over the phone or in-person (see the “Buying Grandstand Tickets” link above). Ticket buyers who require wheelchair-accessible locations may purchase up to three companion seats for each wheelchair location, subject to availability.

Guests using wheelchairs may enter the Grandstand by way of the ramp at the west end of the Grandstand, the Grandstand Ramp from Carnes Avenue, or the elevators at the east and west ends of the Grandstand. For more information, call 651-288-4427.

ASL Interpretation

ASL interpreting is available upon request for the Grandstand Concert Series. Requests must be made at least 14 days prior to the concert. To purchase Grandstand tickets and request an interpreter, please call Etix (800-514-3849) or the State Fair Ticket Office (651-288-4427), or purchase in-person at the State Fair Ticket Office.

Assistive Listening Devices

Assistive listening devices are available free for use during Grandstand shows. Receivers and headsets are available from the guest services desk on the east side of the Grandstand Plaza. A valid driver’s license or state ID and a credit card are required for check-out. (The credit card will only be charged if the receiver and headset are not returned or are damaged.)

Accessible Entertainment & Exhibition Seating

All entertainment venues, indoor and outdoor, have access for entry, exit and viewing. Special seating areas are available for guests with disabilities on a first-come basis.

Sensory-Friendly Visits

New in 2021! Fraser Sensory Building

This new take-a-break oasis is specially created for fair guests of all ages with sensory-processing challenges who may find the sights, sounds, smells and crowds of the fair overwhelming.

The Fraser take-a-break sensory space in the Fraser Sensory Building offers a calming atmosphere, support staff and private side entrance. Fraser-trained sensory support volunteers will help fair guests calm their sensory systems with tools and techniques – such as weighted blankets and shoulder wraps, calming music, floor cushions, an exercise ball and fidget toys – so they can rejoin the fun.

Front-of-building activities include games, giveaways, special guests, employment information and educational resources. Fraser, a nonprofit that has served Minnesotans for more than 85 years, is the premier provider and expert on services that intersect the needs of autism, mental health and diverse intellectual, emotional and physical needs.

Located on the west side of Cosgrove Street, south of the Home Improvement Building
Open daily, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (8 p.m. on Labor Day)

Tips for Visiting the Minnesota State Fair With Sensory Sensitivities

Below are tips to help you make the most of your day at the fair.

When to Visit

- Come early in the day. Arriving by 8 a.m. will enable you to enjoy much of the fairgrounds before it gets crowded and the noise gets louder. Many people come as early as 6 a.m. when we open, walk through the barns and livestock area to see the animals, eat breakfast and stroll the grounds. The **Pet Pavilions** and **Kemps Little Farm Hands** areas open at 8 a.m.; the other buildings and exhibits open at 9 a.m. and are rarely crowded right when they open. The rides and games at **Kidway** open at 9 a.m., and **Mighty Midway** opens at 10 a.m., and are not usually busy in the morning. Lines for activities and food are often shorter earlier in the day.
- We also recommend coming on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. The attendance on these days (especially Wednesday) is much less than on the weekends. Lines for activities and food tend to be shorter on these days.

Things to Do

- The **Fraser Sensory Building** is a new oasis specially created for fair guests of all ages with sensory-processing challenges who may find the sights, sounds, smells and crowds of the fair overwhelming. The take-a-break sensory space in the Fraser Sensory Building offers a calming atmosphere, support staff and private side entrance. Fraser-trained sensory support volunteers will help fair guests calm their sensory systems with tools and techniques, so they can rejoin the fun. Front-of-building activities include games, giveaways, special guests, employment information and educational resources. Fraser, a nonprofit that has served Minnesotans for more than 85 years, is the premier provider and expert on services that intersect the needs of autism, mental health and diverse

intellectual, emotional and physical needs. The Fraser Sensory Building is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily (8 p.m. on Labor Day) and is located on the west side of Cosgrove Street just south of the Home Improvement Building.

- Two interactive outdoor exhibit areas in Family Fair at Baldwin Park – **Alphabet Forest** and **Math On-A-Stick** – are geared toward children and provide fun, hands-on activities in a relaxing, shaded environment; these areas tend to be less crowded and less hectic. Guests can come and go, do some or all the activities, and stay as long or as short as they'd like. These two areas are right across the street from the 4-H Building.
- On the outdoor **Family Fair Stage at Baldwin Park**, we have a variety of entertainment designed for the whole family – jugglers, music & dance, magic and more. The seating area is less crowded than other parts of the fair, and there's easy in and out access in case guests come late or want to leave early.
- The **Thank a Farmer Magic Show** is an engaging, educational program that weaves together magic tricks and fun facts about agriculture, farmers and where our food comes from. The seating area is usually less crowded, so there's room to move around. This program is presented three times a day at the Christensen Farms Stage outdoors in front of the CHS Miracle of Birth Center. (The 1 p.m. show is ASL-interpreted.)
- The FFA Leadership Center and Chapter House is right next door to the Christensen Farms Stage and the CHS Miracle of Birth Center. Venture inside for hands-on activities exploring aspects of farming and agriculture. Activities are led by youth involved in the statewide FFA program. The exhibit area is typically not as crowded and is more quiet than other places on the fairgrounds. The building is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily (3 p.m. on Labor Day).
- Many of the **animal competitions** are held in the Warner Coliseum. While some shows are very popular (such as the draft horse show, Western horse speed races and the llama-alpaca costume contest), many of the exhibitions are held throughout the day, and the Coliseum is not very full. The Coliseum air tends to be cooler too, so it's a nice place to sit and rest and watch cattle, other livestock and horses being judged.
- Another place to escape the crowds is the **Ramberg Music Cafe**. The entertainment lineup features Americana, folk, country, polka, singer-songwriters and more. There are rocking chairs and free water here, and the building isn't usually very crowded. It's open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

