

North Dakota Hike Fest

August 20-23, 2025 | Frequently Asked Questions

Who will be at Hike Fest?

The three North Dakota Chapters of the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) have united to invite outdoor enthusiasts, hikers, and NCTA members to join us in exploring the Trail in our state. We welcome everyone to join us in making memorable adventures on the North Country National Scenic Trail. A variety of guided hikes will take place in multiple locations, along with optional evening events. Please refer to [Registration](#) for details of the activities.

Where is it?

We are excited to offer a series of progressive hikes starting in the east and ending at the western terminus of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Please refer to [Registration](#) for locations of the activities.

When is it?

There are four days of hikes planned, and you may choose to attend any or all of the offerings. For details, please refer to [Registration](#).

- On Wednesday, August 20, there will be a morning and an afternoon hike near the Sheyenne National Grassland followed by an evening picnic. Hosted by the NCTA Dakota Prairie Chapter.
- On Thursday, August 21, there are hikes offered near the Sheyenne State Forest followed by an evening meal at the local ski hill. Hosted by the NCTA Sheyenne River Valley Chapter.
- On Friday, August 22, a two-hour hike starting at 6:00 p.m. is offered on the bluffs of Lake Sakakawea.
- On Saturday, August 23, a morning hike is at the nearby Audubon National Wildlife Refuge and the afternoon hike leads to the terminus. An evening Bar-b-que and short program. These events will be hosted by the NCTA Central Flyway Chapter.

How much does it cost to attend?

Hikes are FREE, but registration is required so we can accommodate a crowd. Evening meals are available as follows; or details, please refer to [Registration](#).

- On August 20, a free-will offering for a picnic, registration required.
- On August 21, the buffet at Thrill Hills (270 Mill Road, Fort Ransom) is \$16, payable at the venue, registration required.
- On August 23, an outdoor catered picnic is \$10 payable at the venue, registration required.

How do I register?

Sign up for hikes and meals online at [Registration](#).

May I show up if a hike is full?

We are sorry, but no - our group sizes are limited for good reasons. This helps protect the trail, avoid overcrowded parking areas, and ensures our hike leaders can manage the group safely. By requiring advance registration, we can keep things organized and may even offer a second hike start time or location if possible. Thank you for your understanding as we work to make each hike a great experience for everyone.

Where should I stay?

Travel arrangements, hotels and campgrounds can be found [Travel & Accommodations](#). Lunches and breakfasts will be on your own and we invite you to join us for evening meals on the 20th, 21st, and 23rd. Registration is required.

Will there be transportation?

All hikes will be on a looped trail, an out-and-back, or a shuttle will be provided. If you have registered, you may drive directly to the Trailhead as there is no transportation to the trailheads.

How's the weather?

Average daily temperatures in this area in late August range from mid 70s to low 80s. The events will go on, rain or shine.

We hear there will be a few surprises during Hike Fest, how can I learn more?

Coming soon! Watch for an announcement on June 9.

Where are other interesting hikes in North Dakota?

For more than 20 hike recommendations and locations, visit [ND Hike suggestions](#).

What's so special about North Dakota?

Well, in North Dakota, we don't like to brag but we are home of the western terminus of NCT! Here are more fun facts:

- Capital - Bismarck
- Achieved statehood in 1889 as the 39th state
- 19th largest state: 340 miles from E to W and 211 miles N to S, totaling 70,762 square miles
- State Flower - Prairie Rose
- State Bird - Western Meadowlark
- State Tree - American Elm
- 475 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail
- Highest Point - White Butte in the Badlands at 3,509 feet
- 4th ranked state for lowest population density
- ND ranks #1 in barley, sunflowers, canola, and honey
- Ranked among the top in oil, wheat, and "cool people"
- Home of the International Peace Garden on the border between the US and Canada, it was created in 1932 as a pledge between the two countries to never go to war with each other. [Peace garden](#)

Questions may be directed to volunteers via email:

Please include *Hike Fest* in the subject line.

- August 20 Activities: dpc@northcountrytrail.org
- August 21 Activities: srv@northcountrytrail.org
- August 22-23 Activities: fly@northcountrytrail.org