



February 2015

To: Secretaries of County Fairs
Area Agencies on Aging

From: Pam Mix
Guest Services Manager

Re: Minnesota's 2015 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award

Enclosed are materials for your county's 2015 Outstanding Senior Citizen competition, a joint effort of the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota State Fair Foundation and the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs.

This packet includes:

- 1) Nomination procedures
- 2) Instructions for County Fair Outstanding Senior Selection
- 3) Minnesota State Fair Nomination forms
- 4) 2015 Outstanding Senior Citizen county winners form
- 5) Sample press release (for county fair)
- 6) Seniors Day ideas (for county fair)

The nomination process is explained in these materials. The forms are now "fillable online". You can type in the information and print the completed forms. However, you will not be able to save these forms once they are completed on-line as they are not saveable. Please look them over as soon as possible, make copies if necessary, and designate a selection committee to handle the details of the competition.

County Fair winners are automatically entered into the Minnesota State Fair competition.

If you have any questions, contact Pam Mix at (651) 288-4400.

NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Eligibility Criteria

- The nominee must be a resident of Minnesota.
- The nominee's volunteer service must be accomplished **after reaching age 65**.
- Nominee must be **age 70 by June 1, 2015**.
- Nominee must currently do a volunteer activity that is unpaid and demonstrates commitment to their local community.
- A previous county winner not chosen as the state winner is eligible; however, a 2015 nomination form must be completed.
- You may only nominate one individual per nomination form. Couple nominations will be disqualified.

Instructions

Explain why you are nominating this person for the Outstanding Senior Citizen award. It is helpful to give specific, detailed and precise examples to assist the judges in choosing the winners. Do not hesitate to interview the person you are nominating. Nomination does not need to be kept secret. You may also speak to people at the organizations where the individual volunteers. Political and religious organization involvement will only be considered when it benefits the community. All information will be held in confidence by judges. Information submitted is not returned unless a request is made.

Judges will look for:

- Diversity of accomplishments
- How this person has touched the lives of other people in the community
- Total scope of activities, including years of service and time commitment
- Variety of services performed and involvement in organizations
- Quantity of accomplishments and amount of service **after age 65**
- Quality of activities, especially innovative services
- Geographic area covered by their service
- Individuals are encouraged to submit up to three letters of recommendation that focus on the candidate's achievements. **No more than three letters will be used in the judging process.**

The nominations will be judged by three representatives from each of the following organizations: the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota State Fair Foundation and the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs.

Instructions for COUNTY FAIR Outstanding Senior Selection

Appoint a selection committee:

The County Fair should appoint an Outstanding Senior Citizen Award selection committee/person to handle the selection procedures as soon as possible.

Distribute the materials in the packet:

As soon as your county's selection committee has been named, provide members with the appropriate materials in this packet.

Select winners and send winner names to the County Fair:

At the end of a reasonable nomination period, the selection committee should meet and select your county's Outstanding Senior Citizen(s).

Certificates of recognition:

You may want to create a certificate to be presented to your county winners.

Entries must reach the Minnesota State Fair by Friday, Aug. 14:

The committee must attach the official county finalist form for the county winner and attach the nomination forms (one for each gender), and send them to the Minnesota State Fair by Friday, August 14. The Selection Committee is encouraged to select one male and one female winner from their county that will go on to compete at the state level. Only **one male** and **one female** nominee from each county is eligible for this award.

Please remember to send both the male and female Minnesota State Fair Nomination Forms and county winners form.

The State Fair's Outstanding Senior Citizen Award ceremony will be held September 3. Each of the county winners will be invited to sit on stage during the ceremony, followed by an open house (serving light refreshments) at the JV Bailey House for them and four guests of their choosing. They will also receive a free gift packet containing lots of goodies.

This invitation will not go out until the WEEK BEFORE THE MINNESOTA STATE FAIR. The dates for the 2015 Minnesota State Fair are August 27 through September 7. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Mix at 651-288-4400.

MALE 2015 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award Minnesota State Fair Nomination Form

*Sponsored by the Minnesota State Fair,
the Minnesota State Fair Foundation and the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs*

COUNTY NAME: _____

This form and information on this award program is located on our web site at: www.mnstatefair.org. Click on the "Recognition Programs" link at the bottom of the home page.

List what the nominee (**age 70 by June 1 or older**) does for others in your organization or community after reaching the **age of 65**. Feel free to discuss your nomination with this person and collect needed volunteer activity information.

Send the information to the local County Fair by county fair date: _____.

Winners will be selected and recognized at the local county fair. They will then be entered into the State Outstanding Senior Citizen Award competition. Outstanding seniors will be recognized for their service at the award ceremony at the State Fairgrounds on Senior Day, September 3, 2015.

