



# FoRGe North 2

North Dakota Mensa

August 11-13, 2023

*Staybridge Suites Grand Forks*

The North Dakota Chapter invites you to FoRGe North and join us for our 16<sup>th</sup> RG, to be held in Grand Forks, north of Fargo on Interstate 29, on the border with Minnesota. This will mark our return to Grand Forks after a highly successful initial FoRGe North in 2019. And if you fly or take the train to Grand Forks, we can pick you up.

Grand Forks is the oldest major city in The Dakotas. Prior to settlement by Europeans, the area where the city now sits (at the forks of the Red River and Red Lake River) had been an important meeting and trading point for Native Americans. Early French explorers, fur trappers, and traders called the area "Les Grandes Fourches" (meaning "The Grand Forks"). By the 1740s, Les Grandes Fourches was an important rendezvous point for French fur trappers. This French fur trade continued until the French and Indian War gave Canada to the British. In 1800, British fur trader Alexander Henry the younger, an agent for the North West Company of Montreal, located a temporary camp at Les Grandes Fourches and, in 1808, established a permanent post. By the 1820s, the Hudson's Bay Company and John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company also had operations at the site. During the mid-19th century, Les Grandes Fourches was a stopping off point for the Red River ox carts which carried goods on the Red River Trails between St. Paul, Minnesota and Fort Garry (now Winnipeg, Manitoba). On June 15, 1870, the first post office was opened and "Les Grandes Fourches" was anglicized to "Grand Forks". Unlike most cities in North Dakota, the city of Grand Forks does not owe its existence to the arrival of the railroad. Instead, Grand Forks was first an important steamboat port on the Red River of the North.

But while Grand Forks has a rich history, today it is a modern and diverse city with much to offer. Historically dependent on trading and local agriculture, the city's economy now encompasses higher education, defense, health care, manufacturing, food processing, and scientific research. Grand Forks is served by Grand Forks International Airport, Grand Forks Air Force Base and Amtrak. The city's University of North Dakota is the oldest institution of higher education in the state. The Alerus Center and Ralph Engelstad Arena host athletics and other events, while the North Dakota Museum of Art and Chester Fritz Auditorium are the city's largest cultural venues.

Our hotel shall be the Staybridge Suites Grand Forks, less than a mile from exit 140 off Interstate 29. The Mensa RG room rate is \$155 per night for a studio suite or \$185 per night for a one bedroom suite. Reservations must be for both Friday and Saturday nights to receive the group rate. You may also reserve at an AAA or AARP rate if qualified. Breakfast is included. Please see the hotel's website at this link for reservations and directions: [North Dakota Mensa RG Reservations](#) You may also call the hotel directly at 701-772-9000.

Our program shall include visits to museums, cultural and historic sites, a vineyard with private wine tasting, a Cold War missile silo tour, as well as speakers who will enhance our understanding of the region. We shall also have the opportunity for outdoor activities. One such option will be at the Greenway, a park consisting of 2,200 acres lining the Red River and the Red Lake River as they flow through Grand Forks and East Grand Forks. This picturesque urban space offers countless recreational, cultural, historical and natural resource opportunities. You can hike, walk, run, rollerblade, bike, bird, canoe, kayak, fish or golf, all in the heart of our two cities. We are even planning a pickleball event.

There will be no shortage of food and drink, as our hotel is allowing us to have unrestricted hospitality throughout the weekend. We will be offering local food and drink specialties, and you will have many choices. Your discounted three day weekend registration fee of \$85 postmarked by July 11 (or \$100 thereafter) will cover everything. Children under 12 shall be free.

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, as it becomes available.

More questions? Contact [james.stiles.us@member.mensa.org](mailto:james.stiles.us@member.mensa.org)