

SERVICES

Fairgrounds Hours

- August 13-22: 8 a.m. to midnight
- *August 13-22: After 10 p.m., there are no on-site ticket sales or entry/re-entry at the gates.*
- August 23: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- *August 23: After 7 p.m., there are no on-site ticket sales or entry/re-entry at the gates.*

Building and Thrill Parks Hours

- 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Some building and exhibit hours may vary.)
- Thrill Ville: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.*
- Thrill Town: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.*
- Thrill Zone: 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.*

**August 23: All Thrill Parks close at 9 p.m.*

The Fair is committed to making our facilities accessible to all. No qualified individual with a disability shall, because of such disability, be excluded from participating in or be denied the benefits of public services, programs or activities held on the Fairgrounds.

The Iowa State Fairgrounds are located at East 30th and East University in Des Moines:

- Telephone number: 515-262-3111
- Gate Admission: Adults \$16, Children (ages 6-11) \$10, free for ages 5 and under
- Lot A, Lot B and Lot C parking lots: \$10 per vehicle, and per motorcycle (all vehicles/motorcycles must be removed by 1 a.m.)
- Bicycle parking is available at Gate 13 for free

Iowa State Fair Safety: Weapons of any kind, including firearms, are strictly prohibited on the Fairgrounds with or without a valid Iowa permit to carry. All guests should plan for extra time at entry points due to bag checks, metal detectors and other security procedures. The Iowa State Fair reserves the right to search all bags, backpacks, coolers, purses and other containers upon entry to the Fairgrounds and upon request while on the Fairgrounds. Failure to comply may result in denied entry or removal from the Fairgrounds. Additional bag screenings will be conducted at Grandstand entrances. For a complete list of items not allowed at the Iowa State Fair and in the Grandstand, visit iowastatefair.org/safety.

Accessibility Guide: Available at information booths, the Administration Building and iowastatefair.org/visit/disability-assistance.

ADA/Accessible Parking: Parking spaces are available in Lots A, B and C on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that these lots often fill up early each day, and there is no guarantee that space will be available. Proper decals or license plates must be displayed.

Enter Gate 2A (East 33rd Street and East University Avenue) to access Lot A and Gate 2B (East 36th Street and East University Avenue) or Gate 2C to access Lots B and C. Lots A, B and C contain both paved and hard-packed surface parking. Designated accessible parking spaces on main streets in the inner grounds will not be available during the Fair. Parking personnel will do their best to direct vehicles to the closest, most convenient parking available.

Adult Changing Station: An adult changing station is located in the Hy-Vee Health and First Aid Center, situated east of the John Deere Agriculture Building, open 8 a.m. to midnight.

Advance Admission Tickets: Save by purchasing your admission tickets in advance through August 12. Regular \$16 adult admission tickets are \$11, and \$10 admission for children (ages 6–11) is \$7 when purchased in advance. Children ages 5 and under are admitted free every day. Advance tickets are available online at iowastatefair.org, at the Iowa State Fair Ticket Office and at participating Iowa Hy-Vee and Fareway stores. Advance admission discounts end August 12 and are not valid with any other offer. Iowa State Fair Tickets sponsored by Maverik. Advance Digital Ticket Sales sponsored by Drive Smart Iowa.

- Monday – Thursday Evenings from 5 p.m.-10 p.m.: \$12 adult (ages 12 and up) admission and \$8 child admission (ages 6-11).
- Special discounts available for Veterans Day (Aug. 17) and Older Iowans' Day (Aug. 19).

Air Conditioned Buildings: Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building, Penningroth Sale Ring in the John and Emily Putney Family Cattle Barn, Patty and Jim Cownie Cultural Center, Elwell Family Food Center, FFA Display Building, Pioneer Livestock Pavilion, Maytag Family Theaters, Oman Family Youth Inn, Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center, Ralph H. Deets Historical Museum, Richard L. Easter Museum Complex, Richard O. Jacobson Hall/Kenyon Gallery, Richard O. Jacobson Exhibition Center, Robert G. Horner and Sheri Avis Horner Service Center, Walnut Center and William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building.

Assisted Listening Devices: Available in the John and Emily Putney Family Cattle Barn Penningroth Sale Ring, Pioneer Livestock Pavilion, Sheep Barn Show Ring, Swine Barn Show Ring and Richard O. Jacobson Exhibition Center when the Fair sound system is being used. For more information, call 515-262-3111, ext. 322, at least 72 hours in advance.

