

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

NEWS RELEASE

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2024 Minnesota State Fair Begins One Week From Today *Plan Your Visit with Need-To-Know Information, Helpful Hints and Ways to Save*

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St. Paul, Minn. – The 2024 Great Minnesota Get-Together begins just one week from today. This year's 12 days of fun (Aug. 22 - Labor Day, Sept. 2) features many options to help plan your visit and offers a variety of deals and discounts. Media: The 2024 Minnesota State Fair Media Kit is available to view or print at: mnstatefair.org/get-involved/media/

Plan Your Visit

Getting to the Fair

- Park & Ride service, with free parking and free shuttle bus service to and from the fair, is available at 31 locations within a short distance of the fairgrounds. Visit mnstatefair.org/get-here/free-park-and-ride/ for a full list of Park & Ride locations.
- State Fair Express Bus service, with free parking and bus rides directly to the fairgrounds for a small fee, is offered by Metro Transit, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) and SouthWest Transit from 13 sites throughout the Twin Cities area. Visit mnstatefair.org/get-here/metro-transit/ for more information and a list of Express Bus service locations.
- App-based ride services, such as Uber and Lyft, have two designated drop-off and pick-up points located on the north and south ends of the fairgrounds. In addition, during the State Fair, taxi drop-off and pick-up is located at the Loop Gate (#9), on Como Avenue on the south end of the fairgrounds. Visit mnstatefair.org/get-here/taxi-and-rideshare/ for more information.
- Metro Transit regular route buses are great options for getting to the fairgrounds. Visit mnstatefair.org/get-here/metro-transit/ for more information on regular Metro Transit routes.
- Three free secured and monitored bicycle parking areas are available on the north, west and south ends of the fairgrounds with space for up to 930 bikes. Visit mnstatefair.org/get-here/bicycle/ for more information on biking to the State Fair.
- Parking in State Fairgrounds lots is \$20. Motorcycle parking is available for \$15 in a secured lot on the south side of Como Avenue between Gate #7 and the Loop Gate (#9). Visit mnstatefair.org/get-here/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.

Daily Schedule

Fair guests can search online for the most up-to-date live music, exhibitions, competitions and more by day, location or keywords. These daily schedules can be found at mnstatefair.org/schedule/

State Fair Finders for Food and Merchandise

The online finders allow fair guests to search for new foods, any kind of merchandise, specialty sips, vendors offering special deals and more. The food finder can be found here: mnstatefair.org/fair-finder/food/ and shopping finder is here: mnstatefair.org/fair-finder/shops/

Official MN State Fair App

The fair has a brand-new Official MN State Fair App that offers an interactive map and searchable daily schedules. It also includes an integrated Food Finder and Shopping Finder that are searchable by vendor names, items and location. The app is available in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

Accessibility

The fair offers a variety of services for guests to make the most of their visit. Check out the Accessibility Guide (sponsored by Momentum Refresh) at mnstatefair.org/general-info/accessibility-guide/ to learn about: a universal changing restroom with hoist; KaiBi Mobile Family Care Center; Joy Mobile sensory-friendly space; Aira app with on-demand visual assistance; electric mobility scooters, strollers, wagons and wheelchair rentals; transportation & parking; ASL interpreting, captioning and audio description services; sensory friendly visits and the sensory-friendly morning at Mighty Midway and Kidway (Aug. 26); service animals; dining guide; ride and attraction access; bariatric seating; adjustable-height adult changing table; large-print daily schedules and maps; and more.

Hours

- Fairgrounds Admission: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Labor Day
- Fairgrounds Hours: 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.; 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Labor Day
- Online Ticket Sales Fair Time*: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Labor Day
- Please note that barns hours vary, and some barns will close early for the safety of guests, animals and exhibitors on select days when animals are leaving the fair and we are preparing for the arrival of new animals.

Visit mnstatefair.org/general-info/hours-of-operation/ for more hours information.

*Fair-Time Online Gate Admission Tickets are sponsored by Minnesota Rusco

Ways to Save

Before-the-Fair Savings

Pre-fair discount admission tickets are \$15 (a \$3 discount off the regular adult admission price and a \$1 discount off the regular seniors and kids admission prices) and are valid any one day of the 2024 fair for any age (children 4 & under are always free). Also prior to the fair, Mighty Midway and Kidway ride & game tickets are \$20 for a 25-ticket Fun Card, \$40 for a 50-ticket Fun Card, \$80 for a 100-ticket Fun Card and \$160 for a 200-ticket Fun Card. (Kidway is sponsored by Kwik Trip.)

