



POST OFFICE BOX 345 + BARNESVILLE, MINNESOTA + 56514

[www.potatodays.com](http://www.potatodays.com)

## BARNESVILLE POTATO DAYS FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

- HISTORY** The Barnesville Potato Days Festival started in 1938 and continued until 1957. After a lapse of 34 years, the event resumed in 1991 and has been held every year.
- MISSION** Potato Days is a family friendly activity focused on community pride and “creating memories” for visitors. It also seeks to increase the awareness of the Red River Valley as a major potato producing area in the country.
- THE EVENT** Small town hospitality, coupled with unique and zany “spud”rific events, along with tasty tator treats such as potato dumplings, has earned Potato Days a reputation as one of the regions most authentic food festivals.
- ORGANIZATION** An experienced nine member Board of Directors works closely with sixty-two committee chair people. A paid festival director provides managerial and marketing assistance. Several hundred volunteers from the community are involved from committee members to traffic control to food stands.
- BUDGET** The 2018 festival budget was approximately \$80,000. Funds are raised through the sale of souvenirs, event entry fees, donations and corporate partnerships.
- ATTENDANCE** Each year more than 20,000+ people from 50 states attend the event, with a huge following from the tri-state area, particularly from Minneapolis-St. Paul.
- INQUIRIES** The Potato Days office receives over 3,000 phone calls each year. Last year, the festival website received over 30,500 hits and nearly 4,500 e-mails.
- MEDIA** Potato Days has been featured in a wide variety of national and regional publications and books, in addition to local, regional and national TV and radio programs. In 2002, the festival was featured as part of The Food Network’s “All American Festivals” series. American Profile featured the festival in their Hometown Spotlight section in 2004-2007. 2005 found the 90 year old winner of the Fashion Show appearing on the “Ellen Degeneres Show”. In 2005 the magazine “Itineraries” featured the festival in the Explore Minnesota Festivals Now section. In 2006 Potato Days was showcased in the Family Fun and the Weekends magazines. Potato Days was also showcased in 2008 in the Fargo-Moorhead Magazine as well as Country. We also had a film crew from Video Takes filming the festival in 2008. In 2009 the Canadian Food Network visited Barnesville for the Festival. Named in 2012 and 2013 Top 100 Events in the American Bus Association. In 2016 & 2017 named in Top 9 Strangest Food Festivals Around the World!
- AWARDS** The Barnesville Potato Days Festival, and its promotional materials, has been recognized by the Minnesota Festival and Events Association, Minnesota Office of Tourism and festivals.com. In 2004 the festival was selected as one of the “unique travel gems” by the AAA Magazine, Home & Away. In 2007 the festival was selected as a top insider spot in the U.S. by Travelocity. ExploreMN.com featured the festival as a #1 pick for favorite festivals.

**Contact Theresa for levels and opportunities at [spudlady@potatodays.com](mailto:spudlady@potatodays.com)**