



## Team Building: A Day at the Iowa State Fair with Your Co-Workers

Welcome to the ultimate team-building experience at the Iowa State Fair!

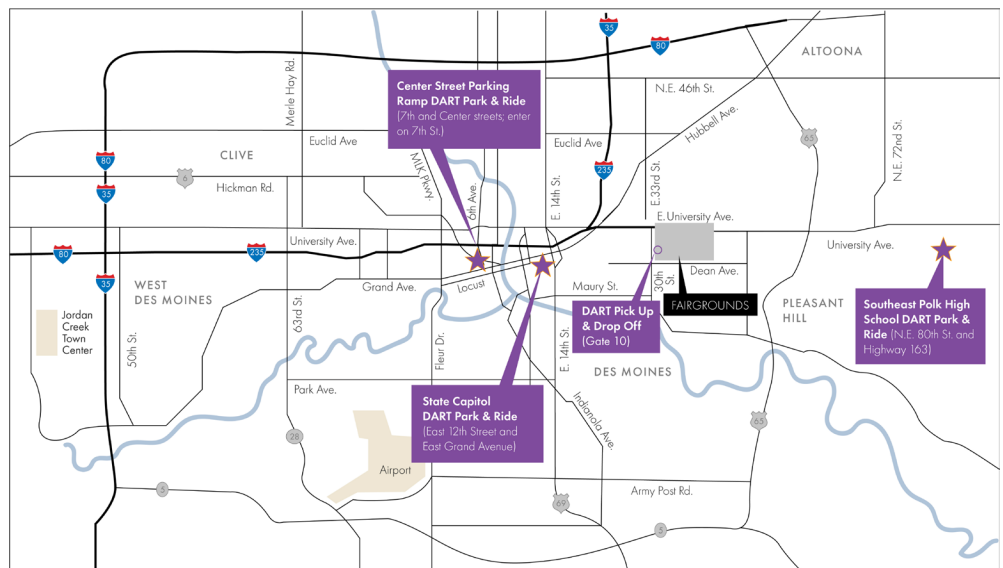
Get ready for a day filled with fun and food as you explore the world-renowned Iowa State Fair. This manual will guide you through everything you need to know for a successful corporate outing at the Fair.

### 1. Planning Your Outing:

**Dates:** Coordinate with your team to select a date that works best for everyone. Consider factors such as work schedules, transportation and any other commitments. The full schedule for the Fair will be posted on our website, [www.iowastatefair.org](http://www.iowastatefair.org), in early July. You can also download the official Iowa State Fair App or get a printed copy in the Des Moines Register on August 3. To view the schedule, check out [iowastatefair.org/entertainment/fair-schedule](http://iowastatefair.org/entertainment/fair-schedule).

**Transportation:** Arrange transportation to and from the Fairgrounds. Depending on the size of your group, options may include carpooling, chartering a bus or using public transportation. The address for Uber, Lyft or Taxi pick up is 203 Rock Island, Des Moines, IA 50317. On-site parking is available for \$10 per vehicle as available and payable at the gate. Charter buses are welcome and can drop people off at the gate and park in a designated area on the Fairgrounds. Shuttles and golf carts operate in the parking lots and take you to the entry gates.

DART buses are available for pick up or drop off from three locations in the Des Moines Metro area. The cost is \$3 per person and they run from 8 a.m. to midnight. The routes are here: [iowastatefair.org/visit/parking-dart-park-ride](http://iowastatefair.org/visit/parking-dart-park-ride)



**Tickets:** Purchase admission tickets in advance to streamline entry into the Fair AND save money. Large orders can be placed together using the [Corporate Opportunities Form](https://www.iowastatefair.org/visit/groups-tours/corporate-outings): [iowastatefair.org](https://www.iowastatefair.org) > Visit > Groups & Tours > Corporate Outings

