

Minnesota State Fair 2022

Here's your day-by-day guide to 2022 State Fair success

By Jared Kaufman
jkaufman@pioneerpress.com

It's State Fair time again, folks.

Across the 12 days of the Great Minnesota Get-Together, there are almost 300 food vendors (including plenty of new offerings in both food and beverage departments), concerts galore both at the Grandstand and at free stages around the fair, more than 3,300 included-with-admission events, and plenty of exciting merchants and people-watching moments to pack into your day.

It's near impossible to do it all — and trust us, we try. But as long as you've got a cheese curd or chocolate chip cookie in your hand, we think you're on the right track.

To make things even easier, here's your day-by-day guide to the Fair: Each day's special discounts and themes, plus a selection of free events and concerts worth checking out. If you want even more, the Fair's website offers a searchable schedule. See you at the Fair!

THURSDAY, Aug. 25

Daily deal: Discounted admission and games for opening day! \$15 for adults (13-64), \$12 for seniors, and \$12 for kids (5-12), plus specials on rides and games at the Mighty Midway and Kidway.

Today's theme is STEM Day. To celebrate science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), you can drive robots, make straw rockets and simple circuits, try computer coding, build models of State Fair buildings, and more. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. @ Dan Patch Park Stage

FOUR FOR FREE: Members of the Young Fiddlers Association of Minnesota will perform. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12 p.m. @ Cosgrove Stage, outside the Education Building

WATCH: As part of STEM Day, the University of Minnesota Physics Force will demonstrate the wonders of science. 10:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. @ Dan Patch Park Stage

DO + EAT: Pair Minnesota wines with these curds, presented by Jason Kallen of Twin Cities Wine Education. Doesn't get better than that, does it? 3:30 @ Minnesota Wine Country

FREE SHOW OF THE DAY: After bandmate Tony Gentry died in 2017, Eddie Montgomery keeps alive the music of country music legends Montgomery Gentry. See him at 8:30 (today and tomorrow) @ Leinie Lodge Bandshell Stage

FRIDAY, Aug. 26
Daily deal: Snag discounted tickets at the Midway and Kidway till 1 p.m.

Today's theme is Governor's Fire Prevention Day. Young members of Fire Explorers will face off in fire safety competitions all day, plus you can see a mock car crash demo at 3:30 p.m. @ Dan Patch Park Stage

FOUR FOR FREE:

WATCH: The married duo behind Allez-OOPS! brings "classic vaudeville with a twist," involving silly circus and slapstick comedy. 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. @ Family Fun Stage (same times on Saturday, Aug. 27 and Sunday, Aug. 28)

DO: Agrilympics: Celebrity Milking Contest. You can "cheer on local celebrities" as they race to fill their milking bucket by hand. Who are the celebrities? You'll have to show up to find out. 2:30 p.m. @ Moo Booth Stage, outside the northwest corner of the Cattle Barn

CLIMB: Speaking of fire prevention, see the fairgrounds from the top of the DNR Fire Tower. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., weather permitting @ DNR Park (available every day of the fair)

FREE SHOW OF THE DAY: A capella trailblazers and annual State Fair faves Tonic Sol-fa return. See them at 3:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. (same times Thursday, Aug. 25 @ Leinie Lodge Bandshell Stage)

SATURDAY, Aug. 27

Today's theme is Hubbard Broadcasting Day. Catch Ladies Lunch with Twin Cities Live at 12 p.m.; belt out '90s classics at Hurricane Karaoke at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; and stick around for a live recording of the "Say Too Much" podcast with Staci and Hutch from KS95 at 4 p.m.

WATCH: World Records with Mike Marcotte: A Guinness Book of World Records



The Great Big Wheel is seen from Cooper St. as fairgoers attend the opening day of the Minnesota State Fair in Falcon Heights on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2021.

ness Book of World Records judge will talk about his favorite record attempts and give away copies of the 2023 world records book. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. @ Dan Patch Park Stage

DO: King or Queen of String Cheese: This string cheese artistry contest is open to the public, and yes, prizes are up for grabs. Sign up at 4 p.m. Contest at 4:30 @ Moo Booth Stage, near the Cattle Barn

IMAGINE: At the Joyful World Mural Park, local artists will paint large-scale murals that showcase the world they want to live in. All day @ south of the Grandstand, east of the ramp (available every day of the fair)

FREE SHOW OF THE DAY: Local folk-jazz-bossa nova trio Honeybutter will take the stage. 8 p.m. (today and tomorrow) at Schell's Stage at Schilling Amphitheater

SUNDAY, Aug. 28

Today's theme is Indigenous Kitchen Day. Activities all day long at Dan Patch Park Stage will celebrate Native cooking and culture. Catch cooking demos at 9:45 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 3:15 p.m., and 4 p.m. and music at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 4:45 p.m. Plus, Chef Sean Sherman, founder of The Sioux Chef and James Beard Award-winning restaurant Owanmi, talks about his journey to revive and reimagine Native cuisine at 12:15 p.m.

