



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

Senator Ritchie's Community Spotlight: Getting Ready For Fun At The Fair

PATTY RITCHIE August 18, 2017



Even though the summer season may be starting to wind down, there is still plenty of fun to be had. In this month's "Community Spotlight," I am highlighting a summer tradition, the Great New York State Fair, which kicks off, Wednesday, August 23rd and runs through Monday, September 4th, at the fairgrounds in Syracuse.

Drawing visitors of all ages—including a record 1,117,630 people last year—the Great New York State Fair features something for everyone, including thrilling rides, world-class

entertainment, delicious foods, exhibits that highlight New York's agriculture industry and more.

Some of this year's Fair highlights include:

Fishing NY style: On August 27th, there is "I Fish New York" tournament on Onondaga Lake. Members of Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.) chapters from across the state will compete for the biggest catch. The official weigh-in and the crowning of the champion is at the Fair, where admission is free for those who show a valid sporting license at the gate.

Saying thank you to those who served: Thursday, August 31st is Armed Forces Day at the Fair, where we honor the selfless sacrifices the brave men and women make to defend our country. A special ceremony gets underway at 11:00 a.m. and active duty and veterans with a valid military ID will be able to enjoy free admission on this day.

Celebrating Women's History: This year's Fair will feature an exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of the women's right to vote in New York State. A special Women's Day parade will take place on August 30th and will feature suffragist reenactors who will be joined by Girl Scout troops and their leaders from around the state. In addition, all Girl Scouts and troop leaders will be able to receive free admission on this day.

A "taste" of the Fair : If you're looking to sample delicious food that's produced right here in New York, the fair will have plenty to offer. There are competitions for craft beer and food trucks and new vendors daily, including many from Central and Northern New York.

Agriculture at its best: Every day at the Fair, agriculture—our state's leading industry—is on display. On August 31st, the Fair will celebrate "Dairy Day," an event that will feature this always-popular butter sculpture. In addition, you can put your culinary skills to the test at the "Perfect Burger" contest on "Beef Day," August 29th.

Having fun without spending a ton: Visitors can enjoy \$3 admission on the opening day of the Fair. In addition, Labor Day—the last day of the Fair—will feature \$1 admission and rides on the midway will be \$1 per ride.

This year's Fair promises to be one of the best in its more than 175-year-old history. I hope to see you and your family at the Great New York State Fair. For more information on all the Fair has to offer, you can visit www.nysfair.ny.gov.