## ADMISSION

<b>Advance Tickets (through August 6):</b>	<b>Fair Time Tickets (August 7-17):</b>
<b>Adult (12 and up) \$11</b>	<b>Adult (12 and up): \$16</b>
<b>Child (6-11) \$7</b>	<b>Child (6-11): \$10</b>
<b>Children 5 and under: Free</b>	<b>Children 5 and under: Free</b>

Adult and child advance admission tickets are available online at [iowastatefair.org](https://www.iowastatefair.org) and can be printed at home, without fees. Tickets can be ordered online and mailed with a fee. Adult and child advance admission tickets are also available at participating Iowa Hy-Vee and Fareway stores (without fees). All advance admission tickets will remain on sale (while supplies last) before August 7.

## DISCOUNT DAYS

The following fairtime discounts are available at the gates and are not good with any other offer.

**Discounted Admission:** \$12 adult admission, \$8 child admission (ages 6-11); available Monday-Thursday evenings from 5 to 10 p.m.

**Veterans Day (Monday, August 11):** Active and former members of the United States military who show proof of veteran or active military status and their spouse enjoy \$12 gate admission from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Older Iowans' Day (Wednesday, August 13):** Fairgoers ages 60 and older receive \$12 gate admission from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Sunday Funday (Sunday, August 17):** \$12 for adults and \$8 for kids ages 6-11. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: with donations of 3 cans of non-perishable food, adult admission (ages 12 and up) is \$9.

# New Fair Hours

Date	Grounds	Buildings	Thrill Parks
Aug. 7-16	8 a.m. to midnight	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.	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.
Aug. 17	8 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Thrill Ville: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thrill Town: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thrill Zone: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Aug. 7-16: No on-site ticket sales and no entry/re-entry allowed after 10 p.m.

Aug. 17: No on-site ticket sales and no entry/re-entry allowed after 7 p.m.

## 2. Itinerary:

**Fair Hours:** Plan to arrive at the Fairgrounds early to maximize your time. If you are there shortly after the gates open at 8 a.m., you will beat the crowds.

**Meeting:** Gather your team for a brief welcome meeting to outline the day's activities and establish meeting points throughout the Fairgrounds.

**Explore:** Encourage team members to explore the Fair at their own pace, taking in the sights, sounds and attractions that interest them most.

**Group Activities:** Competitions or group activities, visiting specific exhibits, participating in competitions or enjoying rides together can be fun. Bulk orders for food tickets and ride passes can be ordered ahead of time. Checklists of sites to see and a scavenger hunt are at the end of this document.

**Food:** Coordinate a designated lunch break where team members can enjoy a meal together. A shelter is available for rental if available. It is often booked, but there is a list of semi-permanent vendors that can host gatherings. Setting up food and drinks ahead of time with the vendor is advisable for medium to larger grounds. Pre-ordering food coupons, working with a vendor or arranging for bulk purchasing are other options. You can find the information here: [iowastatefair.org/visit/groups-tours](http://iowastatefair.org/visit/groups-tours)

**Fun:** Continue exploring the Fairgrounds, making sure to check out any must-see attractions or entertainment. Check out the checklists in this guide or try the scavenger hunt.

**Closing:** Gather your team to share highlights, express gratitude for their participation or go to an evening concert at a free stage or in the Grandstand. To purchase Grandstand tickets, visit [iowastatefair.org/entertainment/grandstand](http://iowastatefair.org/entertainment/grandstand). You can find free horse shows throughout the Fair or free or paid shows in our outdoor arena, Elwell Family Park: [iowastatefair.org/entertainment/attractions/elwell-family-park](http://iowastatefair.org/entertainment/attractions/elwell-family-park)

### 3. Tips for a Successful Outing:

**Comfortable:** Advise team members to dress comfortably and appropriately for a day spent outdoors. Comfortable shoes are a must for walking around the Fairgrounds.

