

Hello, Volunteer!

Welcome to the Weavers Guild of Minnesota's outreach at the Minnesota State Fair! Thank you for donating your time and talent on behalf of WGM. The State Fair is WGM's largest outreach event of the year, reaching thousands of fair attendees and bringing weaving and spinning to new audiences. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated.

In advance of your shift, please read and note the following. If you are new to WGM outreach, please also read the Demonstration Guidelines at the end of this document.

Volunteer Schedule:

WGM has three people demonstrating at all times: a floor loom weaver, a spinner, and someone demonstrating off-loom techniques. Each shift lasts four hours and gets you into the fair for free. (One ticket per person per day). Many shifts are still available; sign up online, [here](#).

SPINNING Demonstrations:

WGM provides an Ashford Traditional spinning wheel and a Louet for your use on-site. You may also bring your own wheel or drop spindles. If you use Guild bobbins, please remove your yarn before the end of your shift. A niddy noddy and one set of hand cards are under the counter in front of the wheels for your use. **You will need to bring your own fiber to spin.**

WEAVING, Floor Loom Demonstrations:

The floor loom will be warped and ready to weave. A sample of the warp will be mailed with your fair ticket. **Please note: You will need to provide your own weft and shuttles.** At the end of your shift, you may either cut off your piece and retie for the next weaver OR you may leave your work on the loom and weave in a spacer. If you choose to cut off, please remember to leave enough warp in front of the reed to avoid unthreading accidents and to make it easy to tie on for the next weaver. (Please take your project with you.) If you choose to leave your work on the loom, but would like to collect it after the fair, please attach a tag with your name so we may contact you for pickup. Unlabeled and uncollected items will be recycled. **Loom notes:** The State Fair loom may be different from other looms you have used. Remember to **release the tension on the front before advancing the warp and never force any part.**

Off-loom or Portable Weaving Demonstrations:

Please bring your own fiber project to work on. These can include any hand or portable technique, such as frame or tapestry weaving, rigid heddle weaving, inkle or card weaving, pin loom weaving, beading, kumihimo or other braiding, basket weaving, and felting. You may also choose to demonstrate finishing techniques.

End of demonstration:

At the end of your demonstration, please clean up your work area.

Building Open/Close:

WGM demonstrates in the Creative Activities Building.

At 9:00am, the side door is usually up with a screen gate in front; if this is the case, you may let yourself into the building. If the building is locked, there is a doorbell at the front door, (the one facing the corner).

At 9:00pm, the lights will be turned down in the building to remind the public of closing time. (The lights will be turned back up, so you need not hurry to get out of the building.) Please pick up your demonstration area and take your articles with you.

Tickets:

Demonstrators receive a complimentary ticket into the State Fair for the day of their shift. Tickets are mailed in mid-August, along with a sample of the floor loom warp (for those demo'ing on the loom), parking guidelines and a copy of the volunteer schedule with contact information.

Getting to the State Fair

The following links can help you plan your trip to minimize stress for getting to the fair for your shift. Note, if you plan on parking for free in the neighborhoods surrounding the fair, you will need ample time to find a spot near the entrance so plan ahead.

Enter at **Gate 5**, which is closest to the Creative Activities and Annex building.

Link for map of fairgrounds:

<http://www.mnstatefair.org/pdf/17-parking-page-map.pdf>

Link for park and rides:

http://www.mnstatefair.org/general_info/get_here/park_ride.html

Link for parking in fair lots:

http://www.mnstatefair.org/general_info/get_here/parking.html

Link for biking to the fair:

http://www.mnstatefair.org/general_info/get_here/bike.html

Link with construction information:

http://www.mnstatefair.org/general_info/get_here/construction.html

Demonstration Guidelines:

New to demonstrating for the Weavers Guild of Minnesota? Here are some suggestions:

Enjoy yourself: We weave and spin (and dye!) because it brings us joy. (And if it doesn't, why are we doing it?) The best way to demonstrate weaving and spinning is to express your joy while doing it!

Be friendly: Many State Fair attendees may be reluctant to interrupt you while you are working. Please look up from your work to let them know that's okay. Ask if they have questions.

Show off a little: Feel free to bring samples of your work and talk about your color, fiber, and structure choices, and what you love about what you've made. Be prepared to answer the age-old question: How long did it take to make that?

Work on something low-key: The fair is not the time to work on a special project. Bring something you can easily stop and start.

Promote your love of fiber arts: Please refrain from promoting your individual business. In promoting WGM and weaving/spinning in general, we hope all fiber artists will benefit.

Be courteous of your fellow demonstrators: Be prompt. Pick up your space. Demonstrate for your allotted time, and enjoy the fair before or after your demonstration. Please alert your fellow demonstrators (using the volunteer schedule) if you will be late for your shift.

WGM is proud to have you as an ambassador for the guild. **Thank you for demonstrating at the Minnesota State Fair.**

For additional questions, please contact WGM's 2018 State Fair coordinator, Gayle Groebner, ggroebner_mpls@yahoo.com, 651.757.6365.
or WGM: info@weaversguildmn.org, 612.436.0463