MINNESOTA STATE FAIR 2023
VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

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ABOUT THE ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Our Mission: To implement international human rights standards to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law.

By involving volunteers in research, education, and advocacy, The Advocates for Human Rights builds broad constituencies in the United States and select global communities.

Our History: The Advocates for Human Rights was founded in 1983 by a group of Minnesota lawyers who recognized the community’s unique spirit of social justice as an opportunity to promote and protect human rights in our home community and around the world.

Our Work: The Refugee & Immigrant Program provides free legal help to adults and children who are victims of human rights violations including persecution, torture, trafficking, and arbitrary detention. The Advocates provides legal help to more than 1000 people every year throughout the Upper Midwest with the help of hundreds of trained volunteer legal professionals.

The Immigration Court Observation Project monitors deportation hearings at the Fort Snelling Immigration Court. More than 800 volunteers have observed thousands of hearings throughout the past 5 years.

The Women’s Human Rights Program provides global leadership for legal reform to end violence against women. From fact-finding and documentation to training and technical assistance, The Advocates for Human Rights works with partner organizations to create and sustain legal systems that hold offenders accountable and ensure the safety of victims of domestic and other gender-based violence.

WATCH monitors criminal cases involving gender-based violence in the Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington county courts.

The International Justice Program leverages the power of diaspora communities and pro bono resources to accountability for human rights
violations and abuses. The Advocates for Human Rights works with partners in the United States and around the world to bring human rights issues before the United Nations and provides leadership on the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty to abolish the death penalty.

Through the **Nepal School Project**, The Advocates for Human Rights provides free education, daily hot meals, and an alternative to child labor to 375 children in the Sankhu community outside Kathmandu.
HUMAN RIGHTS: THE BASICS

Human rights are standards that allow all people to live with dignity, equality, freedom, justice, and peace. Every person has these rights simply because they are human beings. Human rights are guaranteed to everyone without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Human rights are the essential building blocks of fully developed individuals and communities.

Many people view human rights as a set of moral principles that apply to everyone. Human rights are also part of international law, contained in treaties that spell out specific rights that countries are required to respect, protect, and fulfill. Human rights principles become effective when they are incorporated into local, state, and federal laws. They then can be implemented and enforced, and people can find redress for violations or abuses.

The modern human rights era can be traced to struggles to end slavery, genocide, discrimination, and government oppression. After World War I, scholars, activists, and national leaders called for a declaration and accompanying international system – the League of Nations – to protect the most basic fundamental rights and human freedoms. Atrocities during World War II made clear that previous efforts had failed. Thus was born the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), as part of the emergence of the United Nations.

The UDHR spells out the “basic civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights that all human beings should enjoy.” It reflects the minimum standards needed for people to live with dignity. Human rights give people the freedom to choose how they live, how they express themselves, and what kind of government they want to support, among other things. Human rights also guarantee people the means necessary to satisfy their basic needs, including food, housing, and education, so they can take full advantage of all opportunities. Finally, by guaranteeing life, liberty, equality, and security, human rights protect people against abuse by those who are more powerful, including their own governments.

Human rights standards fall into four basic categories: safety and security; non-discrimination; accountability; and participation.

Safety and security rights relate to the political, legal, economic, cultural, and social systems that, when combined, give people the building blocks for survival, livelihood, and dignity. These rights include the right to life, liberty, and security of the person; freedom from slavery and torture; and freedom from arbitrary arrest, as well as the right to an adequate standard of living.
Non-discrimination is a core principle of human rights, which guarantee the same human rights to all people without distinction. In addition, people have specific rights including equality and freedom from discrimination.

Accountability is essential to human rights, which must be protected by the rule of law. Governments must comply with the legal norms and standards enshrined in human rights instruments.

Every person is entitled to active, free, and meaningful participation in, contribution to, and enjoyment of political, economic, social, and cultural development.

While governments have the primary responsibility for protecting and promoting human rights, everyone – individuals, businesses, and civil society – is obligated to “strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance.”

Human rights reflect America's most deeply held values: that everyone is born free and equal, no matter who we are or where we were born. Notions of a fair day in court, freedom of speech, and freedom from cruel and unusual punishment are fundamental to America's identity. The U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights provide broad human rights protections, many of which are found in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Although the U.S. Constitution provides strong protections for civil and political rights, it fails to recognize the economic, social, and cultural rights guaranteed in the UDHR. Because economic, social, and cultural issues in the U.S. are not recognized as rights enjoyed by all, public policies can exclude people from eligibility as long as they do not discriminate on protected grounds such as race. The right to an adequate standard of living, for example, may be met to some extent through government programs or through charity, but many people fall through the cracks. By viewing economic, social, and cultural rights as a right, the United States is accountable when it fails to guarantee for all people in the United States an adequate standard of living or other rights necessary to live in dignity.

