

WINTER BREAK GUIDE TO THE U OF M

December 22 - January 14



Staying at the U over winter break?
Low on cash to escape to someplace warm?
No worries! Consult this guide for some of
the best winter activities and events in the
Twin Cities area. Go skiing, see an ice
sculpture, or plan a mini trip somewhere
close. Whatever you do, you're sure to
experience some of the best Minnesota
"winter culture" there is!

To view electronically go to:
www.studentscrossingborders.wordpress.com

Created by
Students Crossing Borders

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If you want to plan a trip or just look up interesting tours and excursions in the twin cities or surrounding areas, check out www.exploreminnesota.com

Festivals/Events

Holidazzle Parade

November 25 – December 17

The Holidazzle Parade is a nighttime parade in Downtown Minneapolis held between Thanksgiving (starting November 25) and Christmas (ending December 17).

Costumes light up and will usually adhere to a theme which has included the Wizard of Oz, Santa Claus and more. Check the Holidazzle website for times and dates of the parade here: www.holidazzle.com

Winter Carnival

January 26 - February 5

The St. Paul Winter Carnival is one of the longest-running festivals in America. It is famous for its ice carvings, torchlight parade through downtown St. Paul and delicious foods. The 2012 carnival will be held from January 26 - February 5. Check out the winter carnival website for more information: www.winter-carnival.com

Sports



U.S. Pond Hockey Championships at Lake Nokomis

January 20 – 22

“Hockey. The way nature intended. Outdoors in the crisp winter air, skate blades gliding on the fresh ice below, with the sounds of clacking sticks and the smell of grilling bratwurst filling the air.” - www.uspondhockey.com
Get your friends together and pool your money to enter in the boot hockey or regular hockey tournament or just stop by Lake Nokomis and watch the festivities for free. Check the U.S. Pond Hockey website for tournament information:
www.uspondhockey.com



City of Lakes Loppet

February 4 -5

Stop by and watch the cross-country ski competition or enter in the non-competitive event Saturday where you can walk, snowshoe or ski through ice luminaries, an ice pyramid and the Ice-cropolis complete with hot cocoa and cookie stations. Check the City of Lakes Loppet site for more information: www.cityoflakesloppet.com



Minnesota Wild Hockey Games

Cheer on Minnesota’s state hockey team at the Excel Center in St. Paul. Check their website for game dates and ticket costs:
<http://wild.nhl.com/club/schedule.htm>



Polar Dash

January 1, 2012

Feel like racing in the cold? Enter in the Polar Dash for the 5K, 10K or half-marathon on New Year’s Day or stop by to volunteer or watch. Website:
<http://www.teamortho.us/Polar-Dash/>

Cross-Country Skiing

Cross Country Ski rentals are available at many of the locations but also available at the University of Minnesota rec center. Go here for details: www.recsports.umn.edu/coa/rental



Columbia Golf Course

3300 Central Ave NE

Columbia Golf Course has several miles of trails, equipment rental and concessions inside the clubhouse. Website: www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=929

Como Park

1431 North Lexington Parkway, St. Paul

Como Park has some of the best trails in the Metro area with a lighted beginner 1.7K loop and a chalet. Website: <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=1321>

Theodore Wirth Park

1301 Theodore Wirth Parkway, Minneapolis

Theodore Wirth Park has 25 kilometers of trails for beginners to advanced, and a two kilometer lighted trail for evening skiing. It also has snow tubing, snowboarding and snowshoeing. Website: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=680>

University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska MN

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is a very scenic place to ski or snowshoe. Website: <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/skiandsnowshoetrails.aspx>

University of Minnesota—Nordic Ski Center

University of Minnesota Golf Course on the St. Paul Campus

The University operates its own cross country ski trails through the Nordic Ski Center. Reference this site for more information: www.recsports.umn.edu/coa/nordic

Downhill Skiing

Afton Alps

6600 South Peller Avenue, Hastings, MN 55033

Telephone 1-800-328-1328

Afton Alps is the largest and one of the better skiing, snowboarding and snowtubing area near to the Twin Cities. The resort is in Hastings, about 45 minutes southwest of St. Paul. Website: <http://www.aftonalps.com/>

Buck Hill

15400 Buck Hill Rd , Burnsville, MN 55306

Telephone 952-435-7174

There's skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing at this resort in Burnsville, about 30 minutes drive south from Minneapolis or St. Paul. There's little here for advanced skiers and snowboarders, but beginners and novices appreciate Buck Hill. Website: <http://www.buckhill.com/winter/>

Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area

8800 Chalet Rd, Bloomington, MN 55438-1209

Telephone 763-694-7800

HSSA is the closest to Minneapolis and St. Paul. HSSA is in Bloomington, just west of the Mall of America. It's small but it's right in the Twin Cities so it gets busy. The Ski and Snowboard area is part of the larger Hyland Lake Park Reserve, which as well as skiing and snowboarding, also offers cross-country skiing, snowshoe trails and a Nordic ski jumping complex. Website:

