Best Bets for Groups at the Great Minnesota Get-Together!

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. It's all packed into 322 acres and 12 fun-filled days. Use this “Best Bets Guide” to help plan your day at the State Fair. This guide divides the fairgrounds into areas A through F and features the best things for groups to do in each area. After all, it would be impossible to cover the entire fairgrounds in one day! Use the following guide, in partnership with a daily schedule (found at any information booth or at mnstatefair.org), to plan your group’s itinerary of must-sees. The daily schedules feature specific times for many activities and attractions you'll read about in this Best Bets Guide. Enjoy your day at the Minnesota State Fair!

Map Area A

North End Event Center
(Face masks are required in this building.)

- American Red Cross Blood Drive: The American Red Cross brings an expanded pop-up donation site to the North End Event Center at a time when the nation's blood supply could use a big boost. Advance appointments are strongly encouraged at redcross.org/mnstatefair.

- COVID-19 Community Vaccine Clinic: The Minnesota Department of Health, Ramsey County and Homeland Health are offering all eligible fair guests the chance to get their covid vaccine. Minnesotans can walk into the community vaccination clinic at the North End Event Center to receive a Pfizer-BioNTech or J&J/Janssen vaccine (based on availability), and after a short waiting period, return to the fun of the Great Minnesota Get-Together. Appointments and walk-ins are welcome. No identification or insurance necessary.

Pet Pavilions and Outdoor Demonstration Area

The 6,600-square-foot open-air pavilion and neighboring structure are home to:

- Purebred dog breeds and a Pet Surgery Suite where live spay and neuter surgeries are performed.
- Merchants selling pet-centric treats and accessories.
- Action-packed dog agility and police K-9 shows at the Outdoor Demonstration Area.
Minnesota Corn Fairstalk

- A 24-foot-tall one-of-a-kind art installation greets guests at the North End displaying fun facts to celebrate Minnesota agriculture on Giant LED screens. Guests can contribute to the video content shown on the Minnesota Corn Fairstalk. Use #mnstatefair on social media posts showing the best parts of your fair day, and those posts may be shown on the Minnesota Corn Fairstalk screens.

Named for the Minnesota Corn Growers Association and Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council.

Little Farm Hands

- The littlest fair fans can become farm hands at this agricultural education exhibit. This hands-on exhibit brings the agricultural process to life as kids help with farm chores, collect goods to sell at the farmers market and spend their earnings at the grocery store. Farm hands ages 11 and older can become Ag-Vestigators and hunt for fun farm facts.

The North Woods

Shows taking place at The North Woods:

- Captivating canines conquer big-air stunts and race through weave poles in the All-Star Stunt Dogs Splash daily at 11 a.m., 2 & 4:30 p.m.
- Limber lumberjacks race up poles and saw through logs with lightning speed in the Timberworks Lumberjack Show daily at noon, 3, 5:30 & 7 p.m.
- The 2 & 3 p.m. shows are ASL-interpreted.
- Many food and merchandise options.

Eco Experience

- Interactive exhibits on energy saving, recycling, organic food and farming, alternative fuels, wind energy and sustainability.
- An 18,000-pound block of ice in the center of the exhibit melts during the fair raising awareness of how climate change shortens Minnesota's lake season.

Presented by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota State Fair.

Map Area B

Great Big Wheel

- The tallest traveling Ferris wheel in North America carries riders 15 stories high into the sky for breathtaking views of the State Fairgrounds, the Twin Cities and beyond. $6 per rider.

Family Fair at Baldwin Park

- Comedy, music and dance performances from 10:30 a.m. to 9:15 p.m. each day.
- Interactive educational exhibits like Alphabet Forest and Math On-A-Stick provide crafts, learning and fun for families.
**Fine Arts Center**
- See Minnesota's largest juried art exhibition featuring the work of more than 300 of the most talented artists in our great state.
- View the original 2021 Official State Fair Commemorative Art by Kevin Cannon on display all 12 days.

**Kidway**
- 30 attractions provide itty-bitty thrills for young fair fans.

**4-H Building**
- View artwork, technology and other projects created by talented Minnesota 4-H students.
- Demonstrations, shows and live competitions on stage throughout the day.

**Education Building**
- Freebie alert! Free bags, hats and other goodies from select exhibitors.
- Learn about education in Minnesota from the colleges, schools and other exhibitors represented here.
- Robot demonstrations and ribbon-winning work of K-12 students on display daily.

**Creative Activities**
- View the handwork of Minnesota's finest amateur cooks, bakers, crafters and artisans.
- Check out the Creative Activities Annex. More than a dozen shops and merchants offer options for home décor, culinary convenience and more.
- Cambria Kitchen, a state-of-the-art demonstration kitchen in the Creative Activities Building, features presentations by premier local chefs and demonstrators.

**Map Area C**

**Leinie Lodge Bandshell**
- Free musical performances all day, every day starting at 10:30 a.m.
- Bandshell Tonight! shows start at 8:30 p.m. each night and feature country, pop and rock performances by national touring acts.

