



# ND HeRitaGe 2021

North Dakota Mensa

August 20-22, 2021

Valley City

*The President's House & The GrandStay Hotel*

## **WELCOME!**

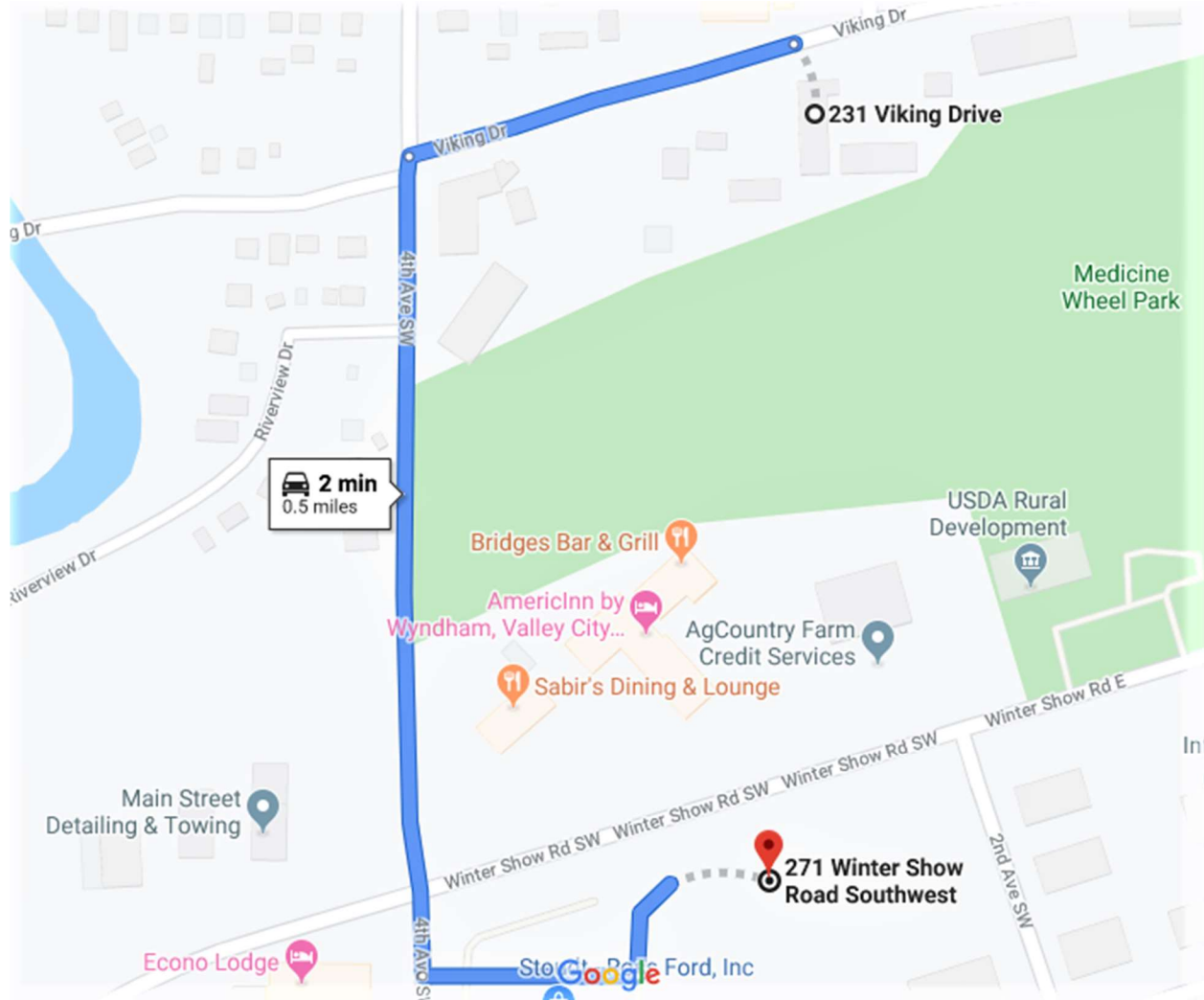
Welcome to ND HeRitaGe 2021! This is North Dakota Mensa's 15<sup>th</sup> RG. We have returned to our traditional site where so many of our RG's were held prior to 2013. We shall have two venues, a couple of minutes apart, offering the historic comforts of the House as well as the modern accommodations 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. Our program will offer informative speakers, road trips to local attractions, as well as plenty of time to relax and enjoy.

## Getting to the House and Hotel

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.

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.

Here is a map which shows both



## Getting to and around 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. Complete tourism, visitor information and a map are at this link: <https://valleycitynd.org/tourism.php>

## A Brief History of Valley City

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). The North Dakota Winter Show, an agricultural event, is held annually in March. 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".

## ND HeRitaGe 2021 Registration

On site registration and check in will be at the President's House on Friday from 1:00 pm until 7:00 pm. On Saturday, it will be from 7:00 am until noon at the GrandStay Hotel conference room. Signs shall be posted.

