

# MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **2019 Minnesota State Fair Begins One Week From Today** *Helpful Hints, Bargains and Need-To-Know Information*

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St. Paul, Minn. – The 2019 Great Minnesota Get-Together begins one week from today on Thursday, Aug. 22, and runs through Labor Day, Sept. 2. This year’s 12 days of fun feature dozens of new attractions, exhibits and foods; a variety of deals and discounts; numerous special events; hundreds of free live music and entertainment performances; and many options for getting to the fair.

#### **New Attractions, Exhibits & Foods**

The highlight of the 2019 fair is the redevelopment of the North End of the fairgrounds. It features the North End Event Center, a stunning brand-new centerpiece, which houses a 12,000-square-foot state-of-the-art exhibit hall and will be the fair-time home to annually changing museum-quality exhibits that are free with fair admission. The inaugural exhibit is ANGRY BIRDS UNIVERSE: THE EXHIBITION. Also found at the North End are the Minnesota Corn Fairstalk, Minnesota Marquees, Minnesota-based specialty merchants, 6-foot-tall colorful figures created by prominent Minnesota artist Adam Turman and more.

Several other new attractions and celebrations are featured this year, including the Goat Booth, an education station all about goats; the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Giant Slide; two new Park & Ride locations; new History Walking Tour stops; the Sioux Chef® Presents the Indigenous Food Lab at Dan Patch Park on Sunday, Sept. 1; and more. Visit [mnstatefair.org/new-this-year/attraction/](http://mnstatefair.org/new-this-year/attraction/) for descriptions and photos of all new attractions and exhibits. High-resolution photos of a selection of new attractions and exhibits are available for media use at [mnstatefair.org/get-involved/media/new-this-year/attraction/](http://mnstatefair.org/get-involved/media/new-this-year/attraction/).

Thirty-one new foods and seven new food vendors have been added to the fair’s list of more than 500 food options. Visit [mnstatefair.org/new-this-year/food/](http://mnstatefair.org/new-this-year/food/) for descriptions of this year’s Official New Foods for the 2019 fair. High-resolution photos of the new foods are available for media use at [mnstatefair.org/get-involved/media/new-this-year/food/](http://mnstatefair.org/get-involved/media/new-this-year/food/).

#### **Music & Entertainment**

The 2019 free entertainment lineup features more than 900 shows – all free with the price of State Fair admission. Visit [mnstatefair.org/free-live-music-and-shows/](http://mnstatefair.org/free-live-music-and-shows/) for the complete lineup.

The historic State Fair Grandstand is home to 11 nights of big-name entertainment from Brandi Carlile to Logic to Lionel Richie to Trace Adkins & Clint Black and more. Tickets are available through Etix at [etix.com](http://etix.com) or by calling 800-514-3849. Visit [mnstatefair.org/grandstand/](http://mnstatefair.org/grandstand/) for the complete 2019 Grandstand Concert Series lineup (sponsored by Sleep Number).

A nightly Fireworks Spectacular (sponsored by Mazda) follows each Grandstand show, weather permitting.

#### **Special Events**

Many special events are scheduled at the Great Minnesota Get-Together including these:

The Milk Run 5K (sponsored by Great River Energy, Midwest Dairy, Minnesota Farmers Union and Giggles’ Campfire Grill) kicks off at 7:45 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 25. Visit [mnstatefair.org/competitions/milk-run-5k-race/](http://mnstatefair.org/competitions/milk-run-5k-race/) for more race information. Runner registration is full for 2019.

Military Appreciation Day is Tuesday, Aug. 27, when the Minnesota State Fair offers admission discounts and special events throughout the day. The day begins at 9:15 a.m. with a ceremony at the Veterans Garden on the south side of the Agriculture Horticulture Building (sponsored by Bremer Bank). It is followed by an opening ceremony flag-raising program at 9:45 a.m. at the Leinie Lodge Bandshell as the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Red Bulls are welcomed home from an overseas deployment. The 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division “Red Bull” Band will perform at the Bandshell at 10:30 and 11:45 a.m. At 2 p.m., the State Fair Daily Parade will feature military units.

Two Minnesota senior citizens will be recognized for exceptional community service at the Outstanding Senior Citizens Award program (sponsored by Humana). The ceremony is set for 10:30 a.m. on Seniors Day, Thursday, Aug. 29, at the Leinie Lodge Bandshell.

In its 47<sup>th</sup> year as a Minnesota State Fair tradition, the Amateur Talent Contest (sponsored by JACK'S® Pizza) showcases Minnesota's top talent. During the first 10 days of the fair, semifinals will be held at 6 p.m. nightly at the Leinie Lodge Bandshell. Winners from semifinals will compete in the finals at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 1, at the Grandstand. This is a free event. Visit [mnstatefair.org/competitions/amateur-talent-contests/](http://mnstatefair.org/competitions/amateur-talent-contests/) for additional Amateur Talent Contest information.

Open class, 4-H and FFA competition judging takes place throughout the fair. For more information on when judging is taking place and where to see the animals, visit the daily schedule for each day's livestock and horse events at [mnstatefair.org/schedule/](http://mnstatefair.org/schedule/).

The 2019 Best Awards will be announced at 10 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 29 on the International Bazaar Stage. Awards will be presented to the very best of the State Fair's more than 1,000 commercial exhibit and food vendors.

### **Ticketed Attractions**

In addition to dozens of rides and games at Mighty Midway and Kidway, other attractions include: the return of the Great Big Wheel (sponsored by Target), Space Tower, Ye Old Mill, Giant Slide, Go Karts (sponsored by FVP), Haunted House, River Raft Ride (sponsored by SPLASH), SkyGlider and Skyride, among others.