FOUR FOR FREE:
CHEER: In the Dress A Sheep Contest, team members in costumes will race to dress up their sheep in a matching outfit, and you can cast your vote for people's choice. 10 a.m. @ Sheep and Poultry Barn

LISTEN: Party Time Dueling Pianos will stir up plenty of treble. 11 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. @ Dino's Gyros, near the corner of Carnes and Underwood

WATCH: Catch the Armenian Dance Ensemble of Minnesota. 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. @ Cosgrove Stage, outside the Education Building (also performing at same times on Monday, Aug. 29)

FREE SHOW OF THE DAY: Come dance to Ukraine's zabava (party) music with the Ukrainian Village Band. 10:45 a.m., 12 p.m., and 1:15 p.m. (plus same times Saturday, Aug. 27) @ International Bazaar Stage

MONDAY, Aug. 29

Daily deal: It's Seniors Day,

so folks over 65 get in for \$12, plus specials for fairgoers of all ages at the Mighty Midway and Kidway

FOUR FOR FREE:
STRETCH: Start your day off right with dog yoga with Northstar Therapy Dogs. 9:45 a.m. @ Dan Patch Park Stage

WATCH: Kenny Ahern brings physical comedy, juggling, balancing acts, and other high-energy antics. 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. @ Family Fun Stage

DON'T FALL: The Timberworks Lumberjack Show is a forest-spots decathlon featuring buck saw, logroll, ax throwing, speed climbing, and more. 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 7 p.m. @ North Woods Stage, across from Little Farm Hands (available every day of the fair. 12 p.m. show every day is ASL-interpreted)

FREE SHOW OF THE DAY: The band Dawson Hollow blends their Ozark Mountain folk roots with the raw sound of rock 'n' roll. Oh, and all five members are siblings. 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. (plus same times Tuesday, Aug. 30) @ Leinie Lodge Bandshell Stage

TUESDAY, Aug. 30
Daily deal: \$12 admission for active military, their spouses and kids, plus retired military and veterans and their spouses, plus 'early bird' specials at the Midway and Kidway until 1 p.m.

Today's theme is Military Appreciation Day. In honor of military members, veterans, and families, there'll be special musical performances all day in Dan Patch Park Stage

FOUR FOR FREE:
HONOR: The Veterans Garden Ceremony will honor MN veterans of all eras. 9:15 a.m. @ Agriculture/Horticulture Building

SAY MAGIC WORDS: After you see baby animals in the CHS Miracle of Birth Center, catch the Thank a Farmer Magic Show right outside. 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. @ Christensen Farms Stage (available every day of the fair)

CARVE: You can participate in a cheese-carving contest and earn prizes! 4 p.m. @ Moo Booth Stage, near the Cattle Barn (available every day of the fair except Monday, Sept. 5)

FREE SHOW OF THE DAY: While we're talking about military appreciation, check out the 34th Infantry Division "Red Bull" Band. They're part of the Minnesota National



Riders get an aerial look at the fairgrounds from the Sky Glider ride at the Minnesota State Fair

al Guard, and they're performing at 10:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. (plus same times Monday, Aug. 29) @ Leinie Lodge Bandshell Stage

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 31

Daily deal: Today is kids day! \$12 tickets for kids aged 5-12, plus, of course, Midway and Kidway specials all day

Today's theme is also Library Day. Authors, world musicians, dance troupes, and more will be performing in Dan Patch Park Stage all day

FOUR FOR FREE:
DO: Minnesota authors and illustrators David LaRoche and Mike Wonnoutka have plenty of activities around their books "See The Cat" and "See The Dog." 9-5 @ Dan Patch Park

BUZZ: Do you want to grow a beard of bees? For 22 years, Gary Reuter from the University of Minnesota Bee Lab will build a beard of live bees on the faces of a couple of brave volunteers. Watch him pull it off again! 1 p.m. @ Agriculture/Horticulture Building

DANCE: Monster Shop Bump'n has performed their acrobatics and breakdancing all over the world, and now they're here! 1:20 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 6 p.m. @ Family Fun Stage (available every day of the fair)

FREE SHOW OF THE DAY: Low Cut Comic blends western pop, R&B, and rock 'n' roll. 8:30 p.m. (today and tomorrow) @ Leinie Lodge Bandshell Stage

THURSDAY, Sept. 1

Daily deal: \$12 admission for those above 65, with Midway and Kidway specials until 1 p.m.

Today's theme is Seniors Day, round 2. This time, plenty of activities are lined up in Dan Patch Park, including:

One Pass Fitness at 10 a.m.; musical performances almost every hour, and a fall prevention program at 1 p.m.