COUNTY NAME:

Male Nominee Name:	Date of Birth:	Nominated by:
Address:		Address:
Home Phone:		Home Phone:
Work Phone:		Work Phone:

How do you know the nominee? _____

What was the nominee's occupation before age 65? _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Complete this form and mail it to the nominated senior's County Fair contact. A complete listing of the County Fair contacts can be found at: <http://www.mfcf.com/members.htm>.

FEMALE

2015 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award Minnesota State Fair Nomination Form

*Sponsored by the Minnesota State Fair,
the Minnesota State Fair Foundation and the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs*

COUNTY NAME: _____

This form and information on this award program is located on our web site at: www.mnstatefair.org. Click on the "Recognition Programs" link at the bottom of the home page.

List what the nominee (**age 70 by June 1 or older**) does for others in your organization or community after reaching the **age of 65**. Feel free to discuss your nomination with this person and collect needed volunteer activity information.

Send the information to the local County Fair by county fair date: _____.

Winners will be selected and recognized at the local county fair. They will then be entered into the State Outstanding Senior Citizen Award competition. Outstanding seniors will be recognized for their service at the award ceremony at the State Fairgrounds on Senior Day, September 3, 2015.

COUNTY NAME:

Female Nominee Name:	Date of Birth:	Nominated by:
Address:		Address:
Home Phone:		Home Phone:
Work Phone:		Work Phone:

How do you know the nominee? _____

What was the nominee's occupation before age 65? _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Complete this form and mail it to the nominated senior's County Fair contact. A complete listing of the County Fair contacts can be found at: <http://www.mfcf.com/members.htm>.

(Please make a copy of these three forms – use one for the female nominee and one for the male nominee.)

Name of Nominee _____

Volunteer Activities

List the volunteer activities and benefits to the community/organization:
(use additional pages as needed)

Volunteer activity/organization: _____

Activity or responsibility: _____

Time commitment: _____

Benefit to the community: _____

Volunteer activity/organization: _____

Activity or responsibility: _____

Time commitment: _____

Benefit to the community: _____

Volunteer activity/organization: _____

Activity or responsibility: _____

Time commitment: _____

Benefit to the community: _____

Volunteer activity/organization: _____

Activity or responsibility: _____

Time commitment: _____

Benefit to the community: _____

2015 OUTSTANDING SENIOR CITIZEN

County Winners

- This form (along with their county nomination form) must reach the Minnesota State Fair by August 14, 2015 before 4:30 p.m. Mail to Pam Mix, Minnesota State Fair, 1265 Snelling Avenue North, St. Paul, MN 55108.
- Attach nomination forms and letters of recommendation for your county winners to this form.
- Please try to nominate one female and one male. Only **one male** and **one female** allowed per county.
- Correspondence from the Minnesota State Fair will be sent to the person responsible for distributing these items. Please include complete address and telephone number for the Selection Committee Chairperson listed below:

Selection Committee for _____ County

Chairperson _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

NAME AND ADDRESS OF COUNTY WINNERS

	FEMALE	MALE
NAME		
ADDRESS		
CITY, STATE, ZIP		

County Fair must complete this form and return to the Minnesota State Fair, along with the nomination forms of the County Winners.

Sample Press Release

County Outstanding Senior Citizen Awards

Nominations from county residents are now being sought for the 2015 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award for _____ County. The award recognizes outstanding senior citizens who have contributed their time and talent to benefit their community after reaching the age of 65. They will be honored at the _____ County Fair on (date) _____. Official nomination forms are available by contacting _____ at _____. (telephone number).

The nomination forms can also be picked up at: _____

Winners at the county level will move on to compete at the state level at the Minnesota State Fair.

SENIORS DAY IDEAS FOR COUNTY FAIRS

- To attract a great crowd for your county fair, consider having a Seniors Day. For added incentive, offer free food or admission discounts for seniors. The menu can be very simple and remember seniors will often bring along their sons, daughters and grandchildren.
- Ask an outside group to run your outstanding senior citizens ceremony. Possible sponsors include:
 1. area agencies on aging
 2. county volunteers or aging coordinators (usually employees of county social service departments)
 3. civic organizations
 4. county committees on aging
 5. local newspapers
- Offer free blood pressure checks or other health services to seniors on Seniors Day. County public health nurses could provide these services free of charge.
- A senior citizens talent contest is fun to hold on Seniors Day. Or you could organize an afternoon of music put on by seniors themselves.
- Contact county 4-H groups and have them offer free beverages on Seniors Day. This could raise awareness of 4-H and encourage inter-generational cooperation.
- Try having a senior citizen booth where senior citizen clubs/organizations could sell homemade crafts and/or food.
- On Seniors Day, hold a recognition ceremony for the winners of the County Outstanding Senior Citizens award and everyone nominated. Include music, speeches, corsages and awards in the program.
- After the selection of the county's Outstanding Senior Citizen(s), check to see if communities are having any parades the winning seniors could participate in. This is an honor for the seniors and usually welcomed by the parade committee.