**Hydration:** Remind everyone to stay hydrated throughout the day by drinking plenty of water, especially if it's hot outside. All bags are subject to inspection. Outside food and drink are allowed. Small soft-sided coolers for medication or perishables are permissible. For a full list, check out the safety page on the Iowa State Fair website: [iowastatefair.org/safety](http://iowastatefair.org/safety)

**Sun Protection:** Encourage the use of sunscreen and hats to protect against sunburn. Consider providing sunscreen for easy access. We have care cubes throughout the Fairgrounds that offer things you might have left at home like sunscreen, bandages or Tylenol.

**Group Photos:** Capture memories of the day with group photos at various locations around the Fairgrounds. Consider designating a team photographer to document the outing. There are multiple selfie locations throughout the Fairgrounds to create great shots and memories.

**Safety First:** Remind everyone to be mindful of their surroundings and adhere to safety guidelines. Visit [iowastatefair.org/safety](http://iowastatefair.org/safety)

### 4. Post-Outing Follow-Up:

**Feedback Survey:** Distribute a brief survey to gather feedback from team members about their experience at the Fair for future outings. We always welcome feedback, please share any improvements with us at [info@iowastatefair.org](mailto:info@iowastatefair.org).

**Photo Sharing:** Share photos from the outing with the team via email or a shared online platform. Encourage team members to reminisce about their favorite moments from the day. Follow us on social media and feel free to use #IowaStateFair or #FairSweetFair

## 5. Additional Resources:

**Iowa State Fair Website:** Visit the official Iowa State Fair website for information about attractions, exhibits and entertainment options at [iowastatefair.org](http://iowastatefair.org).

**Iowa State Fair App:** Don't want to miss any of the Iowa State Fair action? Download the Official Iowa State Fair App to keep up with all the fun! Access the daily schedule, Grandstand shows and purchase admission tickets all from your mobile device.

**Fair Map:** Download a map of the Fairgrounds to help navigate your way around the event. Visit [iowastatefair.org/visit/fairgrounds-map](http://iowastatefair.org/visit/fairgrounds-map).

**Event Schedule:** Check the Fair's event schedule for special performances, competitions and other activities happening throughout the day. Visit [iowastatefair.org/entertainment/fair-schedule](http://iowastatefair.org/entertainment/fair-schedule).

To have the best time at the Fair, check out our visitor information at [iowastatefair.org](http://iowastatefair.org) under the visit tab.

With this manual as your guide, you're ready to embark on an unforgettable outing at the Iowa State Fair. Get ready to create lasting memories at Fair Sweet Fair, August 7-17, 2025.

# Top 11 Stops

Use the following lists to find your way around the Fairgrounds

### Top 11 Sweet Stops for the First-Time Fairgoer:

450 acres and thousands of competitions and events or entertainment can be overwhelming. If it's your first time to the Fair, welcome! Check out our must-see suggestions for the Iowa State Fair.

- ☐ Check out a livestock show from 4-H to FFA to Open shows. There's a free horse show every day of the Fair!
- ☐ Find the famous Butter Cow and companion sculptures in the Agriculture Building.
- ☐ Check out Fair history in the Museum Complex or historical exhibits and demonstrations at Pioneer Hall.
- ☐ Take a break and relax at Expo Hill, The Garden or in Pella Plaza.
- ☐ Watch demonstrations or get a hands-on art experience in the Cultural Center.
- ☐ Catch a Fair time contest from Beard Growing to Husband Calling, Checkers and more!
- ☐ Drop by the Fair's three different stages for free night-time entertainment.
- ☐ Ride one of the Fair's iconic rides: the Giant Slide, Ye Old Mill or the Sky Glider.
- ☐ Mingle with friends and co-workers at one of the many permanent food locations, the Iowa Craft Beer Tent or the Iowa Wine Growers Association at Grandfather's Barn.
- ☐ Pick up some free things or do some shopping in the Varied Industries Building, Walnut Center, Machinery Grounds or the Shoppers Mart by the Grandstand.
- ☐ Find some shade and watch events like ATV races, tractor pulls and derbies in Elwell Family Park, or snag a ticket to top entertainers in the Grandstand.