FOUR FOR FREE:

CHEER: Another mystery panel of local celebs will compete to carve a one-pound block of butter in just 20 minutes. 12:20 p.m. @ Moo Booth Stage, near the Cattle Barn

LISTEN: Somali-born, Minnesota-based artist Delmar Yare's music combines Afrobeat rhythms, traditional Somali styles, and western indie pop. 10:45 a.m., 12 p.m., and 1:15 p.m. @ International Bazaar Stage

GROW: Learn more about green space development and community gardening in the Eco Experience building. 12 p.m. @ Sustainability Stage

FREE SHOW OF THE DAY: Despite their name, the Irish bluegrass/celtic band We Banjo 3 is actually a quartet. You can see all four of them at 3:30 and 4:45 @ Leinie Lodge Bandshell Stage

FRIDAY, Sept. 2

Daily deal: Snag discounted tickets at the Midway and Kidway till 1 p.m.

Today's theme is MPR Day. MPR is making radio happen, live, in Dan Patch Park and Stage. At 10 a.m., MPR News with Angela Davis will record live. At 12 p.m., catch Politics Friday with Mike Mulcahy. Plus, music: Miloe is performing courtesy of The Current at 2:30, and The Cactus Blossoms will take the stage thanks to Radio Heartland at 4 p.m.

FOUR FOR FREE:

EAT: Do you think you have the guts to enter the Cottage Cheese and Yogurt Eating Contest? Lactaid not provided. 10:30 a.m. @ Moo Booth Stage.

near the Cattle Barn

DO + DRINK: Alise Sjöstrom, cheesemaker extraordinaire at Redhead Creamery in Brooklyn, Minn., will walk you through pairing Minnesota wines and cheeses. 3:30 p.m. @ Minnesota Wine Country

SEE: The Minnesota Bonsai Society's bonsai show will feature demos throughout the afternoon on planting and caring for these small, ornamental plants. 12-9 p.m. @ Agriculture/Horticulture Building

FREE SHOW OF THE DAY: See The Cactus Blossoms! They're a folksy indie rock duo from Minneapolis who released their third album in February. 4 p.m. @ Dan Patch Park Stage

SATURDAY, Sept. 3

FOUR FOR FREE:

WATCH: As a one-man circus, Jason D'Vaude, also known appropriately as "The Circus Man," will juggle, balance, unicycle, and more. 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. @ Family Fair Stage (also performing at the same times Sept. 2, 4, and 5)

DO: The Great Minnesota Carve-Off, a cheese carving contest, is open to the public. Do you have what it takes to brie the best? Sign up at 4. Contest at 4:30 p.m. @ Moo Booth Stage, near the Cattle Barn

HOP: Admire rabbit breeds of different colors, sizes, and cute tail and ear shapes. 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. @ Sheep and Poultry Barn

FREE SHOW OF THE DAY: First Avenue Goes To The Fair, featuring: DERECHO and Al Sparhawk, Eleganza, Heiruspes, Lady Midnight, Lanue, Nur-D, and Al Church and the Congregation. 8 p.m. (same time different acts on Sunday, Sept. 4) @ Schell's Stage at Schilling Amphitheater

SUNDAY, Sept. 4

FOUR FOR FREE:

SMELL: The State Fair Dahlia Show is on, and you can see these gorgeous flower panels ranging from teeny-tiny to dinner-plate-sized. 12-9 @ Agriculture/Horticulture Building

GALLOP: Today's horse show focuses on speed events. Watch jumping figure-8, barrel racing, pole weaving, and more. 1 p.m. @ Lee and Rose Warner Coliseum

WATCH: Internationally known Native Pride Dancers will showcase modern and traditional Native American Dance. 3:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m. @ International Bazaar Stage (they're also performing at the same times on Monday, Sept. 5)

FREE SHOW OF THE DAY: Wanna get hypnotized? See stage! Larry, a comedian and hypnotist, will explore the power — and humor — of the human mind. 7 p.m. @ Family Fun Stage

MONDAY, Sept. 5 • Closing Day

Daily deal: It's kids day, round 2 (electric bogaloo), which means \$12 tickets for kids, along with Midway and Kidway specials all day. Plus, some vendors might have last-day specials available

Today's theme is also Hmong Minnesota Day. Hmong singers, dancers, martial artists, community leaders, and more from around the state will gather throughout the day in Dan Patch Park to celebrate culture and hope

FOUR FOR FREE:

EARN A RIBBON: Get your own State Fair ribbon before heading back to school by completing an art hunt in the Fine Arts Exhibition Gallery. All day, available every day of the fair

WATCH: The Minnesota Tango Society will show their moves. 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. @ Cosgrove Stage, outside the Education Building

ENTER THE STUDIO: At Studio: Here, one artist takes over the Fine Arts Center's studio for a 12-hour day of artistic creation live at the fair. Today, Kelsey Nagy will be working with ceramics. Artists on other days are using media like paint, paper quilling, printmaking, watercolor, and more. All day @ Fine Arts Center (available every day of the fair)

FREE SHOW OF THE DAY: Close out the fair with Latin dance orchestra Salsa del Soul. 7:30 p.m. @ International Bazaar Stage



In a photo taken with a fisheye lens, attractions on the Mighty Midway, including the Sky Glider, center, are reflected in a puddle following another wet afternoon at the Minnesota State Fair in Falcon Heights on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021

Jared Kaufman can be reached at jkaufman@pioneerpress.com.