Discount State Fair admission tickets, discount Mighty Midway and Kidway ride & game tickets on a Fun Card, and regular-price Blue Ribbon Bargain Books (sponsored by Minnesota Lottery) are available through Aug. 21 at the State Fair Ticket Office located at 1640 Como Avenue (new location in 2024), participating Cub stores and numerous locations in greater Minnesota and Hudson, Wis. (while supplies last). Discount admission tickets may also be purchased through Aug. 21 online at mnstatefair.org and by phone through Etix at 1-800-514-3849. Note: the deadline for mail delivery has passed.

During the fair, the regular admission price is \$18 for adults (13-64); \$16 for seniors (65+); and \$16 for kids (5-12). Children 4 and under are always admitted free. Mighty Midway and Kidway tickets purchased during the fair are \$1 per ticket, \$30 for 33 tickets, and \$60 for 70 tickets. Throughout the fair, Blue Ribbon Bargain Books are \$5 and available at State FairWear Gift Shops and Bargain Book Carts (while supplies last).

Visit mnstatefair.org/tickets/admission-tickets/ for more information.

Special Deal Days

The State Fair kicks off with savings on Opening Day, Aug. 22. Discounted admission is \$16 for adults (13-64) and \$13 for seniors (65+) and kids (5-12) when purchased at the gate.

Monday, Aug. 26, and Thursday, Aug. 29, are Seniors Days. Seniors (65+) are admitted for \$13 when tickets are purchased at the gate.

Military Appreciation Day is Tuesday, Aug. 27, when active military and their families, as well as retired and veteran military and their spouses, are admitted for \$13 when they purchase admission at the gate and provide documentation of U.S. military service.

Wednesday Aug. 28, and Labor Day, Sept. 2, are Kids Days. Kids (5-12) are admitted for \$13 when tickets are purchased at the gate.

In addition, many vendors feature special day deals for all State Fair guests on Opening Day, Aug. 22; Seniors Days Aug. 26 & 29; Military Appreciation Day, Aug. 27; and Kids Days, Aug. 28 & Sept. 2. Participating vendors will display a special day deal sign and are listed in the Deals, Drawings & Giveaways Guide (sponsored by Human Touch) available at all information booths and at mnstatefair.org. Select vendors also feature last chance deals on Labor Day, Sept. 2.

More Fun for Less at Mighty Midway & Kidway

Specials are offered every weekday on rides and games at Mighty Midway and Kidway. All-day specials run Thursday, Aug. 22; Tuesday, Aug. 27; Wednesday, Aug. 28; and Monday, Sept. 2. Early Bird specials are offered until 1 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 23; Monday, Aug. 26; Thursday, August 29; and Friday, Aug. 30. (Kidway sponsored by Kwik Trip.)

Blue Ribbon Bargain Book

The 2024 Blue Ribbon Bargain Book (sponsored by Minnesota Lottery) offers 100 coupons offering savings of at least 30 percent on food, merchandise and attractions throughout the fairgrounds. Coupons are valid all 12 days of the fair, and a preview of the bargains is available at mnstatefair.org/blue-ribbon-bargain-book/. Bargain Books are \$5 and available at the State Fair ticket office, participating Cub stores and at many locations in greater Minnesota and Hudson, Wis. (while supplies last), and during the fair at State FairWear Gift Shops and Bargain Book Carts on the fairgrounds (while supplies last). Books purchased during the fair support the Minnesota State Fair Foundation's mission to preserve and improve fair buildings, the fairgrounds and educational programs.

Deals, Drawings & Giveaways Guide

Available to view and print at mnstatefair.org/deals-and-discounts/ or for pick up at any information booth, the Deals, Drawings & Giveaways Guide (sponsored by Human Touch) details special day deals, freebies and places to sign up for the chance to win prizes.

