Welcome to the Minnesota State Fair! We look forward to having you join us!
Below are tips to help you make the most of your day at the fair.

Tips for Visiting the Minnesota State Fair With Sensory Sensitivities

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. Here are links with more information:
  • mnstatefair.org/location/alphabet-forest/
  • mnstatefair.org/location/math-on-a-stick/

★ 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. Here's a link to the performance schedule: mnstatefair.org/location/family-fair-stage/

★ 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.) More info at: mnstatefair.org/booths-and-showcases/thank-a-farmer-magic-show/
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. Use our Finder tool to search the animal schedule: mnstatefair.org/schedule/ (choose the category “animals”)

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. Here is a link with the schedule: mnstatefair.org/location/ramberg-music-cafe-stage/

**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 areas, 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.*

**More Info**

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

*For more information on accessibility services and resources at the State Fair, check out the Accessibility Guide on our website: mnstatefair.org/general-info/accessibility-guide/*

*Contact our accessibility department with questions, suggestions and feedback: accessibility@mnstatefair.org • 651-288-4448*  

*Information subject to change.*