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs): Approximately 15 ATMs are located throughout the grounds, including outside or inside the major entrance gates. Some other locations include just outside the Robert G. Horner and Sheri Avis Horner Service Center and on the northeast side of the William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building. See the grounds map for additional locations.

Baby Diaper Changing/Nursing Stations: A nursing station is located in the Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center to provide parents and children with a safe, comfortable and private atmosphere. Additional locations for Baby Nursing/Changing Stations are located between the Grandstand and Barksdale's State Fair Cookies, outside of the Walnut Center, in Thrill Town by the Guest Relations trailer and in Hy-Vee Fun Forest near the east entrance. The air-conditioned pods provide rocking chairs and an area for diaper changing. Diaper changing and family restrooms are also available at the Heritage Village restroom facility adjacent to the Susan Knapp Amphitheater, north of Ye Old Mill and inside the Richard O. Jacobson Exhibition Center, the Sheep Barn, the Horse Barn, the Swine Barn, and at Shivers Family Plaza.

Blue Ribbon Foundation Water Booths: Bottled water is sold at seven stands located at the Robert G. Horner and Sheri Avis Horner Service Center, Anne and Bill Riley Stage, Little Hands on the Farm, Thrill Town, Heritage Village, John and Emily Putney Family Cattle Barn and the John Deere Agriculture Building. Proceeds are used for preserving and improving the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Bottles cost \$3.

Camping/Lodging: Fair time camping is available for registered campers. Non-registered campers are those who want a permanent spot but have not received one yet. These campers will need to fill out a form each year to gain seniority. The non-registered camper form is available at iowastatefair.org in January. The Iowa State Fair Campgrounds are sponsored by Winnebago Industries. For hotel lodging, the Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau provides up-to-date information; call 800-451-2625 for more information.

Device Charging Stations sponsored by Mediacom: Six free device charging stations are located throughout the Fairgrounds at the Administration Building porch (outside SE corner*), William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building (inside South hallway and outside NE corner*), Richard O. Jacobson Exhibition Center (outside North entrance*), Little Hands on the Farm (outside West entrance), and the MidAmerican Energy Stage (outside NE corner).

*Free portable charger rentals, wheelchair accessible

DART Park & Ride Shuttles: Fairgoers can park their car for free at one of two convenient locations around the metro and catch a ride to the Fair. Services available from 8 a.m. to midnight (service from the Fairgrounds will end at 9 p.m. on Sunday, August 23). All Shuttles drop off and pick up at the Fairgrounds at Gate 10.

DART Park & Ride Locations:

7th & Center St. (830 6th Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309)

Iowa State Capitol (Located on E 12th St., between E Grand Ave. & E Walnut St.)

Park & Ride Ticket Prices: The cost of each ticket covers the ride to and from the Fair. One-way tickets are available on request.

Regular (ages 10 and up) -\$3

Children (6 – 10) -\$1

Seniors (65 and up), Medicare Card Holders -\$1

Children 5 and Under –Free

All buses are accessible by mobility devices. For additional information about DART Park & Ride services, visit ridedart.com/fair or contact DART Customer Service at 515-283-8100.

Southridge Free Bus Service: Free for all riders. Free parking will be marked in the Southridge Mall parking lot, and buses will run continuously from 8 a.m. to midnight (service from the Fairgrounds will end at 9 p.m. on Sunday, August 23).

Directions: For GPS and online mapping services, use the address 3000 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50317. The Iowa State Fairgrounds are located at East 30th Street and East University Avenue, 10 minutes east of downtown Des Moines. The Fair suggests the following routes:

Northern Iowa

From I-35, take I-235 to Exit 10A then head east on E University Avenue approximately four miles to the Fairgrounds.

Southern Iowa

From I-35, take IA 5/US 65 to Exit 79 then head west on E University Avenue approximately four miles to the Fairgrounds.

Eastern Iowa

From I-80 take Exit 141 (Hwy. 65 Bypass), travel south on Hwy. 65 to Exit 79 and head west on Hwy. 163 (E University Avenue) approximately three miles to the Fairgrounds. It is suggested that visitors enter the Fair parking lot at E 38th or E 36th, as left-hand turns are not allowed at E 33rd.

