

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Best Bets 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 you 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 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!

See last page
for corresponding
map areas!



Map Area A

North End Event Center

Sweet & Selfie Experience

- Embark on a journey through a fantastical world, where larger-than-life sweets create Instagram-worthy moments and intriguing displays elevate your candy knowledge. Strike a pose by whimsical giant donuts, cookies, a Jelly Belly mosaic and a candy mountain, immersing yourself in the ultimate sugar-filled adventure. A fun, fanciful experience for all ages! (Free with fair admission)

Daily, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (8 p.m. on Labor Day)

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.
- Dog agility, obedience and training shows all day 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

- All-Star Stunt Dogs Splash daily at 11 a.m., 2 & 4:30 p.m.
- Timberworks Lumberjack Show Daily at noon, 3, 5:30 & 7 p.m.
- Timberworks Lumberjack Show ASL interpreted at noon daily. Audio described on 8/26, 8/27 & 8/31 at 3 p.m.

Eco Experience

- Interactive exhibits on energy saving, recycling, organic food and farming, alternative fuels, wind energy and sustainability.
- A giant loon inspires talk on how we can reduce threats such as using lead-free tackle and keeping lakes clean. A huge cardboard moose showcases that Minnesotans recycled 380,000 tons of cardboard alone in 2020.

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

Map Area B

Great Big Wheel

- \$7 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 2023 Official State Fair Commemorative Art by Liz Schreiber 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 and community work 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. (7:30 p.m. Labor Day) 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 1 p.m. daily Harvesting Honey program is ASL interpreted (On Wednesday, Aug. 30, the Bee Beard demonstration will be interpreted at 1 p.m. in the same location in lieu of Harvesting Honey.)
- 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. (9 p.m. Labor Day)

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. The 9:45 a.m. Fish Pond Talk is ASL interpreted.

Ramberg Center

- Play Blue Ribbon BINGO with proceeds supporting the Minnesota State Fair Foundation 501(c)(3). BINGO packets are \$10 each, cash only. Sessions held every hour 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (8 p.m. Labor Day).

Dairy Building

- Watch a 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

- This one-of-a-kind agriculture education exhibit is home to baby animals.

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, Horse and Sheep & Poultry barns and Christensen Pavilion. Note that the barns may close early on some days due to animal departure and arrival.

Moo Booth, Oink Booth, Baa Booth and Goat Booth

- Hands-on activities and presentations help fair guests learn more about agriculture in Minnesota and how food gets from the farm to your table.
- The 1 p.m. daily Milking Demonstration at the Moo Booth is ASL interpreted (On Wednesday, Aug. 30, the 4 p.m. Milking Demonstration will also be ASL-interpreted.)

Horse Barn

- Stop by the Aisle of Breeds and EquiMania!™ exhibits for a showcase of different breeds, meet horse owners and learn about horse care, horse behavior, careers and more.

Mighty Midway

- 25 world-class attractions and many concessions for thrill seekers.
- Pick up the new Mighty Midway & Kidway Fun Card at a ticket booth or kiosk.

West End Market

- MNHS Presents History On-A-Schtick will have captioning services at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 26; Sunday, Aug. 27; Wednesday, Aug. 30; Thursday, Aug. 31. Audio description services will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 26; Sunday Aug. 27; Wednesday, Aug. 30; Thursday, Aug. 31.
- 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

- Featuring four large-scale artworks painted live by local artists each day of the fair. Artists reference imagination and joy as they create murals that reflect the world they want to live in. 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!



