

# MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **“Kickoff to Summer at the Fair” Is Right Around the Corner! Advance Discount Tickets Available Online**

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St. Paul, Minn. – Kickoff to Summer at the Fair, the popular slice-of-the-fair and spring-into-summer event, is right around the corner – May 23-26. This four-day event includes food, brews, music, shopping, free parking and family fun at the beautiful and iconic Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Save \$3 when buying tickets in advance online. Visit [mnstatefair.org/kickoff-to-summer/](http://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/](http://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. Reasons to not miss out include:

- State Fair food favorites from nearly 40 vendors, including the 2023 State Fair fan favorite Amish doughnuts from Peachey’s Baking Company, pickle pizza from Rick’s Pizza, Sweet Martha’s chocolate chip cookies, 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
- State Fair specialty beers such as Mini Donut Beer, Chocolate Chip Cookie Beer and Key Lime Pie Beer, as well as an extensive offering of summer brews and hangout space at Andy’s Grille, Ball Park Cafe, Cafe Caribe, Coasters, Dino’s Gyros, RC’s BBQ and others
- Mini golf on-a-stick by Can Can Wonderland\*; The Arcade\* (new this year) with dozens of coin-operated arcade games
- Free outdoor music, plus roving entertainment and mascot high fives with Fairchild and Fairborne
- Giant Slide rides\*
- Free fun stuff to do – inflatable axe throwing, Family Fun Zone, guided historical walking tours of the fairgrounds, Trivia Mafia challenges with prizes, pickleball court and yard and board games to play with friends and family
- Shopping at 20+ specialty merchants, including Sota Clothing; State FairWear; Must be Ruff; Always Northern Permanent Jewelry; GoodThings; Paddle North; Roots, Shoots & Leaves; and more – see full list below
- Skateboard demonstrations and lessons\*
- Learn life-saving skills – Hands-Only CPR and AED demonstrations led by certified trainers and cardiac arrest survivors

(\*additional cost)

**Admission:** Tickets are \$13 each in advance online (fees and tax included); children 4 and under are free and do not require a ticket. Save \$3 when you buy in advance. Tickets are available through Etix at [etix.com](http://etix.com) (use this URL for the hyperlink – <https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/16820/>) or by calling 800-514-3849. For additional State Fair ticket information, call 651-288-4427. Tickets at the gate will be \$16 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 23, 4-9 p.m.  
Friday, May 24, 4-9 p.m.  
Saturday, May 25, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Sunday, May 26, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Free parking is available (space is limited). For map and directions, visit [mnstatefair.org/kickoff-to-summer/](https://mnstatefair.org/kickoff-to-summer/).

Participating food vendors serving fair food favorites and refreshing summer brews include: Al's Subs & Malt Shop, Andy's Grille, Auntie M's Gluten Free, Baba's, Ball Park Cafe, 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), Hansen's Foot Long Hot Dogs & Corn Dogs, Minnesnowii Shave Ice, Mouth Trap Cheese Curds, Nelson's Foot Long Hot Dogs & Corn Dogs, Peachey's Baking Company (new this year), 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, Trickster Tacos (new this year) and West Indies Soul Food. To view menus and vendor offerings visit [mnstatefair.org/kickoff-to-summer/vendors/](https://mnstatefair.org/kickoff-to-summer/vendors/).

Three stages of free entertainment include performances by: The Art of Dance Studio, Barley Jacks, Becky Kapell and The Fat 6, Dance and Entertainment Studios, Drums of Navarone, The Eclectic Barn Boys, Ecuador Manta, Kate Voss & The Hot Sauce, Line Dance Minnesota, Miss Shannon's Sock Hop, O'Shea Irish Dance, The RLB Band, Rhino, Skitzo Fonik, The Summerbabies, Tyte Phitt, The Working Stiffs 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 and exhibit booths include: 3<sup>rd</sup> Lair SkatePark & SkateShop; Airbrushed Caricatures (new this year); Always Northern Permanent Jewelry (new this year); Angry Minnow Vintage; Can Can Wonderland; Crystal Visions; Frankie's Marine (new this year); Gifts Made By Hand (new this year); Glitter Glamper; GoodThings; Gotta Go Gotta Throw (new this year); Hagen and Oats; Human Touch (new this year); ICON EV (new this year); LeafFilter Gutter Protection; LeafHome Water Solutions (new this year); Lip Esteem (new this year); Lucky Shots Pickleball Club; Mattress Firm; Minnesota Exteriors - Blue Flame Gas Association (new this year); Minnesota Rusco; Minnesota State Fair Foundation; Must be Ruff; Northern Pine Co. Boutique (new this year); Northern Star Council – Boy Scouts of America (new this year); Paddle North; Rainbow Midwest; Re-Bath (new this year); Renewal by Andersen; Roots, Shoots & Leaves (new this year); Sota Clothing; Star Tribune; State FairWear; T-Mobile; and Treasure Island Resort & Casino.

Sponsors for Kickoff to Summer at the Fair include: Mattress Firm (Mascots), Adagio Djay Entertainment (DJ Entertainment), Treasure Island Resort & Casino (Visitors Plaza Stage), Minnesota Rusco (Door Prizes), Re-Bath (Information Booths and Programs), Human Touch (Adventure Zone), T-Mobile (Grandstand Building), Cal Spas (DNR Stage), Minnesota Corn (Christensen Farms Stage), Renewal by Andersen (Family Fun Zone), ICON Electric Vehicles (Bicycle Lots) 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. The State Fair is financially self-supporting and does not receive government appropriation. Follow along on Facebook, X, Instagram and TikTok @mnstatefair for year-round updates. The 2024 Minnesota State Fair will run Aug. 22 through Labor Day, Sept. 2. Visit [mnstatefair.org](https://mnstatefair.org) for more information.

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