

Minnesota State Fair 2022

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

By Jared Kaufman
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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.

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 p.m. @ 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) @ Schell's Stage at Schilling Amphitheater.

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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. 26, 2021. PHOTOS BY JOHN AUTEY / PIONEER PRESS

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.

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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.

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.

DO: Minnesota authors and illustrators David LaRochele and Mike Womnoutka 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 23 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 Fair Stage (available every day of the fair).

FREE SHOW OF THE DAY: Low Cut Connie 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.

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

FRIDAY, Sept. 2
Daily deal: Snag discounted tickets at the Midway and Kidway till 1 p.m.

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DO + DRINK: Alise Sjostrom, 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, Heuristics, Lady Midnight, Laurie, 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: **SMELLS:** The State Fair Dahlia Show is on, and you can see these gorgeous flowers ranging from teeny-tiny to dinner plate-sized. 12-9 p.m. @ 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: 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.

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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.