Western Iowa

From I-235, take Exit 10A then head east on E University Avenue approximately four miles to the Fairgrounds.

Electric Scooters/Wheelchairs: For personal scooter requirements, please visit iowastatefair.org. A limited number of wheelchairs and electric scooters will be available for walk-up customers on a first-come, first-served basis. Wheelchairs are \$30 per day; electric scooters are \$80 per full day (8 a.m. to 11 p.m.). Scooters cannot be reserved for half a day. A

driver's license or State ID is required. Online and phone reservations will be accepted for wheelchairs and electric scooters. There is an additional \$10 processing fee for all call-in reservations. It is highly recommended to reserve online at www.htmia.com or call HomeTown Mobility at 712-938-2029. Rental locations are at Gate 8, Gate 10, Gate 11, Gate 13 and Gate 15.

First Aid Stations: The Hy-Vee Health and First Aid Center is located east of the John Deere Agriculture Building, open from 8 a.m. to midnight. A satellite station is located in the Robert G. Horner and Sheri Avis Horner Service Center, west of the Administration Building, and is open from 10 a.m. to midnight. Both are staffed by Des Moines Fire and Rescue.

Groups and Tours: For groups and tours utilizing motor coach transportation, use these recommended routes to get to the Fairgrounds:

From 235 (recommended route): Exit at IA-163/E. University Avenue (Exit 10A) and travel east on E. University approximately 2 miles to E. 33rd Street. Turn right at E. 33rd into Gate 2A. Buses will be directed through Lot A to the paved road north of the Grandstand. Proceed to the drop off/pick up point at Gate 13, then continue east to park in Lot C.

From 65: Exit at IA-163/E. University Avenue exit (Exit 79). Travel west approximately 4 miles and turn north on Williams St., turn west on Easton Blvd., and then south onto E. 33rd. Enter the Fairgrounds through Gate 2A. Please note left turns on E. 33rd from E. University are not permitted and the above directions may cause minor delays. Buses will be directed through Lot A to the paved road north of the Grandstand. Proceed to the drop off/pick up point at Gate 13 then continue east to park in Lot C.

Hand Sanitizer and Hand Washing Stations: Signs are located throughout the Fairgrounds emphasizing the importance of hand-washing after handling/petting animals. Portable hand-washing sink and hand-sanitizing stations are located on the Fairgrounds around livestock displays and animal containment areas. There are 40 hand-sanitizing stations and 8 hand-washing stations.

Information Booths: Fair information booths are staffed by volunteers from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Locations are in front of the John and Emily Putney Family Cattle Barn, outside of the First Church, near Gate 10, near Gate 11, at the Pepsi Clock, on the Grand Concourse east of Ye Old Mill and on the Administration Building porch.

ISF Hub: Information volunteer check-in is located at 221 East 30th Street. Delivery and credential pickup can also be found at the ISF Hub from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. during the Fair.

Lost and Found: Lost and found items are handled by the Iowa State Fair Police Department. The Public Safety Building is located at the west end of the Grand Concourse, 515-401-1614.

Lost Children/Lost People Headquarters: Lost children or persons with special needs should be taken to the Public Safety Building at the west end of Grand Avenue. Paging is done from the Public Safety Building from 9 a.m. until midnight and is only available for lost children or persons with special needs and medical emergencies. “Kid Find” wristbands will be available at all information booths, the Public Safety Building, the East Marketplace and at the Des Moines Media Group booth at the west end of the Grandstand. Wristbands are available through a partnership with the Des Moines Media Group the Iowa State Fair Police and the Iowa State Patrol.

On-Grounds Transportation:

