

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Aug. 23 - Labor Day, Sept. 3, 2018

January 2018

To: Secretaries of County Fairs
Area Agencies on Aging

From: Marie LeFebvre
Competition Manager

Re: Minnesota's 2018 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award

Enclosed are materials for the County Fair Outstanding Senior Citizen competition, a joint effort of the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota State Fair Foundation and the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs.

Packet includes:

1. Nomination procedures
2. Instructions for County Fair Outstanding Senior Selection
3. Minnesota State Fair Nomination forms
4. Outstanding Senior Citizen county winners form
5. Sample press release (for county fairs)
6. Seniors Day ideas (for county fairs)

The nomination process is explained in these materials. The forms are available online. To complete, type in the information and print the completed forms. You will not be able to save these forms once they are completed on-line. Please look them over as soon as possible, make copies if necessary, and designate a selection committee to handle the details of the competition.

County Fair winners are automatically entered into the Minnesota State Fair competition, but most have a completed nomination form submitted.

Questions, call (651) 288-4417 or email outstandingsr@mnstatefair.org.

Twelve Days of  Ending Labor Day

NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Eligibility Criteria

- The nominee must be a resident of Minnesota.
- The nominee's volunteer service must be accomplished **after reaching age 65**.
- Nominee must be **age 70 by June 1 of the current year**.
- Nominee must currently do a volunteer activity that is unpaid and demonstrates commitment to their local community.
- A previous county winner not chosen as the state winner is eligible; however, a current year's nomination form must be completed.
- You may only nominate one individual per nomination form. Couple nominations will be disqualified.

Instructions

Explain why you are nominating this person for the Outstanding Senior Citizen award. It is helpful to give specific, detailed and precise examples to assist the judges in choosing the winners. Do not hesitate to interview the person you are nominating. Nomination does not need to be kept secret. You may also speak to people at the organizations where the individual volunteers. Political and religious organization involvement will only be considered when it benefits the community. All information will be held in confidence by judges. Information submitted is not returned unless a request is made.

Judges will look for:

- Diversity of accomplishments
- How this person has touched the lives of other people in the community
- Total scope of activities, including years of service and time commitment
- Variety of services performed and involvement in organizations
- Quantity of accomplishments and amount of service **after age 65**
- Quality of activities, especially innovative services
- Geographic area covered by their service
- Individuals are encouraged to submit up to three letters of recommendation that focus on the candidate's achievements. **No more than three letters will be used in the judging process.**

The nominations will be judged by three representatives from each of the following organizations: the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota State Fair Foundation and the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs.

Program is sponsored by

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Instructions for County Fair Outstanding Senior Selection

Appoint a selection committee:

The County Fair should appoint an Outstanding Senior Citizen Award selection committee/person to handle the selection procedures as soon as possible.

Distribute the materials in the packet:

As soon as your county's selection committee has been named, provide members with the appropriate materials in this packet.

Select winners and send winner names to the County Fair:

At the end of a reasonable nomination period, the selection committee should meet and select your county's Outstanding Senior Citizen(s).

Certificates of recognition:

You may want to create a certificate to be presented to your county winners.

Entries must reach the Minnesota State Fair by Monday, August 6, 2018:

The committee must attach the official county finalist form for the county winner and attach the nomination forms (one for each gender), and send them to the Minnesota State Fair by the above deadline. The Selection Committee is encouraged to select one male and one female winner from their county that will go on to compete at the state level.

Only **one male** and **one female** nominee from each county is eligible for this award.

Please remember to send both the male and female Minnesota State Fair Nomination Forms and county winners form.

The State Fair's Outstanding Senior Citizen Award ceremony will be held August 30, 2018. Each of the county winners will be invited to sit on stage during the ceremony, followed by an open house (serving light refreshments) at the JV Bailey House for them and four guests of their choosing. A registration packet with gift items for their day at the fair will be given to each county winner in attendance.

This invitation will not go out until the **WEEK BEFORE THE MINNESOTA STATE FAIR**. The 2018 dates of the Minnesota State Fair are Aug. 23 through Sept. 3.

If you have any questions, please call (651) 288-4417 or email outstandingsr@mnstatefair.org

MALE — 2018 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award Minnesota State Fair Nomination Form

*Sponsored by the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota State Fair Foundation
and the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs*

COUNTY NAME: _____

This form and information on this award program is located on our web site at:
www.mnstatefair.org/competitions/awards-and-recognition/ .

List what the nominee (**age 70 by June 1 or older**) does for others in your organization or community after reaching the **age of 65**. Feel free to discuss your nomination with this person and collect needed volunteer activity information.

Send the information to the local County Fair by county fair date: _____

Winners will be selected and recognized at the local county fair. They will then be entered into the State Outstanding Senior Citizen Award competition. Outstanding seniors will be recognized for their service at the award ceremony at the State Fairgrounds on Senior Day, August 30, 2018.

COUNTY NAME: _____

Male Nominee Name:	Date of Birth:	Nominated by:
Address:		Address:
Home Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____	Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____		Work Phone: _____

How do you know the nominee? _____

What was the nominee's occupation before age 65? _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Complete this form and mail it to the nominated senior's County Fair contact. Information available by contacting Tiffany Gustin of MN Federation of County Fairs at mfcf.tiffany@gmail.com

FEMALE — 2018 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award Minnesota State Fair Nomination Form

*Sponsored by the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota State Fair Foundation
and the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs*

COUNTY NAME: _____

This form and information on this award program is located on our web site at:
www.mnstatefair.org/competitions/awards-and-recognition/.