**Agriculture Horticulture Building**
- View the finest in Minnesota agriculture, horticulture and bee culture all 12 days of the fair.
- The Common Table: *Minnesota Eats* exhibit teaches fair guests about sustainable, community-based food systems and how to create them. This year spotlights partners who are changing the way we grow, buy and eat food. Topics include farming with fish; solar sites for bees; straw bale gardening; and more.
- Don’t miss a Minnesota State Fair tradition – Crop Art! Artists use Minnesota-grown seeds and crops to create masterpieces.
International Bazaar

- Take a trip around the world – all in a day at the fair! Food, shopping, cultural demonstrations and music.
- On-stage music, dance and cultural performances from 10:45 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Map Area D

Ye Old Mill
- Ye Old Mill, the oldest State Fair attraction, is the original tunnel of love. Take a trip on this classic boat ride.

DNR Park
- A fish pond filled with 45 Minnesota species.
- Demonstrations, performances and music each day of the fair at the DNR Volunteer Outdoor Stage.

Ramberg Music Cafe
- See performances by singers and songwriters playing music from traditional country to bluegrass tunes beginning at 10:30 a.m. each day.

Dairy Building
- Watch a butter sculptor carve the likeness of a dairy princess out of a 90-pound block of butter.
- Find cool dairy treats (yogurt, sundaes, malts or cheese) from Minnesota’s dairy industry.
- Plenty of shops and merchandise vendors.

CHS Miracle of Birth Center
- Home to newborn calves, lambs, goats and piglets.
- Visit the Christensen Farms Stage to see a number of performances including the Thank a Farmer Magic Show, agriculture education demonstrations, FFA talent shows and talks.

Adventure Park
- High-flying attractions and extreme experiences provide massive thrills for the bravest thrill seekers in your group.

Map Area E

Livestock Complex & Barns
- Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum
  - Shopping and food vendors fill the concourse. The arena features the Minnesota State Fair Horse Show with live competitions and performances every day of the fair.
• Compeer Arena
  - Fast-action judging of cattle, llamas, goats, sheep, horses and more.
• See the animals up close at the Cattle, Swine, Horse and Sheep & Poultry barns.

Moo Booth, Oink Booth and Baa Booth
• Visit the Goat Booth and learn more about the many goat breeds through activities and displays.
• Hands-on activities and presentations help fair guests learn more about agriculture in Minnesota and how food gets from the farm to your table.
• See cows being milked in the Cattle Barn’s Milking Parlor.

Mighty Midway
• 25 world-class attractions and many concessions for thrill seekers including a new roller coaster – Riptide.

West End Market
• Music and comedy performances all day at the Schell’s Stage at Schilling Amphitheater.
• Dozens of crafters, artisans, food options and merchandise vendors.
• Don’t miss the History & Heritage Center, showcasing the State Fair’s more than 160-year history, with artifacts, photos and interactive displays.

Map Area F

Grandstand
• More than 200 merchandise vendors offering kitchen goods, clothing, home décor and more.
• 12 nights of premier entertainment. Visit mnstatefair.org for lineup and ticket information.

Joyful World Mural Park
• Imagination and joy come to life as local artists paint 12 large-scale artworks that reflect the world they want to live in. Stop by to watch the work in progress by select artists on-site daily, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (weather permitting). Please note that the artists will be working on their artwork on a rotating basis, and not all artists will be on-site every day. Murals and information about the artists will be on display all 12 days of the fair. Joyful World Mural Park is produced in partnership with Forecast Public Art.

Dan Patch Park
• Demonstrations and performances on stage throughout the day. Each day has a different theme offering a whole new experience for visitors.
  For a schedule, visit our website at mnstatefair.org/location/dan-patch-park-stage/.
**FAN Central**
- Memorabilia and merchandise from local sports teams.
- Interactive games and exhibits provide an exciting fan experience, and maybe a prize or two.

**Other - The following can be found all around the fairgrounds!**

**Shopping**
- Vendors offering merchandise and services are all over the fairgrounds. Some shopping hubs include the Grandstand, the Veranda, Merchandise Mart, Creative Activities Annex, Warner Coliseum, West End Market and International Bazaar.

**Food**
- Visit one of the more than 300 concessionaires serving up more than 500 different foods, approximately 80 of which are on-a-stick!
- The Food Building houses nearly two dozen concessionaires in one central location.

**Parade**
- Beginning and ending at the Haunted House, the daily parade takes place at 2 p.m.
- The best place to watch the parade: Leinie Lodge Bandshell or at Family Fair at Baldwin Park where all parade participants are announced.

**Media**
- More than 20 radio and television stations broadcast live from the State Fair every day.

**History Walking Tour**
- Take a self-guided walk through the fairgrounds to learn about the Great Minnesota Get-Together’s past and present. Pick up a brochure at any information booth or History Walking Tour stop.
- Great exercise: The whole tour is about a 2-mile walk!