<http://www.threeriversparks.org/parks/hyland-lake-park/hyland-ski-and-snowboard-area.aspx>

Lutsen Mountain

129 Ski Hill Road, Lutsen, MN 55612

Telephone 218-663-7281

Lusten is a 3-4 hour drive up the North Shore from Minneapolis, if you're looking for a nice scenic weekend trip. Lutsen is the closest thing we have to a true ski/snowboard resort, on the north shore of Lake Superior, north of Duluth. Website: www.lutsen.com

Ice Skating

Interested in honing your skating skills? Stop by a few local ice skating rinks, both inside and outside, to get your skate on!

Depot Minneapolis

225 South 3rd Ave., Minneapolis

The depot is a former train shed that is now open to skate in from Thanksgiving to March. Bring your college ID and get \$2 off of admission.

Website: <http://www.thedepotminneapolis.com/ice-rink.php>

Lake of the Isles

26th and E. Lake of the Isles

One of the most popular lakes for ice skating. Make sure to watch for warning signs for thin ice!

Landmark Plaza

Downtown Saint Paul at the corner of West 5th and Market Streets

Free outdoor skating from Thanksgiving to February 1. Skate rentals are also available.

Peavey Plaza

Nicollet Mall, Downtown Minneapolis

This plaza is frozen for ice skating in the winter.

More Rinks

For more rinks in Parks check out this link to the 16 Minneapolis Parks with Ice

Rinks. Website: www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=633

Sledding

Columbia Golf Course

800 Columbia Parkway, Minneapolis

Columbia Golf Course in Northeast Minneapolis is one of the steepest sledding hills.

Website: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=4&parkid=260>

Theodore Wirth Park

1301 Theodore Wirth Parkway, Minneapolis

Theodore Wirth Park has a sledding hill with a tow rope. It also has skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing.

Website: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=680>

Want a list of the fourteen St. Paul designated sledding hill, some gentle, some steep?

Check out this website: <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=1400> One of the best in the city is Battle Creek park, a steep hill that's lit for sledding until 9 p.m.

Museums-Free!

Too cold to go outside? Stay inside and check out some of these FREE tours of museums and local attractions.

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts: A world-class art gallery. Admission is always free, gallery tours are free, and free music and art events happen frequently. Website: www.artsmia.org

The Weisman Art Museum: The University of Minnesota's modern art gallery. Website: www.weisman.umn.edu

The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden: contains the famous *Spoonbridge and Cherry*, which has become a Minnesota icon. The Sculpture Garden is essentially a free museum in a park, uniting two of Minnesota's most cherished resources—its greenspace and its cultural life. The garden is always free. Website: garden.walkerart.org

The Minnesota State Capitol: Visitors hear stories about the capitol's history, art and architecture. They also see the chambers where government decisions are made. Free tours are held every day. Website: <http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/msc/>

The Minnehaha Depot: A historic train depot in Minnehaha Park. Website: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=4&parkid=252>

The Northwest Airlines History Museum The museum has plenty of retro memorabilia from the glamorous days of air travel, and lots for airplane buffs too. Website: <http://www.nwahistory.org/home.htm>

Como Zoo and Conservatory: An amazing variety of animals, and beautiful plants and flowers in an elegant conservatory. Website: <http://www.comozooconservatory.org/>

The Museum of Russian Art: A simply stunning collection of Russian art. There is a general admission charge, but students are admitted free, or with a donation. Website: <http://tmora.org/>

The Guthrie Theater offers several paid tours of the architecture or backstage space of this acclaimed cultural destination. They also have a free self-guided audio tour – you just download the Guthrie Theater's tour podcast for free from their website, put it on your music playing device and explore at your own pace. Website: http://www.guthrietheater.org/visit/tours/selfguided_audio_tours

City Hall: The St. Paul Court House, an art deco extravaganza dating from St. Paul's gangster days, with a 60 feet tall onyx statue of Native Americans with peace pipes offers a free self-guided tour, and guided tours can be requested via the city website. Minneapolis' City Hall and Court House is less dramatic inside, but the history of the building is just as interesting. Guided tours of Minneapolis' courthouse start at noon on the third Wednesday of every month.

Website: <http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cm/manager/CourthouseTours.htm>

Hennepin County Libraries Besides their eye-catching structures that would be interesting for anyone to explore, the local libraries in Minneapolis and St. Paul offer a huge amount of resources to explore the history and attractions of the twin cities area and beyond. Visit the library websites for hours and resource information. Library admission is always free and a library card can also be obtained for free.