What to Bring

- Guests are welcome to bring their own sensory tools such as noise-reducing earmuffs or fidgets. If you forget your sensory tools, you can purchase a sensory kit at the Fraser Sensory Building. (Please note that guests will enter the fairgrounds through metal detectors, and bags may be subject to search.)
- Guests may bring in outside food and beverages (except alcohol). Having a supply of snacks, food and drinks may come in handy if the lines at food vendors are long. (Please note that bags and coolers may be subject to search at the entrance, and coolers are not permitted in the Grandstand concert seating area.)
- Face coverings are strongly urged for everyone when indoors, as well as outdoors in crowded settings, regardless of vaccine status. (Children under age 2 and those unable to medically tolerate a face covering are exempt.) We recommend that everyone carry a face covering with them in case it's needed to enter an area where they are required such as First Aid, Care & Assistance, or while waiting for or riding public transportation, including buses.

Social Narrative

Social narratives, also called pre-visit stories, provide a blueprint to explain new experiences and decrease the anxiety around unfamiliar or potentially overwhelming events.

This narrative, developed by Fraser, highlights in general the parts of the fair that might be the most challenging and explains that if individuals feel overwhelmed, they can take a break in the Fraser Sensory Building (more info above).

Read Fraser's Minnesota State Fair social narrative to help you and your family or group prepare for the fair at assets.mnstatefair.org/pdf/21-social-narrative.pdf

Services Animals

Service dogs are permitted on the fairgrounds. Service dogs are those that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please note: During the 12 days of the Minnesota State Fair, pets are not allowed on the fairgrounds, with the exception of service dogs or animals approved as part of an exhibition.

Mighty Midway & Kidway

The Minnesota State Fair's Mighty Midway and Kidway welcome you! Our first responsibility is to ensure that guests have a safe and enjoyable experience each time they visit. We encourage guests to take responsibility for choosing which amusement attractions are appropriate for them. Here is some helpful information:

Attraction Access

- Access and safety guide instructions are posted at the entrance to each attraction.
- Anyone who meets the stated requirements for access to an attraction may ride. Access will be restricted only if the owner-operator of a particular attraction determines that an individual's safety or the safety of others will be compromised.
- Guests must be able to enter and exit the attraction independently or with the aid of a responsible companion.

Responsible Companion

Whenever a guest is required to be accompanied by a responsible companion, the accompanying person must be able to safely ride the ride and assist the guest. This includes helping the guest in boarding, de-boarding and passing through the attraction; assisting the guest to maintain postural control while riding; and assisting the guest down stairs, catwalks or ladders in case evacuation is necessary. Attraction operators are neither trained nor permitted to physically assist guests.

Getting to Know the Ride/Attraction

Guests should observe an attraction through at least one cycle of operation to become familiar with the motion and dynamic actions before choosing to ride.

Before entering a ride/attraction, all guests must:

1. Meet height, weight, age and other requirements. These are posted at the entrance to each attraction. Basic information is also available on the [Mighty Midway](#) and [Kidway](#) pages of our website.
2. Follow posted attraction access rules and verbal operator instructions.
3. Sit or stand in an appropriate riding position; remain in the ride until it comes to a complete stop and you are instructed to exit.
4. Keep hands, arms, feet and legs inside the ride unit.
5. Behave in a civil and respectful manner.
6. Wear shoes and secure loose clothing, hair and other objects.

7. Not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
8. Properly use all safety equipment provided (e.g., seat belts, lap bars, harnesses, etc.) and not release safety devices until the attraction comes to a complete stop or instructed to do so by the ride operator.

Service Animals

Guests with service animals must have a companion stay with their animal while they are riding. Attraction operators cannot be responsible for the care and safety of service animals and still maintain proper control of their attraction.

Health Conditions

Persons with conditions that could be aggravated by an attraction's dynamic actions, such as bumping or jarring, are cautioned not to ride. Guests should use caution in choosing attractions if they are pregnant or have head, back, neck, stomach, heart, cardiovascular or respiratory conditions, degenerative bone disease, or other health issues.

Safety Tips for Parents & Care Givers

Parents are responsible for deciding if an attraction is appropriate before placing a child on an amusement ride.

- Never force a child to go on an amusement ride, especially those that leave the ground; a frightened child on the ground becomes a terrified child in the air.
- Explain appropriate ride behavior to children: Keep hands and feet inside; do not stand up; remain seated until the ride stops; hold on; and obey the attraction operator's instructions.
- Adults should supervise their children at all times, particularly while they are on amusement attractions.
- Parents should not ride with a child on their lap or assume that holding on to them is an adequate safety measure.
- Encourage children to respect amusement rides as moving machinery, just as they would automobiles at street crossings.
- Do not sit or stand on fences surrounding attractions. This applies to adults as well as children.
- Always pick an easy-to-find place to meet your children when they are done riding. Also arrange a place to meet in case you get separated.

Dining Guide

Dozens of food and beverage locations throughout the fairgrounds offer seating areas that are accessible by curb cuts and have hard, sturdy floor surfaces and tables that a guest can pull up to in a wheelchair or scooter or move a chair to make room for a wheelchair or scooter. Here is the list published in Access Press: accesspress.org/whet-your-appetite-for-new-fair-foods/

Other Services

Large-print daily schedules and fairgrounds maps are available at any information booth.

Questions & Feedback

accessibility@mnstatefair.org
651-288-4448

All information subject to change.