

2017 Minnesota Renaissance Festival

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Minnesota Renaissance Festival Celebrates its 47th Season!

SHAKOPEE, Minn. (March, 2017) – Experience the magic of our Realm at the 2017 Minnesota Renaissance Festival as we celebrate our 47th season! Journey back in time and enter a world entirely its own when you visit our fantasy kingdom. We truly have something for everyone with seven different theme weekends occurring throughout the Festival!

King Henry and his court invite one and all to his 16th Century European village featuring 16 stages of live entertainment and much more. Over 250 artisans fill the Festival marketplace to display and sell their handcrafted wares for a truly unique shopping experience. There are also daily jousts, children's craft areas and delicious food and drinks!

The Renaissance Festival is open weekends starting August 19 and running until October 1, along with Labor Day and Festival Friday on September 29, 2017. Each weekend features a different theme that brings in specific entertainers, vendors, and artisans sure to bring the theme to life! This year's theme weekends include Highland Fling, Once Upon a Time, International Bazaar, Wine, Chocolate & Romance, Pets & Pirates, Shamrocks & Shenanigans, and Oktoberfest.

The Festival will be showing off its Scottish pride during our opening weekend with **Highland Fling** taking place on August 19th and 20th. We will be hosting the Annual World Amateur Highland Heavy Games Championship, where the top ten amateurs from across the nation will be competing for the World Amateur Title and their opportunity to earn their professional status in the sport! There will also be vendors from across the area featuring traditional Scottish clans, food and merchandise. Along with all of this, there will also be daily keg tosses, kilt competitions, broadsword demos, live performances by Scottish dancers and free hard cider tastings with Woodchuck!

Let your fairy tale come true during our second weekend, **Once Upon a Time!** There will be an array of magical, mystical, fantasy and sci-fi vendors and special events. August 26th and 27th will welcome a fantasy mask competition, Steampunk costume contest, fairy wand and pirate hat making, and a fairy house

competition! For all you fairy lovers out there, we will also be hosting a Fairy Festival where you can check out the fairy themed houses in our competition and visit our fairy vendors selling birdhouses, lawn and garden ornaments, and anything else fairy related.

Are you ready for a vacation filled with new experiences? Then look no further than our third weekend taking place on September 2nd, 3rd and 4th **International Bazaar**! Come, stroll and immerse yourself in our International Bazaar, featuring multicultural vendors who will be showcasing pastries, olive oil, trinkets and much more. You can also put a variety of your skills to the test by participating in our Bocce Ball Tournament, Belly Dance Competition, Spaghetti Eating Contest and Tattoo Competition!

Indulge your sweet tooth at our **Wine, Chocolate & Romance** weekend on September 9th & 10th. Stop by our Chocolate Festival featuring local chocolatiers and wineries! Participate in some of our sweetest events, including a cupcake battle, chocolate pie eating contest, and FREE wine tastings provided by Sutter Home! You can even bring your little ones along for some fun with our 4th Annual Kid's Cupcake Decorating Competition. On top of all of this, we will also be hosting a grape stomp, free vow renewals, and a wine tasting demo with a professional!

On September 16th and 17th, we will be featuring two of our favorite things: **Pets & Pirates**! Pet friendly vendors will showcase their products and services and swashbuckling pirates will also be selling their wares. We will be holding lots of pet-focused events, such as the 6th Annual Wiener Dog Race, a Pet Costume Contest and our popular Peanut Butter Licking Contest. There will also be a Pirate Costume Contest, a "Talk Like a Pirate" Competition and a Pumpkin Pie eating Contest!

Get into the Irish spirit during our **Shamrocks & Shenanigans** weekend on September 23rd and 24th! Be transported to Ireland by visiting our Irish Village, complete with a variety of Irish vendors selling such items as Celtic kilts, lucky pennies and more. Enjoy a range of performances and competitions, including authentic Irish dance shows by Irish dancers, a kilt competition and daily keg tosses. If you need a break from all of the festivities you can enjoy a FREE beer tasting provided by Guinness!

Finally, don't miss out on our final weekend of fun at the Festival, where we will be celebrating German culture in the best way possible, **Oktoberfest**! Kick off the fall season on September 30th & October 1st with German food, vendors, dancers, music, and of course, beer! Visit the Bavarian Village to indulge in German wares and authentic food from local vendors who will be featuring brats, sausages, pretzels and more. Get in the competitive spirit and join in on one of our many events, such as the Homebrew Competition, Stein Holding Contest, Hammerschlagen, Keg Toss, Bier Pong and Sauerkraut Eating Contest! Oktoberfest will also host one of our most popular events, the Best Beard Competition, where you can either show off your finely trimmed beard or just come and witness some of the craziest beards in the realm! There will truly be

something for everyone at Oktoberfest and if the day's activities wear you out stop by and end your day at Schell's for a FREE beer tasting.

The Renaissance Festival will also be featuring discounts and promotions throughout the season! Join us on August 19th & 20th for our annual blood drive where you can donate a pint of blood and receive free admission to the Festival. We will also be hosting a food drive for the first three weekends and if you bring five cans of food to donate to the food drive, you will receive \$5 off your admission ticket! During Labor Day Weekend, military and public service members will receive completely free admission to the Festival. Compete in our Mural Competition by putting your artistic skills to the test and receive two free admission tickets just for entering; the opportunities to save money are endless!

The Minnesota Renaissance Festival begins its 47th season on Saturday, August 19, and ends on October 1, 2017. The Festival is open weekends; Labor Day and Festival Friday, September 29, 2017 from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m., rain or shine. The Festival is located seven miles south of Shakopee on Highway 169. Festival patrons can enjoy 16 stages of live entertainment, 250 artisan vendors and 7 theme weekends, full combat jousting and food fit for a king! Admission at the gate: Adults \$23.95; Children 5 – 12 \$14.95; seniors \$21.95; four and under are free! Discount tickets are also available at participating Menards, Super America, and Walgreens. Coupons toward admission are available at participating Subway and Papa Murphy's locations. Visit www.renaissancefest.com or call 952.445.7361 for more information. Also make sure to follow us on social media, @MNRenaissance!
