

CELEBRATE AUTUMN in Northfield

BY AMY ACHESON

Just an hour northwest of Rochester, you'll discover a diverse arts and cultural scene in the lively town of Northfield. Brimming with creativity, the artists' town celebrates fall with an abundance of events.

The 50th Annual Riverfront Fine Arts and Crafts Festival Sept. 10–11 showcases artists' wares as part of the Defeat of Jesse James Days (DJJD). This five-day, family-friendly event stirs up a quite a commotion with its annual bank raid reenactment the weekend after Labor Day, paying tribute to Northfield's heroic past, while the Northfield Arts Guild Theater's presentation of Jesse Jane's Jamboree 5 offers a playful rendition of the Old West.

Check out Riverwalk Market Fair, a weekly Saturday morning artists' and farmer's market along the Cannon River, offering a multitude of local goods from oil painting and pottery to roses and rutabagas. Find everything from wool-spinning demos and handmade soaps to sweet honey tastings and lacto-fermented carrot-ginger-kraut!

The Harvest Fall Festival is Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Peruse fine art, pick out pumpkins and squash and add your own artistic touch to a community mural.

ART TOUR, CONTRA DANCE

An event that has a Midwest draw is the Studio ArTour of South Central Minnesota. Held Oct. 15–16, the colorful autumn tour weaves through various towns and rural sites in southern Minnesota, visiting 46 artists at 23 studios. From knitting to welding and everything in between, art connoisseurs can meet the artisans and see intriguing demonstrations along the way. A sneak peek of several studios including a dozen artists happens the Friday night before.

Mark your calendar for the Northfield Harvest Stomp, a community spirit-filled contra dance held Oct. 21. It's like square dancing, but not so square! And you don't even need a partner as dancers are on the move across the room all evening long. Dance to the music of Cornucopia, a nationally known contra dance band that has a caller signaling moves making it easy for everyone to join in.

Catch the excitement and visit Northfield this fall as the brisk autumn air brings a whirlwind of crowd-pleasing activities you won't want to miss.

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For more information on Northfield events visit:

archerhouse.com, djjd.org, northfieldartsguild.org, northfieldguide.com, riverwalkmarketfair.org, studioartour.com, visitingnorthfield.com

Plan your weekend stay at the newly renovated Archer House River Inn nestled in Northfield's historic downtown. The boutique inn offers 36 distinct guest rooms and suites designed in a palette of period-inspired colors with the finest of amenities. Tucked within the charming Inn is a unique collection of shops and restaurants. Stroll the historic downtown for more independently owned stores and one-of-kind dining options.



Photo by Mary Ellen Frame.



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Northfield's Riverwalk Market Fair offers local goods, fresh foods and art ranging from painting to pottery.



Photo courtesy of Scott Davis.