

IOWA STATE FAIR

CORPORATE OUTING MANUAL

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, 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 4. <https://www.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 3 locations in the Des Moines Metro area. The cost is \$2 per person and they run from 8 a.m. to midnight. The routes are here: <https://www.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 on this form: https://storage.googleapis.com/iowa-state-fair/Corporate-Opportunities_2024.pdf

ADMISSION

Advance Tickets:	Fair Time Tickets:
Adult (12 and up) \$11	Adult (12 and up): \$16
Child (6-11) \$7	Child (6-11): \$10
Children 5 and under: Free	Children 5 and under: Free

Adult and child advance admission tickets are available online at 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 8.

DISCOUNT DAYS

The following 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 14): 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 16): Fairgoers ages 60 and older receive \$12 gate admission from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday Funday (Sunday, August 20): \$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.

2. Itinerary:

FAIR HOURS

GROUNDS, BUILDINGS AND THRILL PARK HOURS

DATE	GROUNDS	BUILDINGS	THRILL PARKS
August 8-17*	8 a.m. to midnight	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Thrill Ville: 10 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 8-17: No on-site ticket sales and no entry/re-entry allowed after 10 p.m.			
DATE	GROUNDS	BUILDINGS	THRILL PARKS
August 18*	8 a.m. to 9 p.m.	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Thrill Ville: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thrill Town: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thrill Zone: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

*August 18: No on-site ticket sales and no entry/re-entry allowed after 7 p.m.

Times are subject to change.

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: <https://www.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. You can even collect badges for prizes on our official Iowa State Fair App.

Closing: Gather your team to share highlights, and express gratitude for their participation or to go to an evening concert at a free stage or on the Grandstand. To purchase Grandstand tickets, visit <https://www.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: <https://www.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 sealed bottles of water 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: www.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, band-aids 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. <https://www.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. Use this feedback to inform future outings. We always welcome feedback, please share any improvements with us at 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 #FairFever

5. Additional Resources:

Iowa State Fair Website: Visit the official Iowa State Fair website for information about attractions, exhibits and entertainment options. <https://www.iowastatefair.org/>

Fair Map: Download a map of the Fairgrounds to help navigate your way around the event. <https://www.iowastatefair.org/visit/fairgrounds-map>

Event Schedule: Check the Fair's event schedule for special performances, competitions, and other activities happening throughout the day. <https://www.iowastatefair.org/entertainment/fair-schedule>

To have the best time at the Fair, check out our visitor information: <https://www.iowastatefair.org/visit>

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 and experience Fair Fever, August 8-18, 2024.

Top 11 Stops

Use the following lists to find your way around the Fairgrounds

Top 11 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 the must-do list below to find your favorites.

- Check out a livestock show from 4-H to FFA to Open shows. You will find the Big Boar, Super Bull, Big Ram, and the Largest Rabbit in the barns too.
- Find the famous Butter Cow and companion sculptures in the Agriculture Building.
- Check out Fair history in the Museum Complex or witness history in Mountain Man Camp or at Pioneer Hall.
- Take a break and relax at Expo Hill, The Garden, the Discovery Garden or in Pella Plaza.
- Watch demonstrations or get a hands-on art experience in the Cultural Center.
- Catch a Fair-time contest from Ugliest Cake to Bubble Gum, Checkers, Mullets or Mr. Legs.
- See over \$500,000 in free night-time entertainment on three different stages.
- 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 Shoppers Mart by the Grandstand.
- Find some shade and watch events like ATV races, tractor pulls, races and derbies in the new Elwell Family Park, or snag a ticket to top entertainers in the Grandstand.

Top 11 for the Sentimental Fair Goer

The Fair started in 1854, so we have some history to share. Stop by the museum complex for the full story or skip by the significant anniversaries below.

- 10 years of Ruan Plaza
- 15 years of the Elwell Family Food Center
- 20 years of Little Hands on the Farm

- 25 years of the Hy-Vee Fun Forest
- 40 years of Cattlemen's Beef Quarters
- 50 years of the main Sky Glider
- 60 years of the Iowa State Fair Queen contest
- 60 years of the Iowa Farm Bureau Cookout Contest
- 75 years of the West Des Moines United Methodist Food Stand
- 120 years of the Agriculture Building
- 170 years of the Iowa State Fair!

Top 11 For Foodie Fever:

70% of the 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
- 34 vendors with refillable drink options
- 726 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 the Farm to Fair Dinner featuring all Iowa chefs and products
- Fair After Dark is a 21 and over VIP event with Agriculture and fun mixed in

Top 11 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 2024 design near Pioneer Hall
- Lighted letters in three locations
- State Capitol backdrop near Grandfather's Barn
- 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, Thrill Town and the Iowa Craft Beer Tent

Top 11 What's New for 2024:

There are so many things to eat, do, and see at the Iowa State Fair; we've got a Fever for all things Fair! Find out what's NEW at the Fair in 2024.

