



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **AQUATENNIAL SETS SAIL IN ONE MONTH**

*New 2017 events include Candid Canines Film Fest & MN Made Market with the return of AquaJam, CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade & Target Fireworks*

MINNEAPOLIS (June 19, 2017) – The Aquatennial, Minneapolis’ Official Civic Celebration, returns this summer July 19-22 and again features a jam-packed lineup of events, headlined by the [CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade](#) on Wednesday, July 19 and the [Target Fireworks](#) on Saturday, July 22.

Plus, Aquatennial will infuse new events with local staples located along and near the Mississippi Riverfront—our city’s birth place—to help celebrate community and bring people together. Events are free, open to all ages and abilities, and are located within close proximity to one another, making it easy to walk and bike from event to event.

“We’re excited for another year of events at Aquatennial that truly offers something for everyone,” said Leah Wong, mpls downtown council vice president of external relations. “Providing high-quality entertainment for all ages is something we look forward to each summer, and we can’t wait to see you downtown for another fun Aquatennial season.”

Aquatennial is going to the dogs this year with the addition of the Candid Canines Film Fest—a free, family (and dog) friendly celebration of the four-legged animals, showcasing “man’s” best friend being super sweet, silly, smart and oh-so talented.

The [Candid Canines Film Fest](#) will take place through multiple showings on Thursday, July 20 from 4 – 9 p.m. at Target Field Station (outside Target Field’s Gate 6) and will feature a 40-minute film produced right here in Minnesota. Presented by [Can Do Canines](#), the Candid Canines Film Fest will feature video clips submitted by dog owners throughout our community as well as popular online dog videos, culminating in a feature film. There will be multiple screenings of the film throughout the afternoon and evening.

**MN Made Market** is another new event this year—a block party style event at JB Hudson Jewelers on Thursday, July 20 that features local makers and creators, breweries, food trucks and activities. The popular **Aquatennial Yoga presented by [CorePower Yoga](#)** also has a new home this year at The Commons in East Town. Stop by on Friday, July 21 from 5:30-6:30 pm for a free class. CorePower will be teaching one of its signature style classes, C2, which combines strength and balance through challenging postures and connected breathing.

After being wildly popular at Aquatennial during the 1980s, [AquaJam](#) returns for its second straight year at Boom Island on Saturday, July 22. AquaJam, presented by [Familia Skateshop](#) and [Fulton Brewing Company](#), will feature exciting, high-flying skateboarding and activities like “Cash 4 Tricks,” “Skate Your State,” barrel jumps, a mini ramp and much more. Enjoy open skate from 3-6 pm and a competition at 6-8 pm. Food and local craft brews will be available on site.

Plus, don't miss out on another year of fantastic water fun while watching the [Twin Cities River Rats](#)—our local waterski team that combines high-flying stunts and fast-paced waterskiing with a humorous storyline. The River Rats will be performing at 7 pm on both Thursday, July 20 and Friday, July 21 along West River Road between Plymouth and Broadway Avenues.

The 2017 Aquatennial kicks off on Wednesday, July 20 with the [CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade, Twin Cities Orthopedics Torchlight 5K and Loring Park Pre-Parade Family Fun Night](#), and features a variety of riverfront activities and events including the [Target Fireworks](#) and live music, food trucks, a kids zone and more at the Pre-Fireworks Festivities Saturday, July 22.

The **2017 Aquatennial Skipper Pins** will go on sale soon and will offer great promotions and deals at local businesses in the downtown area from July 1-July 22. For more information, visit [www.aquatennial.com/participate](http://www.aquatennial.com/participate).

For more information on the 2017 Aquatennial, follow along on social media @Aquatennial using [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) and by using the hashtag #Aquatennial, or visit their [website](#).

## Schedule of events

### ***Wednesday, July 19***

- Aquatennial Blood Drive, WCCO-TV | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Aquatennial Tennis Classic, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S & 5<sup>th</sup> St. S. | 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Food Truck & Lawn Games, Hennepin County Government Center | 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
- Minnesota Twins vs. New York Yankees, Target Field | 12:10 pm
- Loring Park Family Fun Night, Loring Park | 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm
- Wilderness Inquiry Voyageur Canoe Rides at Loring Park, Loring Park | 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm
- Rally the Family at Loring Park Pre-Parade Fun Night (free tennis lessons), Loring Park | 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm
- Twin Cities Orthopedics Torchlight 5K, Hennepin Avenue beginning at Basilica of St. Mary | 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade, Hennepin Avenue from Basilica of St. Mary to 5<sup>th</sup> Street | 8:30 pm – 10:30 pm

### ***Thursday, July 20***

- Downtown Farmers Market, Hennepin County Government Center South Plaza | 6:00 am – 6:00 pm

- Aquatennial Blood Drive, The Commons | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Aquatennial Tennis Classic, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S & 5<sup>th</sup> St. S. | 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- MN Made Market, JB Hudson Jewelers | 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Candid Canines Film Fest, Target Field Station (outside Gate 6) | 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Twin Cities River Rats Aquatennial Water Ski Show, West Bank of Mississippi River between Plymouth & Broadway avenues | 7:00 pm

### **Friday, July 21**

- Aquatennial Blood Drive, CBS Radio (625 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue) | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Aquatennial Tennis Classic, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S & 5<sup>th</sup> St. S. | 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Aquatennial Yoga presented by CorePower Yoga, The Commons, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
- Twin Cities River Rats Aquatennial Water Ski Show, West Bank of Mississippi River between Plymouth & Broadway avenues | 7:00 pm
- Minnesota Twins vs. Detroit Tigers, Target Field | 7:10 pm

### **Saturday, July 22**

- Twin Cities Carifest, West River Road between Plymouth & Broadway aves | 11:00 am – 10:00 pm
- AquaJam, Boom Island | 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- AAO, Queen of the Lakes Coronation, U of M Ted Mann Concert Hall | 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- Aquatennial Pre-Fireworks Events, West River Parkway near Stone Arch Bridge, 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
- Minnesota Twins vs. Detroit Tigers, Target Field | 6:10 pm
- Target Fireworks, West River Parkway near Stone Arch Bridge | 10:00 pm

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### **About the Minneapolis Aquatennial**

The Minneapolis Aquatennial is the Official Civic Celebration of the City of Minneapolis offers outstanding entertainment and activities in the City of Lakes for all ages. It is managed and produced by the mpls downtown council. The festival is sponsored by Target, CenterPoint Energy, City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, Hennepin County Medical Center, Minnesota Twins, K102, Go 96.3 FM, CBS Radio and more. For more information, please visit [www.aquatennial.com](http://www.aquatennial.com) or call (612) 376-7669.

### **About the mpls downtown council**

Founded in 1955, and one of the most historic business associations in the nation, the mpls downtown council (mdc) is a membership-based entity that works to create an extraordinary downtown. The mdc's collaborative development of the *Intersections: Downtown 2025 Plan* is designed to help downtown businesses, community leaders and citizens build on downtown assets and implement future goals. For more information, please visit [www.mplsdowntown.com](http://www.mplsdowntown.com).