



2024 Celebration

Frequently Asked Questions

Who will be at the 2024 Celebration?

The North Country Trail Association's (NCTA) annual Celebration is a gathering of North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) supporters, outdoor enthusiasts, volunteers, staff, and agency partners, all coming together to explore new sections of the trail and to celebrate our local volunteers and partners that manage it. Historically a membership gathering of the Association, this event has grown to be far beyond that, attracting new people every year. Now, often more than 300 people attend from 10 or more states each year. All are welcome to join, and we hope you'll feel part of our trail community when you do.

Where is it?

St. Ignace, Michigan. This is just north of the Mackinac Bridge. The Little Bear Arena (275 Marquette St.) is the event headquarters. A variety of guided hikes will take place within about a two-hour radius. Please reference the [schedule](#) for details of activities.

How much does it cost to attend and what is included?

Registration prices vary based on the days you choose to attend and when you register:

- **Early Bird Registration** (\$275) includes site access, all meals (Thursday breakfast through Saturday dinner), Celebration hikes, workshops, and presentations, and transportation to/from hikes. Valid March 28 - April 29.
- **Day Pass, Early Bird Registration** (\$100) includes site access for that day, all meals for that day, Celebration hikes, workshops, and presentations of that day, and transportation to/from hikes that day. Valid March 28 - April 29.
- **Regular Registration** (\$325) includes site access, all meals (Thursday breakfast through Saturday dinner), Celebration hikes, workshops, and presentations, and transportation to/from hikes. Valid April 30 - July 15.
- **Day Pass, Regular Registration** (\$125) includes site access for that day, all meals for that day, Celebration hikes, workshops, and presentations of that day, and transportation to/from hikes that day. Valid April 30 - July 15.
- **Late Registration** (\$375) includes site access, all meals (Thursday breakfast through Saturday dinner), Celebration hikes, workshops, and presentations, and transportation to/from hikes. Valid July 16 - August 1.

- **Day Pass, Late Registration** (\$150) includes site access for that day, all meals for that day, Celebration hikes, workshops, and presentations of that day, and transportation to/from hikes that day. Valid July 16 - August 1.

Participants ages 2 and under do not need to register, but individual meals and seats at events will not be guaranteed.

Do volunteers who are helping with Celebration operations have to pay?

Official Celebration volunteers can receive a discounted registration. Please contact Abby Whittington, NCTA Annual Events Coordinator, at awhittington@northcountrytrail.org or **616-987-0964** with inquiries. Aside from NCTA staff that are involved, this entire event is run by volunteers. Providing free registration to volunteers isn't a viable option for the NCTA. Registration fees support transportation, materials, and overhead needed to offer this event and help further the mission of the NCTA.

When does registration begin and end?

Registration is open March 28 - August 1. Late registration prices begin July 15.

How do I register?

Online at northcountrytrail.org/celebration.

Can I register on-site at the venue?

No. Pre-registration is required.

Where should I stay?

There are a variety of accommodations in the area, including the following recommendations. (You are not limited to these options.)

- [Straits State Park](#)
- [Baymont Inn & Suites](#)
 - Receive a 20% discount on your stay when you call the local number at 906-643-8411 and reference group code **NCTA**.
- [Holiday Inn Express](#)
- [Bayside Inn](#) (newly renovated!)
- [Colonial House Inn](#) (bed and breakfast)

Can I cancel my registration and if so, will I be refunded?

You may cancel any time if need be, by contacting Abby Whittington, NCTA Annual Events Coordinator, at awhittington@northcountrytrail.org or **616-987-0964**. Partial refunds can be given until August 1, 2024. There is an administrative fee of \$50 for any cancellations. No refunds are issued after August 1, 2024. You may also transfer your registration to someone else or donate the full amount of your registration fee to the NCTA. If you would like to consider a transfer or donation, please contact Abby Whittington.

I registered online and didn't receive a confirmation email. What should I do?

Please allow 24 hours and check your spam folder. The email will be sent from *GTR Events Technology*. If you have not received an email after 24 hours, contact Abby Whittington, NCTA Annual Events Coordinator, at awhittington@northcountrytrail.org or 616-987-0964.

If a hike I'm interested in is full, can I just drive myself and join the group anyways?

No. We choose our hike limits carefully and for a few reasons. Most important is that we protect the integrity of the trail and respect the experience of other users that may be on the trail at the same time. It's also important that we take into account the parking capacity at trailheads, as well as ensuring our hike leaders and sweeps have a group size that is manageable. So although we encourage you to hike any of these locations on your own, we do ask that you don't go at the same time as these scheduled group hikes. Thank you for your patience as we take the time to ensure everyone has a great hiking experience during this year's Celebration!

How do I change or add hikes to my registration?

First, open the confirmation email you received from *GTR Event Technology* after registering for the event. Scroll toward the bottom and you should see a blue link that reads "change/edit your registration." Selecting this will allow you back into your registration to make changes. You will only be able to view and select hikes with open spots. If you encounter issues, please email NCTA Annual Events Coordinator Abby Whittington at awhittington@northcountrytrail.org. Please include *2024 Celebration* in the subject line.

Will there be additional activities not currently listed?

All hikes and workshops are listed at northcountrytrail.org/celebration. There may be hikes or workshops added to accommodate more guests. Any additions or changes will be reflected on the website.

Tell me about the t-shirt.

Commemorative t-shirts are available for \$20. You can purchase a shirt and indicate your size preference during the online registration process. Alternatively, you may purchase a shirt on-site, but availability of your preferred size cannot be guaranteed at that time.

What should I pack?

This is an event focused on the outdoors and trail experience, so please come prepared for all types of weather and activity. Sturdy hiking shoes, rain gear, a water bottle or hydration pack, and a small backpack are highly recommended. You are welcome to dress up for evening events but the general dress code is trail casual. Study the weather forecast in advance. Average daily temperatures in this area in late August range from lows in the 50s to highs in the 70s (°F). Summer in Michigan can be unpredictable; the event will go on, rain or shine.

Are dogs allowed?

Dogs are not allowed on Celebration hikes, but you are welcome to take leashed dogs on personal hikes in areas that allow dogs. It is strongly recommended you research local rules and regulations beforehand.

What else is there to do in the area?

View the + **Local Attractions** tab at northcountrytrail.org/celebration for information on the St. Ignace area.

Additional questions may be directed to NCTA Annual Events Coordinator **Abby Whittington** at **awhittington@northcountrytrail.org**. Please include *2024 Celebration* in the subject line.