

State Fair Sample Itinerary*

Welcome to the Great Minnesota Get-Together! The State Fair features the best of Minnesota industry, agriculture, entertainment, fine arts and food, plus merchandise from across the globe! It's all packed into 320 acres and 12 fun-filled days. Wear comfortable shoes and dress in layers. Mornings and evenings can be cool while the afternoons may warm up considerably.

As you begin to explore the fair, consider stopping by one of the State FairWear Gift Shops and picking up a Blue Ribbon Bargain Book. Inside you will find coupons worth over \$500 in savings on merchandise, food and attractions. Save some green, buy blue! Books are only \$5!

9 am

Our friendly staff will greet your motor coach at the bus parking lot where everyone will receive a daily schedule and map of the fairgrounds. Then stroll through **Heritage Square**, an 1800s themed area with a working blacksmith and woodturner, an authentic log cabin and the **State Fair History Museum**. You may want to consider scheduling a continental breakfast and welcome session for your group at the **Blue Ribbon Picnic Area**.

As you exit the east end of Heritage Square, you can't miss the huge Big Top Tent! Under the Big Top you will find a continuous **Sesquicentennial Celebration** featuring **State Fair Chautauqua** presenting *Old Minnesota: Song of the North Star*. This "Carnegie Hall of Tent Shows" brings Minnesota's history to life through story, song and large-screen vintage visuals. You can catch the full performance at noon, 2, 4 and 6 p.m. but drop in anytime! There is always something interesting going on inside.

10 am

What's a fair without a trip to the barns? Head south past **The Mighty Midway** and plan a stop at the **Sheep & Poultry Barn** for a **Livestock Area Tour**. Tours leave every 20 minutes between 9 am and 4:30 pm from the east entrance. Your fun and knowledgeable guides will educate and entertain as they walk you through the animal complex.

10:40 am

Just west of the **Warner Coliseum** is the **CHS Miracle of Birth Center** where newborn lambs, calves and piglets arrive daily. If you have never seen a calf struggle to its feet for the first time, be prepared for an emotional experience! Across the street is **DNR Park**, a beautiful exhibit encompassing Minnesota's forests, rivers and wildlife. **The DNR Garden Stage** features fascinating presentations on birds of prey. Look for times in your daily schedule.

11:30 am

Hungry? Walk east along Carnes Avenue to the newly remodeled **Food Building** for lunch. Look for booth signs that indicate special deals and discounts. Many of our concessionaires participate. As you exit on Cooper Street, turn north and see the beautiful Sesquicentennial mosaic, **Greetings from Minnesota**, on the west side of the street just south of Dan Patch Avenue. Then stop by a **State Fair Information Booth** and pick up a self-guided walking tour of the fair's beautiful gardens, historical buildings or whimsical tree sculptures.

1 pm

Want to get a jump on your holiday shopping? Browse around the newly remodeled **International Bazaar** on Judson Avenue! Be sure to stop by the **Festival of Nations Stage** for music, dance and fascinating demonstrations. Great gift shopping is also available at the **Merchandise Mart**, the **State FairWear Gift Shops** or the first and second floors of the **Grandstand**. The **Warner Coliseum also** has a concourse full of unique gifts and it's air-conditioned!

2 pm

Everybody loves a parade--especially the **Daily Mall Parade!** Grab a spot on the curb and enjoy the marching bands, visiting royalty, horses, costumed characters and various floats. The best places to watch are near the **Bandshell** or from **Family Fair in Baldwin Park**. Both are on Cosgrove Street and the parade is announced from both locations.

3 pm

Stop by the **Fine Arts Building** to see over 1200 pieces of artwork at Minnesota's largest juried art show or walk across the street to the **Eco Experience** to discover the many ways to improve both your life and the environment. See how Minnesota is going green! Dating back to 1907, these two buildings are the oldest on the fairgrounds and once served as the dairy and poultry barns, respectively!

4:30 pm

Head "up north" to every Minnesotan's favorite place—**The North Woods**. Try some Walleye on a stick at the nearby **Campfire Grill** and stick around for the **Ironjack Lumberjack Show**. Even Paul Bunyan would be impressed. You might also have a chance to meet Ron Schara and Raven!

5:30 pm

Pet fans should continue heading north on Cooper Street to the **Pet Center** where a variety of breeds are on display along with dog demonstrations and plenty of pet related merchandise.

6:00 pm

Those who remember the years of John Fitzgerald Kennedy might want to stop and visit a new exhibit, John F. Kennedy Remembered. Located on Underwood Street just north of Visitors Plaza, this museum-like exhibit has over 300 artifacts related to the late 35th President of the United States.

7 pm

Showtime! Head for the **Grandstand** and get your ticket for a performance by your favorite country, rock, or hip-hop artist. A nightly **Fireworks Spectacular** concludes every show.

10 pm

How are you holding up? Ready to talk a walk through the **Mighty Midway** under the stars and neon lights? How about a ride on the double **Ferris Wheel?** A great way to end the day!

*This itinerary is designed around a day of very active walking.
Precautions against dehydration and exhaustion should be taken.

For more information, contact:

Group Hospitality
Minnesota State Fair
1265 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55108
651-632-2689 (p)
651-643-6364 (f)
www.mnstatefair.org
groups@mnstatefair.org