

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

NEWS RELEASE

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Don't Miss Out on Fair Food, Music and Fun at “Kickoff to Summer at the Fair” Advance Discount Tickets Available Online

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St. Paul, Minn. – Tickets are currently available for Kickoff to Summer at the Fair, the popular spring-into-summer event running May 25-28. Save \$3 when buying tickets in advance online. This four-day event includes food, brews, music, shopping, free parking and family fun at the beautiful and iconic Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Visit mnstatefair.org/kickoff-to-summer/ for all the 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 is a perfect chance to kick back, relax and enjoy a slice of the State Fair in May. Attendance is limited each day so guests can have space to stroll and savor the experience.

Additional reasons to not miss out include:

- State Fair food favorites from 35 vendors, including Rick's Pizza (home of the popular pickle pizza), Sweet Martha's Cookie Jar, The Mouth Trap Cheese Curds, Pronto Pups, Richie's Cheese Curd Tacos, Fresh French Fries, The Perfect Pickle, Auntie M's Gluten Free, and more – see full list below
 - Can Can at the Fair: Mini Golf On-A-Stick – a brand-new State Fair-themed nine-hole mini golf course brought to you by Can Can Wonderland*
 - Free outdoor music, plus roving entertainment and mascot high fives with Fairchild and Fairborne
 - Giant Slide rides*
 - Extensive offering of summer brews and hangout space at Andy's Grille, Ball Park Cafe, Cafe Caribe, Coasters, Dino's Gyros, Giggles' Campfire Grill, RC's BBQ, Summer Lakes Beverage and others
 - Free fun stuff to do – guided historical walking tours of the fairgrounds, Trivia Mafia challenges with prizes, pickleball court, yard and board games to play with friends and family and easy crafts for kids
 - Shopping at 20 specialty merchants, including Sota Clothing, State FairWear, Must be Ruff, Lucky Shots Pickleball Club, Angry Minnow Vintage, Paddle North and more – see full list below
 - Skateboard demonstrations and lessons*
 - Food donation collection in partnership with Cub to support Second Harvest Heartland
- (*additional cost)

Admission: Tickets are \$12.50 each in advance online (fees and tax included); children 4 and under are free and do not require a ticket. Save \$3 when purchased in advance. Tickets at the gate will be \$15.50 each (via QR code; credit/debit only; fees and tax included). Each ticket is valid for a specific day. Choose the day when purchasing tickets. Attendance is limited per day. This event is rain or shine. Tickets are non-refundable.

Thursday, May 25, 4-9 p.m.
Friday, May 26, 4-9 p.m.
Saturday, May 27, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday, May 28, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tickets are available through Etix at [etix.com](https://event.etix.com/ticket/v/16820?partner_id=4587) (use this URL for the hyperlink – https://event.etix.com/ticket/v/16820?partner_id=4587), by calling 800-514-3849, or can be purchased at event entrances on the day of the event (via QR code, credit/debit only) until attendance capacity is reached. For additional State Fair ticket information, call 651-288-4467.

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

Participating food vendors serving fair food favorites and refreshing summer brews will include: Al's Subs & Malt Shop, Andy's Grille, Auntie M's Gluten Free, Baba's, Ball Park Cafe, Bayou Bob's, Big Fat Bacon, Blue Moon Dine-In Theater, Cafe Caribe, Cheese-on-a-Stick and Fresh Squeezed Lemonade, Chimborazo, Coasters, Dino's Gyros, Duke's Poutine, El Sol Mexican Foods, Fresh French Fries, Giggles' Campfire Grill (two locations, beverage sales only), Hansen's Foot Long Hot Dogs & Corn Dogs, Minnesnowii Shave Ice, The Mouth Trap Cheese Curds, Nelson's Foot Long Hot Dogs & Corn Dogs, The Perfect Pickle, Produce Exchange, Pronto Pups (two locations), Que Viet Concessions, RC's BBQ, Richie's Cheese Curd Tacos, Rick's Pizza, Sambusa Express, Summer Lakes Beverage, Sweet Martha's Cookie Jar, Sweets & Treats, 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 performances by: Atahualpa, The Art of Dance Studio, The Bad Companions, Dance & Entertainment Studios, David Malmberg, Gen X Jukebox, George of the Juggle, Heartless, Jacuzzi Puma, Jaybee and The Routine, Mary Cutrufello, Miss Shannon's Sock Hop, O'Shea Irish Dance, Sarah Morris, The String Showdown, Sweet Colleens and Zumba® Fitness. 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: 3rd Lair SkatePark (merchandise as well as lessons and demonstrations), Angry Minnow Vintage, Beisswenger's Hardware, Bulljive, Crystal Visions, Ecofun Motorsports, Every Third Saturday, Glitter Glamper, GoodThings, Hagen and Oats, Holly House Boutique, LeafFilter Gutter Protection, Lucky Shots Pickleball Club, Mattress Firm, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, Minnesota Rusco, Must be Ruff, Paddle North, Paul's Porch Pots, Rainbow Midwest Inc., Sota Clothing, Star Tribune, State FairWear and T-Mobile.

The Minnesota State Fair Community Gives Together in partnership with Cub, will be accepting food donations to support Second Harvest Heartland at event entrances. Most needed items include canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat (chicken, tuna and salmon), peanut butter, instant potatoes and rice, cereal and oatmeal, and low-sugar, low-sodium and gluten-free items. To find out more, visit mnstatefair.org/community-gives-together/.

Sponsors for Kickoff to Summer at the Fair include: Mattress Firm (Mascots), Adagio Djay Entertainment (DJ Entertainment), Treasure Island Resort & Casino (Visitors Plaza Stage and Trolley), Minnesota Rusco (Door Prizes), Humana (Event Program and Information Booths), T-Mobile (Grandstand Building), Cal Spas (Family Fun Stage), Renewal By Andersen (Game Zone) and DragNFly Wireless (Wi-Fi Hot Spot).

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. Follow along on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok @mnstatefair for year-round Minnesota State Fair updates. The 2023 Minnesota State Fair will run Aug. 24 through Labor Day, Sept. 4. Visit mnstatefair.org for more information.

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