The Advocates for Human Rights promotes a human rights approach to social justice work and public policy. Using human rights to frame issues and develop strategies helps provide a more complete analysis of problems, creates more sustainable change, and roots issues in more authoritative bases for policy. A human rights approach recognizes that responsible authorities must be supported and encouraged to fulfill their obligations, and that rights holders must be supported and empowered to claim their rights and effectively participate in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

To learn more about The Advocates for Human Rights' work or to schedule training go to www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org
KIDS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

What do human rights mean to children? Volunteers should be prepared to explain human rights to children. Kids have a great sense of justice and fairness. Use language that is accessible to kids and engage them in activities to connect the activities to the human rights concepts we are trying to convey.

The Quiz Wheel’s kids’ questions ask open-ended questions that get to the core principles of human rights: dignity, equality, freedom, justice, and peace.

**Cooperation:** working together to get things done. It’s easier to get the job done when we all work together.

**Respect:** recognizing that everyone is important and valuing other people’s points of view. Respect others by avoiding calling them mean names or making fun of their ideas.

**Fairness:** giving everyone the same rights and opportunities. Kids can display fairness by choosing activities everyone can enjoy or sharing with others.

**Justice:** explaining a fair trial to kids is easy! Kids understand when they don’t get a fair hearing by an adult, don’t get to present their side of story when they’re in trouble, or are blamed for something they didn’t do.

**Inclusion:** recognizing that every person is a member of society and the group. Leaving people out of the group hurts people’s feelings.

**Diversity:** recognizing and appreciating individual differences.

**Responsibility:** thinking before acting or being ready to accept the consequences of our actions.

**Acceptance:** making others feel welcome to be themselves.

**Advocate:** speaking up for ourselves and for other people!

Ask kids to think about their role in human rights. As individuals we are both rights-holders and responsible for making sure human rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled. This means that we have both the right to be treated equally in dignity and justice, and (also have) the responsibility to treat others this way. It is also our responsibility as individuals to continue the struggle for human rights.

One of the best things you can do as an individual is to ADVOCATE for human rights – speak up when someone experiences injustice or is not treated with respect.
ENGAGING FAIRGOERS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

We want fairgoers to:
- Learn about and connect with The Advocates for Human Rights
- Discover what human rights are and how human rights issues affect Minnesotans
- Share their human rights priorities

➔ Spin the Human Rights Quiz Wheel!
Start the conversation by spinning the Human Rights Quiz Wheel. Each question is designed to get people thinking about what human rights are, which human rights are recognized in the US, and how respect (or lack of respect) for human rights affects our lives.

- **Spin the wheel** to get people’s attention (listen for the enticing click-click sound).
- **Invite people** passing by the booth to spin the wheel and answer a question.
- **Read the question out loud.** Get everyone in the group to contribute.
- **Talk about the answer.** The answer key is filled with data about the issue and about how it is a human rights issue.
- **Remember the Kids’ Questions!** The wheel has open-ended questions for kids with no wrong answers.

➔ Sign ‘em up!
- Invite every visitor to **sign up to receive our monthly e-newsletter**, the NEWSWIRE, so they hear about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities and can keep up with what The Advocates is working on.
- People can use the **QR code** to easily sign up on their mobile device or sign up on the **clipboard**.

➔ Engage Educators!
- Encourage teachers, scout leaders, and other educators to take a free copy of the **grade-specific human rights lesson plans** and to look at the Road to Peace (conflict resolution) and Energy of a Nation (immigration) curricula. All materials are **free** for download!

➔ Encourage volunteers & interns!
- We need **volunteers** to monitor court hearings, interpret & translate, and help in the office. Licensed **attorneys** are needed to provide pro bono representation to our clients.
- **Internships** run year-round for undergraduate, graduate, and law students.
- Direct people to the QR codes on the tabletop signs or to our website for more information.

→ **Take Note!**

- Take a moment to jot down meaningful responses or observations in the State Fair Volunteer Logbook. You can also record ideas for making next year's State Fair booth more fun and effective.

→ **Count the participants!**

- Make sure to click the counter each time someone stops by to spin the wheel, participate in an activity, take some literature, sign up for the mailing list, or ask a question. Count everyone in the group. Record the number shown on the counter at the beginning of the shift.

→ **Giveaways!**

  - Remember to offer people free **bookmarks & coloring sheets**.
  - Visitors are welcome to take printed resources and all our publications are free for download on our website. Links are on the bookmarks.

→ **Talk about The Advocates for Human Rights**

  - Talk with Fairgoers about who we are and why you’re taking time to volunteer!
State Fair Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities

We are grateful for your commitment to volunteer – we could not be part of the State Fair without your help. We also rely on you! Please review these guidelines. Contact Michele at 612-360-3818 (cell) or mmckenzie@advrights.org and/or Ingrid at 651-399-4319 or ikubisa@advrights.org with any questions or concerns.

▪ Show up for your scheduled shift! If you have a last-minute emergency call/text Michele at 612-360-3818 or Ingrid at 651-399-4319 so she can communicate with the others on your shift and try to find a replacement.

▪ Be on time! Arrive at the booth at least 10 minutes before your shift is scheduled to begin. Remember that getting to the Fair can be hectic and Park & Ride locations often fill up on weekends. Budget at least 15 minutes to walk from the entrance gate to the Education Building booth.