Exhibits, Attractions and Free Entertainment Options

- Cats & Dogs The Exhibition, a sensory and interactive exhibit that takes fair guests on a journey to understanding and decoding the behavior of these beloved, entertaining (and sometimes confounding) fluffy family members, is for all ages and debuts in North End Event Center. It is free with fair admission. More information: mnstatefair.org/new-this-year/attraction/cats-and-dogs/
- Nightly fireworks spectacular (sponsored by Mazda)
- Live music and entertainment lineup features more than 900 shows throughout the fairgrounds, including the Cosgrove Stage (sponsored by Allina Health | Aetna) where community groups perform; The Timberworks Lumberjack and All-Star Stunt Dogs Splash shows at The North Woods (sponsored by Good Health Saunas); family-friendly entertainment at the Family Fair Stage (sponsored by Green Mill Restaurant) at Baldwin Park; and more. Additional information: mnstatefair.org/free-live-music-and-shows/
- The daily parade at 2 p.m. features the high school marching band competition and is ASL-Interpreted.
- Dog agility demonstrations outside the Pet Pavilions
- Learn more and get inspired at free exhibits such as the Eco Experience (sponsored by Xcel Energy), DNR and Moo Booth.
- Many free things to do with young fair fans at exhibits such as Alphabet Forest, Math On-A-Stick and more. Additional information: mnstatefair.org/general-info/kids-guide/
- Blue Ribbon BINGO includes five games per session and lasts about 30 minutes. Proceeds support the Minnesota State Fair Foundation 501(c)(3) and is located at Ramberg Center (sponsored by Cal Spas).
- The Great Big Wheel (sponsored by Samsung) located on the north end of the fairgrounds, carries riders to a height of 156 feet, offering breathtaking views of the State Fairgrounds and beyond. Two other rides that offer a special view of the fairgrounds include Skyride and SkyGlider (sponsored by Sun Country Airlines).
- FAN Central (sponsored by Xfinity) features local sports teams and merchandise.

- A wide variety of horses can be seen daily throughout the fair in the Horse Barn; competing as part of the Minnesota State Fair Horse Show; and at two horse education exhibits (Aisle of Breeds and EquiMania!™), free with fair admission (Horse Barn is closed Aug. 27).
- The finest needlework, handcrafts, baking and canning that Minnesota has to offer presented in the Creative Activities Building, along with the Cambria Kitchen, home to daily demonstrations
- Fruit, wine, Christmas tree, crop art, flower, vegetable, potato, bee & honey contests along with the Giant Pumpkin Contest in the Agriculture Horticulture Building (sponsored by Bremer Bank)
- Shopping, specialty merchants and unique artisans are plentiful on the fairgrounds at: the Grandstand Exhibit Building (sponsored by Sleep Number), which has two levels of more than 160 vendors; Creative Activities Annex; Family Fair at Baldwin Park; International Bazaar; Home Improvement Building (sponsored by LeafFilter); Merchandise Mart; and more. More information: mnstatefair.org/general-info/shopping-destinations/
- The Dairy Building (sponsored by Paddle North), which is home to the famed Princess Kay butter sculptures and malts and sundaes, as well as several vendors selling outdoor gear, home improvement merchandise, wool products and more
- Thank a Farmer Magic Show on the Christensen Farms Stage (sponsored by T-Mobile), where children of all ages learn about the role agriculture plays in our daily lives
- The Kemps Little Farm Hands agricultural education experience (sponsored by Kemps, Cub, Cargill and Minnesota Corn Growers Association)
- Karaoke and music in The Garden (sponsored by Treasure Island Resort & Casino)
- Six iconic fairgrounds spots for taking great photos are marked with a Selfie Spot badge (sponsored by State Farm). Here is a map of the five locations: mnstatefair.org/faq/amenities/

Sponsors for a Day

Day sponsors will be at the corner of Wright Avenue and Underwood Street with activities and information about their organization. They include: Mall of America (Aug. 22 & 23); Minnesota Senior LinkAge Line (Aug. 26); PaintCare (Aug. 27) and Crystal Farms (Aug. 29).

Free Information & Guest Services

The Great Minnesota Get-Together offers many free services and amenities for guests' convenience, including: free trolley rides (sponsored by United Healthcare) on the north end of the fairgrounds; information booths stocked with free maps (sponsored by Star Tribune), daily schedules and free ID wristbands to help reunite lost children and vulnerable adults with their families or guardians; a free Wi-Fi hotspot at the west Grandstand Plaza (sponsored by DragNFly Wireless); First Aid Stations (sponsored by Regions Hospital) located on the east and west ends of the fairgrounds; and more.

Safety & Security at the State Fair

Safety and security over the 12 days of the fair is a number one priority. The fair's comprehensive public safety plan is developed and implemented in partnership with multiple agencies and experts at local, state and federal levels, and every part of the fair's operation is continually evaluated and enhanced. The 2024 Minnesota State Fair's Police Department has nearly 190 licensed officers from 65 urban, suburban and rural agencies across the state, plus more than 100 officers from local, state and federal agencies. To learn more about being safe, healthy and aware during a visit to the fair, please visit: mnstatefair.org/faq/health-and-safety/

For more information about planning your day at the fair, special discount days, bargains and up-to-date information on the Minnesota State Fair, visit mnstatefair.org.

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 is Aug. 22 through Labor Day, Sept. 2. Visit mnstatefair.org for more information.