- New Locations: Chainsaw Carvers moved to Expo Hill and Art Fair moved to the Cultural Center Courtyard
- NEW for 2024 – Glass Blowing by Hot Glass Academy- near First Church
- 26 FREE horse shows, 4 FREE Elwell Family Park events
- All Iowa Fair View Farmer's Market next to Grandfather's Barn
- NEW Fair hours
- Llama Love: Hooves on Adventure – Family-friendly event pre-registration required (\$)
- Kids in the Kitchen at Variety Theater in Maytag Family Center
- Cowboy Boot Camp north of Little Hands on the Farm
- FREE Elwell Family Park Events: Antique Tractor Pull (Aug. 8), Short Course UTV & ATV Cup (Aug. 10), Charros

performance (Aug. 11) and Garden Tractor Pull (Aug. 16)

Figure 8 Races at Elwell Family Park (\$) (Aug. 18)

Farmer Bull Pen – Meet a Farmer, Animal Learning Center, (Aug. 8-18)

Fairgoer “Comforts”

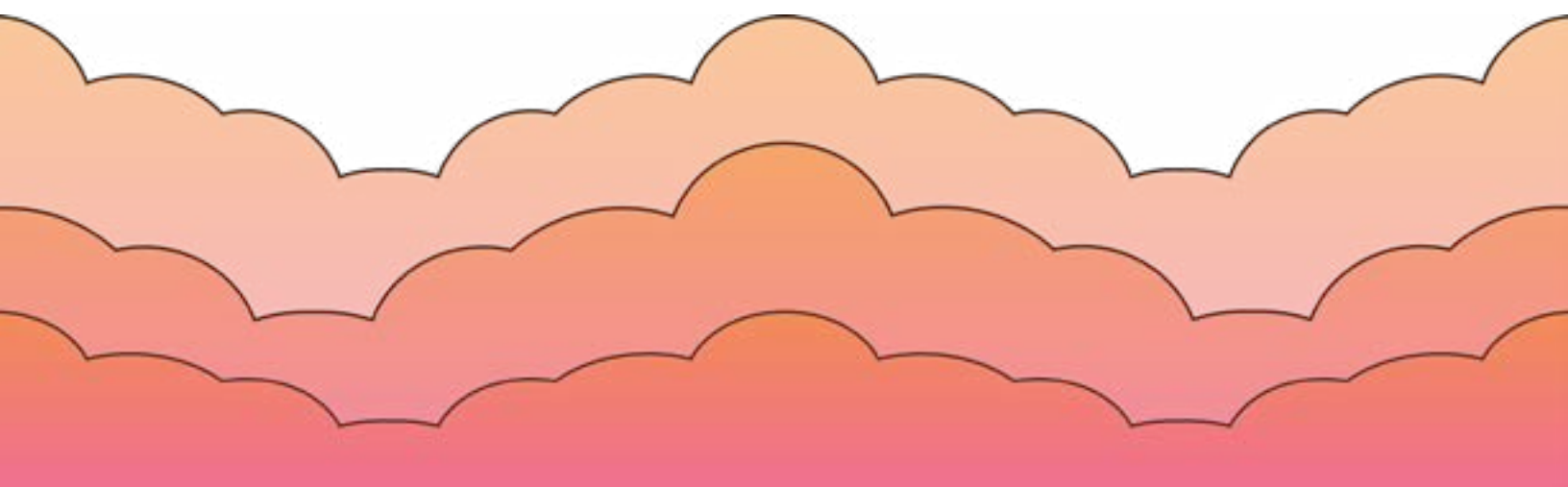
Additional ADA Parking in Lot A

Additional seating areas (picnic tables and benches)

Restroom improvements

Water bottle filling stations

Shade Areas



IOWA STATE FAIR

SCAVENGER HUNT

#1 Iowa's most famous love boat.

#2 Do you know what your county's flag looks like?

#3



#4 You wouldn't call this the Busch Canopy, but you may call it something similar.

#5 Avoid this area August 13th - 17th unless you want to be stuck in a hypnosis state.

#6 Did you know, the Iowa State Fair owned an elephant for several years in 1929? Where can you find a statue of Baby Mine?

#7 Band-aids? Ibuprofen? Broken leg? Go here.

#8



#9 Meet me at the _____



#10 HAIRBALL's home in 2023.

#11 The birthplace of Polled Herefords!

#12



#13 These nine little buildings could make a farmer out of anyone.

#14 Where can you find a milkshake?

#15 It's the perfect spot to take a selfie! Can you find 1 of 6?

Follow our socials!



IOWA STATE FAIR SCAVENGER HUNT

#16



#17



#18



EMOJI CHALLENGE

Guess the location based on these emoji groups!



#19



#20



#21



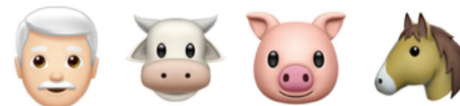
#22



#23



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