▪ Create a welcoming environment! Smile as Fairgoers pass the booth. Greet people who approach the booth. Break away from conversations with the other volunteers to engage a Fairgoer. Help make sure the booth is neat and well-stocked.

▪ Take breaks! We schedule three people each shift so that at least two people are in the booth and the third can get some Fair food, step outside, or just take a break. Please coordinate with the others in the booth.

▪ Be an advocate for human rights! Smile and engage Fairgoers in positive conversations about human rights. Use the activities and materials to help Fairgoers make connections between human rights and their own lives. Share with visitors your own connection to human rights and help people understand that human rights are the building blocks of life with dignity. Refer visitors to staff or board members when you are asked questions you can’t answer. Encourage people to visit our website for more information.

▪ Be comfortable. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfortable shoes.

▪ We are a nonprofit, non-partisan organization. Please do not engage in electoral or party politics while at our booth. In accordance with the rules governing our tax-exempt status please refrain from wearing campaign buttons or political t-shirts while on duty in the booth.

▪ All press or media inquiries should be directed to Michele Garnett McKenzie, 612-360-3818. Volunteers are not authorized to speak on behalf of the organization.
Minnesota State Fair Regulations

According to the Minnesota State Fair Concessionaire & Exhibitor Guide, the State Fair strives “to create an environment that is welcoming, entertaining, educational, and safe.” State Fair guests “come first” and exhibitors and others should provide “courteous service.” Exhibitors at the State Fair have been selected and licensed to help it “provide high quality family entertainment, which is clean, wholesome, and fun, with a commitment to total guest satisfaction.”

There are certain regulations that all exhibitors are required to follow, including:

• All exhibits must be open, staffed, and in full operation every day of the fair between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

• Donations or contributions may not be requested, solicited, or accepted. However, addressed envelopes may be distributed upon request by a visitor to the booth.

• All signs, banners, etc., must be placed inside the assigned booth. Advertising outside of the assigned site is forbidden.

• Volunteers/staff may not stand in the aisle while working at the booth.

• All volunteers must enter with a ticket. Thank you to the many volunteers who have helped The Advocates keep the cost of being at the Minnesota State Fair manageable by paying for your own admission. If you have asked us to pay for your admission, please remember to bring and use your admission ticket for your scheduled volunteer shift. We cannot provide replacement tickets or help with other costs of the Fair.
Finding the Fairgrounds

The Fairgrounds are located at 1265 North Snelling Avenue in St. Paul.

To get to the Fairgrounds by car:

Coming from the north: Take 35W south to Highway 36 east via Cleveland Avenue Exit on Snelling Avenue South.

Coming from the south: Take 35W north to I-94 east. Exit on Snelling Ave., then turn left and head north. Or take 35E north to I-94 west. Exit on Snelling Avenue, then turn right and head north.

Coming from the east: Take I-94 west to Snelling Avenue, then turn right and head north.

Coming from the west: Take I-94 east to Snelling Avenue, then turn left and head north.

Fairgrounds Parking Lots:

Lots may be accessed off Larpenteur Avenue (must be traveling east) by turning south on Underwood Street and off Snelling Avenue (must be traveling south) by turning west on Hoyt Avenue. Additional fairgrounds parking lots are available south of Como Avenue. Pre-fair discount admissions tickets no longer may be used for parking.

Bike to the Fair:

People who ride a non-motorized bike* to the fair can park in one of three FREE bike corrals:

- South Bike Lot: Como-Snelling Gate (#6)
- North Bike Lot: Hoyt-Snelling Gate (#2)
- West Bike Lot: Randall Ave-Buford Gate (#16)

Bike Corral Hours: 6 a.m. to midnight daily.
**Park & Ride: Park Free, Ride Free**

Check the State Fair website for over 30 park free, ride free locations: [http://www.mnstatefair.org/general_info/get_here/park_ride.html](http://www.mnstatefair.org/general_info/get_here/park_ride.html)

**Express Bus Service**

State Fair Express buses operate from 21 Twin Cities locations. For State Fair transit information, call (612) 373-3333. Use the State Fair Express Finder at metrotransit.org/StateFair to find a parking location close to home.

Park & Ride and Express buses serve the **State Fair Transit Hub**, which is on the west side of the fairgrounds near West End Market.

**Regular Bus Service**

Route 960 from downtown Minneapolis to Fairgrounds in about 15 minutes

Metro Blue Line + Route 960

Route 84 service on Snelling Avenue

Metro Green Line + Route 84

Route 3 from downtown Minneapolis or St. Paul to Como Avenue Fairgrounds entrance

Route 61 from downtown Minneapolis or St. Paul to Larpenteur Avenue Fairgrounds entrance
Finding the Building

Once on the Fairgrounds, make your way to the **EDUCATION BUILDING** near Snelling Avenue.
Finding the Booth

The Advocates for Human Rights’ booth is located in the center section of the Education Building, at Booth #33.