## Hospitality

Hospitality food and drink will be set up in the dining room of the President's House as well as the conference room of the GrandStay Hotel. We have no restrictions on bringing food and drink into either venue. Primary hospitality hours will be from 1:00 pm until 11:00 pm on Friday at the President's House (with some offerings at the hotel conference room), 9:00 am until 1:30 pm on Saturday at the hotel conference room and 1:30 pm until 11:00 pm on Saturday at the President's House (with some offerings at the hotel conference room). The GrandStay hotel will provide all guests with breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Dinner on Friday as well as lunch and dinner on Saturday are included in your registration fee. We will have several delivery or take out options from local restaurants. And for those who wish to cook or bake, the President's House has a fully equipped kitchen.

## Games

Games will be available both at the President's House and our hotel conference room. You are also encouraged to bring any of your own that you like.

## Schedule of Activities

**Here is our schedule. We shall carpool for any activities outside our house or hotel.**

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 20

1:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Registration at the President's House.

1:00 pm – 11:00 pm – Hospitality at the President's House.

3:00 pm – Hotel check in begins.

3:00 pm --11:00 pm – Arrival snacks at the hotel.

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Dinner at the President's House.

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm – We shall visit Medicine Wheel Park, directly behind the President’s House. In 1992 at Valley City State University, Professor Joe Stickler and his students began work on Medicine Wheel Park. The project soon expanded beyond the walls of the classroom to involve the community. 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. Here is a link with complete information: <https://medicinewheel.vcsu.edu/>

### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 21:**

7:00 am – 1200 noon – Registration at the GrandStay Hotel.

7:00 am – 9:00 am – Breakfast provided by the hotel.

9:00 am – 1:30 pm – Hospitality at the GrandStay Hotel

9:00 am – 9:15 am – Welcome message from the Valley City Convention and Visitors Bureau at the GrandStay Hotel.

9:15 am – 10:00 am – Speaker from Valley City University at the Grand Stay Hotel.

10:00 am – 12:00 noon – 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. It features frequently changing exhibits and special traveling exhibits, lecture, and events over the course of the year.

<https://www.ndtourism.com/valley-city/archaeology-paleontology/barnes-county-historical-society>

12:00 noon –1:00 pm – Lunch at the GrandStay Hotel.

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm – Speaker from Barnes County Historical Society at the GrandStay Hotel.

1:30 pm – 11:00 pm – Hospitality at the President’s House

1:30 pm – 6:00 pm – Drive 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. Here is a link with map: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/byways/byways/16406/maps>

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Dinner at the President’s House.

7:00 pm – 11:00 pm – Discussion and hospitality at the President’s House.

### **Sunday, August 22:**

7:00 am – 9:00 am – Breakfast provided by the hotel.

11:00 am – Hotel and house checkout time.

1:00 pm – Join us on a road trip to Fargo for a minor league baseball game. The Fargo-Moorhead Red Hawks will be in action at 1:00 pm.

<http://www.fmredhawks.com/>

3:30 pm – After the game join us for a farewell discussion time and hospitality at the Homewood Suites by Hilton at Fargo, within sight of the baseball stadium. One of our members has reserved a suite for the night, so we shall have access to the hotel’s patio and barbeque area.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/farhwhw-homewood-suites-fargo/>

## **Explore the Valley City Area**

In addition to our planned activities, we offer some additional options you may wish to consider.

**Valley City Historic Bridges Tour** -- Explore North Dakota’s “City of Bridges.” Valley City is proud of its beautiful and historic bridges. A tour has been created to showcase them. Enjoy the beautiful color interpretive panels located by eight bridges throughout the city that tell the unique story of each bridge. Valley City

Bridges Volksmarch is a 10k (6.25 mile) walk which begins at the Broken Spoke Restaurant on the corner of Main Street and Central Avenue. The trail is on city sidewalks and pathways. It features several bridges, Valley City State University, the Barnes County Museum, parks and the business district. The Valley City Bridges Walk is sanctioned by the American Volkssport Association (AVA), a member of the International Federations of Popular Sports (IVV) and counts toward achieving IVV awards. Here is a map of the route:

<https://valleycitynd.org/pdf/tourism/tear-off-city-map-9-04.pdf>

**Visit Red Trail Vineyard** – About 30 miles east of Valley City, the Red Trail Vineyard is named after the historically significant Old Red Trail, one of the first established routes for automobile travel through the northern part of the United States. It stretched from Seattle, WA to New York, NY and passed just on the north side of the Vineyard. Through the years, many Native American artifacts have been found near the Vineyard and along the Old Red Trail, some of which are on display in the Tasting Room at Red Trail Vineyard. The fertile soils of the Red River Valley and traditional wine making techniques combine to elicit the subtle flavors and aromas of the native hybrid grapes. The wines are a perfect complement to an elegant meal or a casual get together. Here is a link with more information:

<http://www.redtrailvineyards.com/>

**Visit the Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile Site** – About 50 miles north of Valley City, the Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site actually consists of two sites telling the story of the Cold War years in North Dakota. They are the Oscar-Zero Missile Alert Facility and the November-33 Launch Facility. They are the last remnants of the 321st Missile Wing, a cluster of intercontinental ballistic missile launch sites that were spread over a 6,500-squaremile area around the Grand Forks Air Force Base. The Oscar Zero Launch Control Center and the November-33 Missile Facility played an integral part in the Cold War in North Dakota and the world. This site is the last launch control center intact with the top-side of November 33 missile facility.

<https://www.history.nd.gov/historicsites/minutemanmissile/index.html>