### 11 Sweet Food Facts:

70% of people come for the food at the Fair. Check these great options off your list as you make your way around the Fairgrounds. Calories don't count here.

- ☐ 200 food stands
- ☐ 60+ mobile foods on a stick
- ☐ 35+ vendors with seating
- ☐ 35+ vendors with refillable drink options
- ☐ 748 Elwell Family Food Center food competitions
- ☐ Healthy options from Acai Bowls to Pork Chops on a stick
- ☐ Barksdale's State Fair Chocolate Chip Cookies
- ☐ Bargains from shrimp on a stick to donuts and ice cream
- ☐ Try a Fair favorite or vote for a winner in the New Foods contest

- ☐ Get a ticket to Farm-to-Table Dinners with Chef Grant Gillon and other delicious classes at The Kitchen
- ☐ Fair After Dark is a 21 and over VIP event; this year, join in on Adults Only Night at Little Hands on the Farm (\$25 per person) or Ghost Hunting 101 (\$30 per person)

### 11 Sweet Selfie Spots:

Get the perfect group picture or a solo selfie in some great spots on the Fairgrounds. Be sure to share them on social media!

- ☐ Framed selfie stands throughout the grounds
- ☐ In front of the Grandstand or a Thrill Park Ride or in The Garden
- ☐ Flowers in a 2025 design near Pioneer Hall
- ☐ Lighted letters in three locations
- ☐ Downtown Des Moines skyline at the top of the hill
- ☐ On the Ferris Wheel
- ☐ With a baby animal in the Animal Learning Center
- ☐ Sliding down the Giant Slide
- ☐ With your favorite food on a stick
- ☐ Pick your favorite people for a picture on the Ye Old Mill
- ☐ Fair murals near Gate 10

### 11 NEW Additions and Sweet “Comforts” for 2025:

There are so many sweet things to do, eat and see at the Iowa State Fair! Find out what's NEW in 2025's Fair Sweet Fair.

- ☐ New Variety Star Playground in the Hy-Vee Fun Forest
- ☐ Completion of the Sheep Barn renovation
- ☐ Horse Barn renovation
- ☐ Highland Cattle Show (August 15)
- ☐ Shivers Family Plaza on Rock Island
- ☐ New pedestrian gate on East 30th and Maple
- ☐ The Iowa State Fair Farmers Market is moving to The Garden
- ☐ Staircase from the Patty and Jim Cownie Cultural Center to Fairview Hill
- ☐ Shade structures at the Susan Knapp Amphitheater
- ☐ Additional picnic tables at the Anne and Bill Riley Stage (west) and the Ron and Bev Shivers Family Plaza
- ☐ Additional bicycle parking

Fair  
Sweet  
Fair

AUGUST  
7-17  
2025

IowaStateFair

NOTHING  
COMPARES

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# Scavenger Hunt

Have some fun answering the questions below and finding some iconic Fair locations.

1. Iowa's most famous love boat.
2. Do you even know what your county's flag looks like?
3. Avoid this area August 14-16 or you will be in a hypnotic state.
4. Did you know, the Iowa State Fair owned a baby elephant for several years? Where can you find the statue of Baby Mine?
5. Band-Aids, Ibuprofen or broken legs are found here.
6. Meet me at the \_\_\_\_\_. (Hint: It's not Coca Cola...)
7. Hairball's home in 2025.
8. The birthplace of the Polled Hereford.
9. Where cow chips fly.
10. SSSSSome people will pay to take a picture with me during the Fair.
11. These little buildings can make a farmer out of anyone.
12. 600 lbs of butter.
13. Climb 71 steps to the top of this.
14. Baby ducks, lambs, goats and cows, Oh My!