- Blue Line Parking shuttles run daily from 5:30 a.m. until 1 a.m. in Lots A, B, and C. The Blue Line Parking shuttles have 6 routine stops at Gate 13 & 15.
 - Stop 1 Lot C
 - Stop 2 Lot C
 - Stop 3 Lot B
 - Stop 4 Gate 15 Unload
 - Stop 5 Gate 13 Unload/Load
 - Stop 6 Gate 15 Load
- Clearfield Lions shuttles run from the First Church to Pioneer Hall/Museum Complex to the campgrounds. Shuttles are open to all Fairgoers and are sponsored by Iowa Soybean Association.
- Golf cart mini-shuttle service (not wheelchair accessible) is available from Lots A, B and C and the SODA (south of Dean Avenue) parking lots to Gates 13, 15 and 8 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. While offered as a free service, riders may make donations to the Shriners Children's Hospital and the Za-Ga-Zig Shrine Transportation Fund. Golf carts are not available for rent for liability reasons.
- Scooters and wheelchairs are available for rent from HomeTown Mobility. Call 712.938.2029 to reserve a scooter, or scooters and wheelchairs are available at Gates 8, 10, 11, 13, and 15. Personal golf carts are not allowed on the Fairgrounds.
- New in 2026, the Iowa State Fair will offer complimentary Mobility Assistance Cart rides for Fairgoers who may need help navigating the Fairgrounds. Volunteer-operated six-seat golf carts will run daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from five designated Information Booth locations. The Mobility Assistance Carts will travel fixed routes between Information Booths, and passengers may be dropped off at the closest point along the route to their destination. These carts are intended to assist Fairgoers with mobility-related needs and are not individual mobility carts or rentals. Mobility Assistance Cart pick-up and drop-off locations will be at Gate 11, Gate 10, the Cattle Barn area at Rock Island and Logan, Grand Avenue in front of the Bud Tent, and near Gate 4 by the Fire Station. Look for the clearly marked “Mobility Assistance Cart” signs at each location.

Package Pickup: Selected merchandise vendors in the William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building, The Marketplaces and Cultural Center, and Agriculture Building are participating in a courtesy package pick up service free to guests. Guests can make purchases and pick them up as early as 1-2 hours later at one of 5 gates (5, 9, 10, 11 and 15). Gate 9 is the only location guests can either walk up or drive up for larger items. The other gates will be walk up only. Package pickup hours of operation are 8 a.m.-10 p.m. For questions about retrieving a package, guests can call 515-401-1595. The Iowa State Fair is not responsible for lost or damaged goods.

Severe Weather Policy: When the National Weather Service issues a severe weather warning impacting the Fairgrounds, an announcement will be made over the grounds-wide public address system alerting Fairgoers to seek shelter. The announcement will be repeated every two minutes until the severe weather warning has expired. Fairgoers may get general Fair alerts at 'FAIR' to 844.844.8508.

- When the National Weather Service issues a severe weather warning impacting the Grandstand, an announcement will be communicated over the public address system, as well as video boards advising to shelter in place, move to the interior of the Grandstand or evacuate the Grandstand. If a severe weather event occurs, Grandstand, security personnel and law enforcement will give instructions. This may delay the event start time.

Sign Language Interpreters: To arrange for a sign language interpreter in the Grandstand, please call 515-262-3111, ext. 305 or email ticketoffice@iowastatefair.org.

Storage Facilities: Available on the west side of the Administration Building at a cost of \$7 per day for a small bin or \$10 per day for a large bin. Storage facilities are open 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (or until after Grandstand shows).

Stroller and Wagon Rental: Available on a first-come, first-served basis inside Gate 11 and Gate 15 from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Stroller rental is \$25 per day, and double stroller rental is \$30 per day (driver's license or State ID is required). Strollers and wagons are provided by Hometown Mobility.

Taxi, Uber, Lyft and Rideshare: Pick-up and drop-offs are at the turn off near Gate 8 on Dean Avenue. To order a ride call 515-282-8111 for a taxi or 515-288-7433 for Rideshare. Download the Uber or Lyft App and use the GPS address (203 Rock Island, Des Moines, Iowa 50317) when trying to locate the drop-off and pick-up locations. Pick up and drop off is not allowed inside Gate 8. Please follow signs to the drop off area right past Gate 8.

TDD (Telecommunications Device): During the 11 days of the Fair, a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) will be available for outgoing local calls inside the Administration Building from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Waste and Recycling Services: The Iowa State Fair has a recycling program. Several Big Bottle recycling receptacles are stationed throughout the grounds to help keep the Fairgrounds clean and trash-free. Livestock bedding is recycled for compost with Metro Waste Authority.

Water Refill Stations sponsored by Des Moines Water Works and Delta Dental of Iowa: 16 convenient water refill stations are located throughout the Fairgrounds. Locations are outside the Ron and Bev Shivers Family Plaza (1) and inside the Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building (4), Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center (2), Patty & Jim Cownie Cultural Center (3), Elwell Family Food Center (2), William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building (2), and Oman Family Youth Inn (2).