

COMMUNITYNEWS

Tips for making purchases at this year’s State Fair

BBB STAFF REPORT

The Minnesota State Fair marks the unofficial end of summer. It’s also a prime opportunity for businesses to showcase their products and ideas to crowds of fairgoers. While it’s easy to get caught up in the buzz and excitement the State Fair reliably delivers, Better Business Bureau of Minnesota and North Dakota reminds consumers – unless they’re on one of the rides – to keep both feet on the ground.

“We’re as excited about The Minnesota State Fair as anyone,” said Dana Badgerow, president and CEO of BBB of Minnesota and North Dakota. “Still, we’re reminding people to keep things in perspective and make sure to do their due diligence when checking out merchandise and listening to sales pitches.”

BBB offers the following tips for consumers who are considering making purchases at this year’s event:

■ Prior to making a purchase, get the company’s refund and exchange policy in writing.

■ Obtain the company’s physical location and telephone number in case you need to return or exchange an item after the event.

■ As with any purchase, do some comparison shopping before buying. Keep in mind, however, that the least expensive item may not always be the best value.

■ Don’t be pressured to buy. After the demonstration or sales pitch, walk away from the sales associate to give yourself some time to think about the purchase. This will help you decide whether or not the item is necessary and a good deal.

■ Ask the vendor if a sale price will be honored after the State Fair. If so, you will not feel pressured to purchase the item on the spot.

It’s important to note

that the Federal Trade Commission’s “cooling-off rule,” which normally allows consumers three days to cancel a purchase, does not apply to the following purchases at fairs:

- Purchases under \$25;
- Goods or services not primarily intended for personal, family, or household purposes;
- Insurance, securities, or real estate;
- Motor vehicles; and
- Arts and crafts.

If you are making a purchase where the “cooling-off rule” does apply, and you need to cancel a sale, sign and date a copy of the company’s cancellation form, which you should obtain upon purchase of the item. If you mail the form back to the company, be sure it is post-marked before midnight of the third business day after which you made the purchase. Sundays and federal holidays are not considered business days. Otherwise, bring the form in-person to the company within three days of the date you made the purchase.

BBB Business Reviews have been optimized for smartphones. You can research companies for free at BBB.org, or by calling 1-800-646-6222.

BBB will once again be an exhibitor at the Minnesota State Fair, with a booth in the Education Building. The State Fair runs from Aug. 21 to Sept. 1.

The mission of Better Business Bureau is to be the leader in building marketplace trust by promoting, through self-regulation, the highest standards of business ethics and conduct, and to instill confidence in responsible businesses through programs of education and action that inform, assist and protect the general public. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact BBB at bbb.org or 651-699-1111, toll-free at 1-800-646-6222.

CALENDAR

TODAY

- Retired Boise Cascade electricians, 9 a.m., Coffee Landing Cafe.
- Hazardous Waste Collection Day, noon-6 p.m., Recycling/Transfer Facility.
- WIC Clinic, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Northome.
- Littlefork Ambulance Thrift Shop open, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Northland Art Society open, various arts, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Backus, Room 114.
- Wednesday Study Group, 10:15 a.m., Faith United Church of Christ.
- East Koochiching Sanitary Sewer District Board, 11 a.m., Sanitary District Boardroom, 1412 Highway 71.
- Salvation Army Advisory Council, noon-1 p.m., Salvation Army building.
- Community Market, 4-6:30 p.m., Backus Third Street parking lot.
- Sunbeams and Girl Guards, 4:30-6 p.m., The Salvation Army.
- Free At Last, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Forestland Annex, lower level conference room.
- International Falls Recreation Commission Board, 5:45 p.m., city council chambers.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., Alano Club.
- Men’s Non-Violence Group, 6-8 p.m., Friends Against Abuse office.
- Borealis Bards, 6:30 p.m., Smokey Bear Park.
- Elks Lodge Wednesday Meal, 6:30 p.m., Bass Championship Spaghetti Dinner.
- Little Lambs (up to age 4) and King’s Kids (ages 5 and up), 6:30-7:15 p.m., Full Gospel Fellowship Church.
- Texas Hold ‘Em, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club, 7 p.m., Americlnn.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

THURSDAY

- Bone Builders, 10 a.m., Woodland Apartments.
- Littlefork Ambulance Thrift Shop open, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Falls Hunger Coalition Food Shelf open, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 1000 Fifth St.
- Northland Art Society open, various arts, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Backus, Room 114.
- Falls High School Class of 1960, 10:30 a.m., Lenard’s.
- Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra

- Music to You performance, 3 p.m., International Falls Public Library.
- Friends of the Library Book Sale, 3-5 p.m., International Falls Public Library.
- Northland Art Society open, various arts, 4-8 p.m., Backus, Room 114.
- Adventure Corps, 4:30-6 p.m., The Salvation Army.
- Pre-school open house, 4:30-6:30 p.m., St. Thomas School.
- Weight Watchers, 4:45-5:15 p.m. weigh-in; 5:15 meeting, Zion Lutheran Church.
- Borderland Humane Society, 5:30 p.m., River’s Edge Villa.
- Falls Trap Club, trap shooting, 5:30 p.m., Moonlight Rock Road.
- Community Café, free meals served, 5:30-6 p.m., grilled chicken, hash browns, peas and carrots, dinner roll, Backus Community Center.
- Burgers Supper, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Beginner’s Tae Kwon Do, 5:45 p.m., Falls Elementary School gymnasium or cafeteria.
- The Lamplighters, women’s support group for survivors of childhood sexual abuse, 6-8 p.m., Friends Against Abuse, 407 Fourth St.
- Line Dancing, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club.

FRIDAY

- Falls Hunger Coalition Food Shelf open, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 1000 Fifth St.
- Serenity Sisters, Women’s A.A., noon, Backus, Rational Alternatives, Room 101.
- Friends of the Library Book Sale, 1-3 p.m., International Falls Public Library.
- Elks Lodge Friday Light Meal, 5:30 p.m., Chicken Breast Sandwiches Supper.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., Alano Club.
- For Those in Need, Addiction Recovery, 7 p.m., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1340 Keenan Drive.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., Alano Club, 410 Fifth Ave.

SATURDAY

- Community Market, 9 a.m.-noon, Backus Third Street parking lot.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., Alano Club.

BORDERLAND BRIEFS

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Volunteers who helped with flood relief efforts in June can enjoy Thursday’s International Falls Bass Championship entertainment for free under the big tent. A presentation from Koochiching County officials is set for 6:30 p.m., along with door prizes and refreshments.

OPEN HOUSE, MEETING

St. Thomas School will host a pre-school open house from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday. A parent meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 27.

BOOK SALE

Friends of the Library book sale is planned for 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday and from 1 to 3 Friday at International Falls Public Library. All sales by donation with proceeds benefiting the Friends of the Library support of library programming.

COMMUNITY CANCER WALK

The community is encouraged to take part in the Community Cancer Walk set for 9 to 11 a.m. Oct. 4 at Bronco Arena. Funds raised will be used for \$150 gas cards to be distributed to Koochiching County residents to help with travel costs for cancer treatments. Pledge sheets and registration sheets are available at Coffee Landing Cafe or at Rainy Lake Medical Center chemotherapy office.

MUSIC TO YOU PERFORMANCE

Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra Music to You performance is set for 3 p.m. Thursday at International Falls Public Library, on the music and culture of Latin America with Nixon Bustos on bass and Melanie Sever on flute.

The Journal

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We love you very much.
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