

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Lara Hughes • Marketing & Communications Supervisor • Media Hotline: 651-288-4321 • Media Email: media@mnstatefair.org

Two Weeks to “Kickoff to Summer at the Fair” Tickets Are Still Available

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St. Paul, Minn. – Kickoff to Summer at the Fair sponsored by Paddle North, the spring-into-summer event running May 26-30, is just around the corner, and tickets are still available. This five-day event includes food, brews, live music, shopping, free parking and family fun at the iconic Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Visit mnstatefair.org/kickoff-to-summer/ for event details.

Media Photos: A gallery of high-resolution Kickoff to Summer at the Fair publicity photos is available for media use at: mnstatefair.org/get-involved/media/kickoff-to-summer-at-the-fair-gallery/.

Kickoff to Summer at the Fair features 31 popular State Fair food and beverage vendors, an eclectic lineup of music and entertainment on three stages, Trivia Mafia games, the Giant Slide*, the Minnesota State Fair Community Gives Together collection of items for local nonprofits, board and yard games, kids activities, door prizes, State Fair mascot appearances, photo ops, specialty Minnesota merchandise shopping* at nearly 20 vendors, a Memorial Day commemoration, free parking and more. (*Additional cost)

Participating food vendors serving fair food favorites and refreshing summer brews will include: Al’s Subs & Malt Shop, Andy’s Grille, Baba’s, Ball Park Cafe, Bayou Bob’s, Big Fat Bacon, Blue Moon Dine-In Theater, Café Caribe, Cheese-on-a-Stick and Fresh Squeezed Lemonade, Coasters, Dino’s Gyros, Duke’s Poutine, El Sol Mexican Foods, French Meadow Bakery & Cafe, Fresh French Fries, Hansen’s Foot Long Hot Dogs & Corn Dogs (two locations), Hildebrand Concessions (two locations), Mancini’s al Fresco, Minnesnowii Shave Ice, Mouth Trap Cheese Curds, The Perfect Pickle, Produce Exchange, Pronto Pups (two locations), Que Viet Concessions, RC’s BBQ, Summer Lakes Beverage, Sweets & Treats, Sweet Martha’s Cookie Jar, Tiny Tim Donuts, Tot Boss, and West Indies Soul Food. To view menus and vendor offerings visit mnstatefair.org/kickoff-to-summer/vendors/.

Three stages of free entertainment will include: Alex Rossi Band, Shalo Lee & Northern Southern, The Swamp Poppas, High & Mighty, Miss Myra & The Moonshiners, The Shaw Brothers, Tom Hunter Band, Saddle Sores, Javier Trejo & Caballo Cosmico, Jerry Frasier - Comic Magician, Rion & Carlyne Naomi, The Dollipops, Wain McFarlane, 204th Army Band, Zumba® Fitness, Miss Shannon’s Sock Hop, Come Square Dance, Dance & Entertainment Studio, Art Dance Studio, Rhythm & Swing, O’Shea Irish Dance and fair-themed games. In addition to the stages, DJ entertainment will be provided by Adagio Djay Entertainment and select food and beverage vendors will also offer entertainment.

Specialty shopping with unique finds from local artisans and merchants will include: Angry Minnow Vintage and Crowned Crow, Crystal Vision, East Central Sports, Glitter Glamper, GoodThings, Hagen and Oats, Homespun Gifts & Décor, Humana, Minnesota Rusco, Must Be Ruff, Paddle North, Paul’s Porch Pots, Pleasureland RV, Renewal By Andersen, Sota Clothing, Star Tribune, State FairWear and Whatnot Boutique.

On Monday, May 30, there will be a **Memorial Day Commemoration** honoring those who died while serving in the U.S. military with a flag raising at 10 a.m. at the West End Gate Plaza, 204th Army Band performances throughout the day at Family Fun Stage at DNR Park, and a playing of “Taps” and a National Moment of Remembrance at the West End Gate Plaza at 3 p.m.

The **Minnesota State Fair Community Gives Together** will highlight three local nonprofits which support veterans, first responders, frontline medical staff and others, along with their families. They are: Believet Canine, Invisible Wounds Project and Mangus Veterans Foundation. Guests can stop by their booths to meet service dogs, try the dunk tank and minnow races, drop off a gift card donation for veterans or make a financial contribution. To find out what each organization needs visit mnstatefair.org/community-gives-together/.

Admission is \$12.50 per person (fees and tax included); children 4 and under are free and do not require a ticket. Each ticket is valid for a specific date and timeslot. Attendance is limited to 15,000 people for each of the **seven timeslots** listed below, and currently tickets are available for each one. This event is rain or shine.

Thursday, May 26, 4:30-9:30 p.m.

Friday, May 27, 4:30-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 28, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, May 28, 4:30-9:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, May 29, 4:30-9:30 p.m.

Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tickets are available through Etix at etix.com (use this URL for the hyperlink - <https://event.etix.com/ticket/e/1024907/>), by calling 800-514-3849, or can be purchased at event entrances on the day of the event (credit or debit only) until attendance capacity is reached. For additional State Fair ticket information, call 651-288-4427.

Free parking is available. For map and directions, visit mnstatefair.org/kickoff-to-summer/

Kickoff to Summer at the Fair is sponsored by Paddle North. Additional sponsor support is provided by Adagio DJay Entertainment (DJ Entertainment), Minnesota Rusco (Door Prizes), Cal Spas (Family Fun Stage), Explore Minnesota (#OnlyinMN Photo Op), Humana (Event Program) and DragNFly Wireless (Wi-Fi Hot Spot).

Kickoff to Summer at the Fair sponsor Paddle North designs, makes and sells paddle boards, kayaks, utility docks, lake floats, gear and apparel that is fun to use on water. Using timeless designs that keep the focus on blending in, with, and being a part of nature, Paddle North has built a brand and a sustainable company that outlives all by taking care of customers at an unprecedented level and by building products that work better than advertised. Learn more about the products, team and the lake lifestyle at paddlenorth.com.

The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world. Showcasing Minnesota’s finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. The fair is self-supporting and has not received state government funding since 1949. The 2022 Minnesota State Fair will run Aug. 25 through Labor Day, Sept. 5. Visit mnstatefair.org for more information.

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