Website: <http://www.hclib.org/>

Museums, Galleries and other Attractions

The Walker Art Center: An arts center which features contemporary visual and performing arts exhibits and programs. Free admission on the first Saturday of the month, and Thursday evenings after 5 p.m.

Website: <http://www.walkerart.org/>

The Bell Museum of Natural History: The Bell Museum contains a plethora of general information, research and collections, exhibits, programs, publications, and resources. Free admission for U of M students.

Website: <http://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/>

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum features more than 1,000 acres of magnificent gardens, model landscapes, and natural areas-from woodlands and wetlands to prairie-with extensive collections of northern-hardy plants. The arboretum is free for U of M students.

Website: <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/>

The Minnesota Historical Society holds occasional open houses with free admission to its historical sites in the Twin Cities. Free events vary, and details of upcoming events can be found on the MNHS website.

Website: <http://events.mnhs.org/calendar/index.cfm?bhcp=1>

Minnesota Zoo: Located in Apple Valley, the Minnesota Zoo has both indoor and outdoor exhibits of animals and habitats found around the world. It is accessible by public transportation on bus line #440 Monday - Friday and bus line #441 on

Saturday. This bus runs Monday through Saturday. Present your bus transfer ticket at the Zoo's ticket desk and receive \$2.00 off adult tickets.

Website: <http://www.mnzoo.com/>

James J. Hill House was built in 1981 as the largest and most expensive house in Minnesota for railroad builder James J. Hill. There are regular tours exploring the four floors of the house, “providing a glimpse into life in a 19th century mansion, the impact James J. Hill had on the economic transformation of this region, and a social system that included family members, servants, workmen, and guests.”

Website: <http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/jjhh/>

Mill City Museum: Built into the ruins of what was once the world’s largest flour mill, Mill City Museum is located on the historic Mississippi Riverfront. Here, visitors learn about the intertwined histories of the flour industry, the river, and the city of Minneapolis.

Website: <http://www.millcitymuseum.org/>

Brave New Workshop has been performing original satirical sketch comedy and improvisation since 1958, longer than any other theatre in the United States. You can enjoy a play, an improve sketch or both at this theater.

Website: <http://theatre.bravenewworkshop.com/BuyTickets.aspx>

Comedy Sportz is improvisational comedy played as a sport. Two teams of actors compete for the biggest laughs while a referee calls the fouls and gets suggestions from you, the audience.

Website: <http://www.comedysportztc.com/>

Shout House showcases Dueling Pianos where two piano players/singers perform the classic rock 'n roll hits from the 1950s to the present at two, face to face grand pianos in front of two large mirrors. Songs are request driven by the audience.

Website: <http://www.theshouthouse.com/mpls/default.asp>

Mixed Blood Theatre is located in a historic firehouse in Minneapolis’ Cedar Riverside global neighborhood. The organization is a national leader in the creation, development, production and continuation of new plays that connect artists and audiences from various cultures, traditions, and communities for common purpose: to confront artificial barriers to success in American society.

Website: <http://www.mixedblood.com/>

Waterpark of America is one of America’s largest indoor water parks.

Complete with pools, hot tubs, tube slides, raft rides and more this park near the Mall of America is a great way to enjoy warm weather fun without escaping to the tropics. All day admission is \$15 plus tax.

Website: <http://www.waterparkofamerica.com/>

Mall of America Besides its purpose as a premier shopping destination, the MOA also contains many fun attractions for visitors. With its own amusement park, mini golf course, comedy club and aquarium, the MOA provides countless hours of fun. You can purchase an all day wristband for unlimited rides at the amusement park, Nickelodeon Universe, for \$29.95.

Website: <http://www.mallofamerica.com/home>

Minneapolis Farmer's Market Open Saturdays from 9:30 am to noon and located at 312 East Lyndale Ave North, Minneapolis. The Minneapolis Farmer's Market boasts the largest selection of products of any outdoor market in the upper Midwest. Check their website for produce in season.

Website: <http://www.mplsfarmersmarket.com/>

Candyland Store is a historic candy store located in downtown St. Paul and Minneapolis. Its St. Paul location is the original store started in 1932. Candyland Store offers a huge variety of popcorns (including the famous Chicago Mix), chocolates and candies. Their St. Paul location is 435 Wabasha St N and their downtown Minneapolis location is 811 LaSalle Ct.

Website: <http://www.candylandstore.com/>

Community Service

Looking to do some good in the community during winter break? The Community Service-Learning Center can get you started. Go to their page for more information on the many partnering organizations you can volunteer with in the twin cities, or just set up an appointment and have them help you set up a winter break volunteer opportunity!

Website: <http://www.servicelearning.umn.edu/>

Make your own adventure!

Read about some of the many American Holiday traditions here and recreate your own:
<http://www.santas.net/americanchristmas.htm>