



ND HeRitaGe

North Dakota Mensa

August 20-22, 2021

The President's House and the GrandStay Hotel and Suites

The North Dakota Chapter invites you to ND HeRitaGe for our 15th RG, to be held in Valley City.

Valley City (with a population of approximately 6,500) is located on I-94, about 35 miles east of Jamestown and about 60 miles west of Fargo. Recently, Valley City was named the most beautiful town in North Dakota by Expedia Travel. The nearest airport is at Jamestown, which is served by United Airlines. Fargo has additional flights.

Valley City, seat (1879) of Barnes County, lies in the Sheyenne River Valley. Before settlement, Cheyenne, Sioux, Cree, and Ojibwa Indians hunted in the area. The community was founded in 1872 with the coming of the Northern Pacific Railway. Originally called Worthington, it was renamed and incorporated as a village in 1881. Valley City, located in a fertile agricultural region that produces sunflowers, wheat, barley, corn (maize), and soybeans, developed as an agricultural trade center. Manufactures include farm machinery, electronics, plastics, and cement. Food processing and telemarketing are also important to the economy. The city is the seat of Valley City State University (founded 1890). Baldhill Dam, a flood-control project on the Sheyenne River north of the city, impounds Lake Ashtabula (site of a federal fish hatchery). Camp Sheardown State Historic Site, marking a campsite for an 1863 expedition, is just east of the city. Fort Ransom State Park is 35 miles south. The city is known for its many bridges over the Sheyenne River including the Hi-Line Railroad Bridge. These bridges have earned it the distinction of being called the "City of Bridges".

We have returned to our traditional site where so many of our RG's were held prior to 2013. We shall have two venues, a couple of minutes apart, offering the historic comforts of the House as well as the

modern accommodations and conference facilities of the Hotel. Indeed, this RG will offer a mix of the old and the new. And our reduced registration prices shall be reminiscent of those from years ago. Both venues will provide full hospitality. Early registration for adults will be only \$50 and children (under 13) will be free.

The President's House is a beautifully preserved Victorian home located at 231 Viking Drive SW, Valley City, ND 58072, on the campus of Valley City State University. It was built in 1901, and from 1921-1993 served as the home for the VCSU Presidents and their families. One single and four double bedrooms (shared bath) are available for \$50 per night, on a first come first served basis. Contact us if interested.

The GrandStay Hotel and Suites is modern with excellent conference facilities. Located at 271 Winter Show Rd SW, Valley City, ND 58072, it is only a couple of minutes from the President's House. Our special Mensa group rates start at \$99.99. You may stay one night or two, but reservations should be made by July 20. You may call the hotel directly at 701-490-3500 and mention the group code MENSA. Here is the link for hotel information:

<https://www.grandstayahospitality.com/find-a-hotel/locations/valley-city/overview>

Our program shall have several informative speakers who will further our understanding of the area, but we shall emphasize outside activities including a tour of the Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byway from Valley City to Fort Ransom, with stops along the 35 mile route. In a state known for its flat horizons, a dip into a tree-speckled valley with snaking river and winding roadway is a welcome variation. Discover Native American, Viking, and pioneer lore. Explore over 20 interpretive sites that include historic sites, trails, bridges, antiques, and birds. Quaint towns and farmsteads lend charm to your journey. We shall also visit Medicine Wheel Park, directly behind the President's House. The Park features two solar calendars: A horizon calendar (the medicine wheel) and a meridian or noontime calendar. Other aspects of this unique 30-acre Park include Native American burial mounds, a solar system model, the North Country National Scenic Trail and other woodland nature trails, several scenic overlooks of the Sheyenne River valley and Valley City, and a 3000 square foot perennial flower garden. We shall also visit the Barnes County Historical Society Museum, an 18,000-square-foot facility dedicated to telling the history of Barnes County specifically and adjacent areas generally. The Valley City Historic Bridges Tour and 10k (6.25 mile) Volksmarch will also be on our program.

There will be no shortage of food and drink, as we shall have unrestricted hospitality throughout the weekend at both the House and Hotel. Your discounted three day weekend registration fee of \$50 postmarked by July 13 (or \$75 thereafter) will cover everything, and we shall have a wide range of games available.

Please visit our webpage at <http://www.northdakota.us.mensa.org/RG.htm> and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NorthDakotaMensa> for detailed program and registration information. More questions? Contact james.stiles.us@member.mensa.org