

For Immediate Release

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**The Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation
invites communities across the state to help recognize
outstanding individuals who embody the spirit of Illinois**

Springfield - The Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation Board is officially accepting nominations for its annual *Illinoisan of the Day* program, which honors ten (10) exceptional individuals during the 2026 Illinois State Fair.

The program celebrates people who make a meaningful difference in their communities through hard work, volunteerism and a strong commitment to helping others. Each honoree represents a connection to county fairs, agriculture or the Illinois State Fair while exhibiting significant volunteer experience.

“Nominations are a simple, but powerful way to recognize those who quietly give back and strengthen our communities every day,” said Chair Mike Hall of the Foundation. “We encourage residents from across the state to submit the names of individuals who deserve this special recognition.”

Requirements include:

- Must be at least 25 years old
- Reside in Illinois
- Connected to county fairs, agriculture, the Illinois State Fair or ag education

To nominate a candidate, please visit illinoisstatefairmuseum.org for a form or submit your candidate nomination online by emailing their significant volunteer history, two references and an essay of up to 300 words to ILStateFairMuseumFoundation@gmail.com by July 10, 2026.

Selected honorees will be recognized during the Illinois State Fair, taking place Thursday, August 13, through Sunday, August 23, 2026. Each *Illinoisan of the Day* will be honored on a designated day during the fair.

Community members are encouraged to participate in this opportunity to celebrate local agriculture/county fair heroes and ensure their volunteer contributions are acknowledged on a statewide stage.

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The Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization established on October 11, 2006. The Foundation is dedicated to preserving the rich heritage, traditions and legacy of the Illinois State Fair for future generations.