Sea Ray and Zero Gravity will make their debut at Mighty Midway, and Merry-Go-Round will be new to Kidway (sponsored by DISH).

### **Deals & Discounts**

Pre-fair discount admission tickets, ride & game tickets and Blue Ribbon Bargain Books (sponsored by Minnesota Lottery) are available through Wednesday, Aug. 21, at the State Fairgrounds Ticket Office, participating Cub locations, numerous locations in greater Minnesota and Hudson, Wis., (while supplies last) and Minneapolis Visitor Information. Visit [mnstatefair.org/tickets/](http://mnstatefair.org/tickets/) for pre-fair discount pricing and locations. Important note: discount tickets may also be purchased online at [mnstatefair.org](http://mnstatefair.org) until **9 p.m. on Aug. 21**.

The State Fair offers special admission discounts on six of its 12 days with Thrifty Thursday, Seniors & Kids Days, Military Appreciation Day and Read & Ride Day. Many vendors throughout the fairgrounds also offer special savings on these deal days. Visit [mnstatefair.org/deals-and-discounts/](http://mnstatefair.org/deals-and-discounts/) for a listing of special discount days.

All-Day or Early Bird specials are offered each weekday on Mighty Midway and Kidway rides & games. Visit [mnstatefair.org/tickets/ride-and-attraction-tickets/](http://mnstatefair.org/tickets/ride-and-attraction-tickets/) for dates and more information on Mighty Midway and Kidway deals.

The 2019 Blue Ribbon Bargain Book (sponsored by Minnesota Lottery) offers 150 coupons with savings of at least 30 percent on food, merchandise and attractions. Bargain Books are \$5 and available wherever pre-fair discount tickets are sold before the fair (not at [mnstatefair.org](http://mnstatefair.org)), and at State FairWear Gift Shops and Bargain Book & State Fair Poster Carts during the fair. Coupons are valid all 12 days, and a preview of all the bargains is available at [mnstatefair.org/blue-ribbon-bargain-book/](http://mnstatefair.org/blue-ribbon-bargain-book/).

The Deals, Drawings & Giveaways Guide (sponsored by Minnesota Rusco), available at State Fair information booths or at [mnstatefair.org/deals-and-discounts/](http://mnstatefair.org/deals-and-discounts/), offers complete details on special day deals, items for \$1 and less, freebies and sign-up-to-win drawings.

### **Getting to the Get-Together**

Free parking with free shuttle bus service to and from the fair is available from 8 a.m. to midnight daily at more than 30 locations within a short distance of the fairgrounds. Visit [mnstatefair.org/transportation/free-park-and-ride/](http://mnstatefair.org/transportation/free-park-and-ride/) for a full list of Park & Ride locations.

State Fair Express Bus service is offered by Metro Transit, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority and SouthWest Transit at dozens of sites throughout the Twin Cities area. Visit [mnstatefair.org/transportation/metro-transit/](http://mnstatefair.org/transportation/metro-transit/) for more information on pricing and a list of Express Bus Service locations.

App-based ride services have two designated drop-off and pick-up locations (sponsored by Lyft) for getting to and from the fair. Visit [mnstatefair.org/transportation/taxi-and-rideshare/](http://mnstatefair.org/transportation/taxi-and-rideshare/) for more information.

Metro Transit bus routes 960, 84, 3 and the A Line are great options for getting to the fairgrounds. Visit [mnstatefair.org/transportation/metro-transit/](http://mnstatefair.org/transportation/metro-transit/) for more information on these regular Metro Transit routes.

Three free secured bicycle parking areas are available on the fairgrounds and open from 6 a.m. to midnight. Visit [mnstatefair.org/parking/bicycle/](http://mnstatefair.org/parking/bicycle/) for more information on biking to the State Fair.

Parking in State Fairgrounds lots is \$15 (cash only). Motorcycle parking is available for \$9 in a secured lot on the south side of Como Avenue across from Gate #7. Visit [mnstatefair.org/parking/vehicle/](http://mnstatefair.org/parking/vehicle/) for a map of State Fairgrounds parking lot locations. There is no guaranteed parking as space is limited and all lots are filled on a first-come basis.

### **Guest Services & Information**

The Great Minnesota Get-Together offers many free services and amenities for guests' convenience, including: free trolley rides on the north end of the fairgrounds; information booths stocked with free maps (sponsored by Star Tribune), daily schedules (sponsored by Rally Health), free ID wristbands, specialty brochures, Deals, Drawings & Giveaways Guides (sponsored by Minnesota Rusco) and complimentary sunscreen; a free Wi-Fi hotspot at the West Grandstand Plaza (sponsored by DragNFly Wireless); cell phone charging stations (sponsored by Device Pitstop) and First Aid Stations (sponsored by Regions Hospital) located on the east and west ends of the fairgrounds.

The free Minnesota State Fair App is the official iPhone and Android smartphone users' guide to navigating the Great Minnesota Get-Together. It is available through the App Store and Google Play and features the popular Fair Finder tool to search for State Fair foods, shops and booths. It also includes daily schedule information.

Media: The 2019 Minnesota State Fair Media Kit is available to view or print at <https://assets.mnstatefair.org/pdf/19-media-kit.pdf>.

*About the Minnesota State Fair:* The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world, attracting more than 2 million visitors annually. Showcasing Minnesota's finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is always 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. Visit [mnstatefair.org](http://mnstatefair.org) for more information. The 2019 Minnesota State Fair runs Aug. 22 - Labor Day, Sept. 2.

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