List what the nominee (**age 70 by June 1 or older**) does for others in your organization or community after reaching the **age of 65**. Feel free to discuss your nomination with this person and collect needed volunteer activity information.

Send the information to the local County Fair by county fair date: _____.

Winners will be selected and recognized at the local county fair. They will then be entered into the State Outstanding Senior Citizen Award competition. Outstanding seniors will be recognized for their service at the award ceremony at the State Fairgrounds on Senior Day, August 30, 2018.

COUNTY NAME: _____

Female Nominee Name:	Date of Birth:	Nominated by:
Address:		Address:
Home Phone: _____		Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____		Work Phone: _____

How do you know the nominee? _____

What was the nominee's occupation before age 65? _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Complete this form and mail it to the nominated senior's County Fair contact. Information available by contacting Tiffany Gustin of MN Federation of County Fairs at mfcf.tiffany@gmail.com

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(Please make a copy of these three forms — use one for the female nominee and one for the male nominee. Copy additional pages as needed.)

Name of Nominee _____

Volunteer Activities

List the volunteer activities and benefits to the community/organization:

Volunteer activity/organization: _____

Activity or responsibility: _____

Time commitment: _____

Benefit to the community: _____

Volunteer activity/organization: _____

Activity or responsibility: _____

Time commitment: _____

Benefit to the community: _____

Volunteer activity/organization: _____

Activity or responsibility: _____

Time commitment: _____

Benefit to the community: _____

Volunteer activity/organization: _____

Activity or responsibility: _____

Time commitment: _____

Benefit to the community: _____

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Name of Nominee _____

Volunteer activity/organization: _____

Activity or responsibility: _____

Time commitment: _____

Benefit to the community: _____

Community Memberships

Tell us about community organizations or committees she/he belongs to. Be sure to list any positions or offices held by the nominee within these organizations.

Organization

Responsibilities

Time Spent

Organization	Responsibilities	Time Spent
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Service Awards

List outstanding accomplishments, awards or honors she/he has received *after reaching age 65.*

Award

Year Received

Award	Year Received
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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Name of Nominee _____

What does this nominee do that makes him/her stand out as an "outstanding" senior volunteer?
 Use specific examples.

We welcome up to three letters of recommendation for the nominee. Pictures are not admissible.
(No more than three letters will be used in the judging process.)

2018 OUTSTANDING SENIOR CITIZEN County Winners

This form (along with their county nomination form) must reach the Minnesota State Fair by Monday, August 6, 2018 before 4:30 p.m.

Either scan and email: outstandingsr@mnstatefair.org or mail to:

Outstanding Senior Citizen,
Minnesota State Fair, 1265 Snelling Avenue North, St. Paul, MN 55108

- Attach nomination forms and letters of recommendation for your county winners to this form.
- Please try to nominate one male and one female. Only one male and one female allowed per county.
- Correspondence from the Minnesota State Fair will be sent to the person responsible for distributing these items. Please include complete address and telephone number for the Selection Committee Chairperson listed below:

Selection Committee for _____ County

Chairperson _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

NAME AND ADDRESS OF COUNTY WINNERS

	MALE	FEMALE
NAME		
ADDRESS		
CITY, STATE, ZIP		

County Fair must complete this form and return to the Minnesota State Fair, along with the nomination forms of the County Winners.

Sample Press Release

_____ County

Outstanding Senior Citizen Awards

Nominations from county residents are now being sought for the 2018 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award for _____ County. The award recognizes outstanding senior citizens who have contributed their time and talent to benefit their community after reaching the age of 65.

They will be honored at the _____ County Fair on (date) _____. Official nomination forms are available by contacting _____ at _____ (phone#).

The nomination forms can also be picked up at: _____

Winners at the county level will move on to compete at the state level at the Minnesota State Fair.

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Aug. 23 - Labor Day, Sept. 3, 2018

SENIORS DAY IDEAS FOR COUNTY FAIRS

- To attract a great crowd for your county fair, consider having a Seniors Day. For added incentive, offer free food or admission discounts for seniors. The menu can be very simple and remember seniors will often bring along their sons, daughters and grandchildren.
- Ask an outside group to run your outstanding senior citizens ceremony. Possible sponsors include:
 - Area agencies on aging
 - County volunteers or aging coordinators (usually employees of county social service departments)
 - Civic organizations
 - County committees on aging
 - Local newspapers
- Offer free blood pressure checks or other health services to seniors on Seniors Day. County public health nurses could provide these services free of charge.
- A senior citizens talent contest is fun to hold on Seniors Day. Or you could organize an afternoon of music put on by seniors themselves.
- Contact county 4-H groups and have them offer free beverages on Seniors Day. This could raise awareness of 4-H and encourage inter-generational cooperation.
- Try having a senior citizen booth where senior citizen clubs/organizations could sell homemade crafts and/or food.
- On Seniors Day, hold a recognition ceremony for the winners of the County Outstanding Senior Citizens award and everyone nominated. Include music, speeches, corsages and awards in the program.
- After the selection of the county's Outstanding Senior Citizen(s), check to see if communities are having any parades in which the winning seniors could participate. This is an honor for the seniors and usually welcomed by the parade committee

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