TOP 11 at the fair
THE BEST WAYS TO HAVE FUN FOR ALL 11 DAYS

Best Thrills
Experience the BEST thrills on the BEST rides at the Iowa State Fair in 2023. Nine NEW rides will make their debut at the Fair this year, like the L^2 Scrambler, Mega Bounce, Top Fun and Eclipse, and 2023 will see the return of a Fair favorite, the Sky Wheel (Double Ferris Wheel). Be a part of the fun and excitement in three different Thrill Parks - Thrill Town and Thrill Zone - there’s something for every Fairgoer!

Best Entertainment
1. Enjoy Free Stage entertainment with the BEST local talent, up-and-coming artists or classic Fair favorites. See shows from Nate Smith, Great White and Airplane, to name a few. With 11 nights of all-country music, contemporary Christian, blues/legends, alternative and Latin music, you won’t want to miss a night! Tickets for the Iowa State Fair Grandstand performances and Home Interior’s furniture are also on sale now at iowastatefair.org.

Best Contests
5. The Iowa State Fair has the BEST in vital and creative contests. Best Barn Quilts, Bike Tricycles, Calligraphy More and Missouri Valley 4-H Exhibits Building contests sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives where Iowa 4-H’ers put their static exhibits on display, see how they measure up with projects at the Fair’s Display Building or watch an open, 4-H or FFA livestock show any day of the Fair. Find displays of the best quilts and sewing projects in the William C. Knapp Exhibit Building sponsored by Principal, the best pies, BBQ sauce and cinnamon rolls in the Ewell Family Food Center; arts, photography, woodworking and dollhouses in the Patty and Jim Courice Cultural Center; and view fruits, vegetables, flower shows and beekeeping displays in the John Dowie Agriculture Building sponsored by Alliant Energy.

Best Competitions
In a hunt for the coveted Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon, head to the Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building to see exhibits from 4-H’ers. Visit the Galleries of Agriculture, Food Science, Health Safety & Business, the Arts & Writing Galleries, the Science Discovery Galleries, the Early Learning Galleries and many more.

Best Foods
The Iowa State Fair has 16 NEW food booths. Tune in to the Iowa State Fair’s new food event on Facebook on July 18 at 1 p.m. to see the top new foods to try this year.

Best Ag Adventures
We’re excited to share all the ways you can learn more about the agriculture industry in Iowa! Experience Little Hands on the Farm, wander through The Garden, see baby animals at the Paul D. Knapp Animal Learning Center and listen to youth give “Have You Heard?” presentations about their livestock exhibits outside of the Sheep Barn. The Avenue of Breeds, located just east of the Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building, showcases more than 70 different breeds of animals found in Iowa.

Best Days
Some of the best days of the Fair feature highlights such as great causes, partners and the downright best of Iowa. Wallis Worthington, Iowa’s newest ambassador, is our 2023 Fair Ambassador. She will be greeting guests at the Main Gate and throughout the Fair. Check out the schedule for the Race to the Top event of the day.

Best Ways to Save
The BEST ways to save are to buy advance admission tickets before Aug. 10 and save $5 on adult tickets and $3 on tickets for children 11 and under (children 2 and under are always free). You can save on Thrill Passes, Giant Slide and Ye Old Mill at iowastatefair.org. Save time at the Cookie Building counter by buying cookie coupons online, too. State Fair Value Packs are the biggest and BEST way to save on all the best Fair activities for your family – just $20 for many of your favorite Fair activities and rides! Order at iowastatefair.org before July 26 for use until Aug. 9 at the Iowa State Fair Ticket Office.

Best Places to Go
Plan now for the Best Days Ever at the Iowa State Fair! Find up-to-date information at iowastatefair.org, download the official Iowa State Fair App, sign up for the Iowa State Fair newsletter or text FAIR to 864.844.8508. The daily program will be posted on the Iowa State Fair website and App in mid-July, and will be included in the Daily Program Guide, available in the Des Moines Register August 4 and at all admission gates during the Fair.