



Wisconsin's capital city will welcome Hereford families July 9-15.

by *Kindra Gordon*

“**A** Hereford Scene in 2016” is the movie-based theme being planned by the Wisconsin Hereford Association as they prepare to host the 2016 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE)

at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, July 9-15.

Hereford exhibitors will be greeted by a state-of-the-art facility that can house up to 2,500 head with the recent addition of two

new barns — the New Holland Pavilions. The week will center on the cattle shows, as well as offer a variety of educational, leadership and motivational activities for participating youth.

Families can also find ample “fun in the sun” during their week in Madison. Downtown Madison is located between Lakes Mendota and Monona, which gives the city its trademark name of “Lake, City, Lake.”

Outdoor options

Paddleboarding, kayaking, fishing and biking are a few of the outdoor activities offered along the lake shore (Find rentals at visitmadison.com/things-to-do/sports-and-recreation/)

The Henry Vilas Zoo offers free admission and is home to more than 200 different species of animals. Exhibits include a

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Tropical Rainforest Aviary, lions and tigers, monkeys, apes and Artic Passage — featuring grizzly bears, polar bears and harbor seals. Younger children will especially enjoy the Children’s Zoo area which features a carousel and electric train. The zoo is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (vilaszoo.org)

The Madison Mallards are the city’s minor league baseball team — and they have a few home games scheduled during the week of July 9-15. Each game serves up great baseball along with fun fan participation with between-inning contests. Locals say it’s one of the best ways to spend a summer evening in Madison. Batter up! (northwoodsleague.com/madison-mallards/)

Top TripAdvisor picks

Ranking “#1 out of 90 things to do in Madison” on TripAdvisor is a visit to the Olbrich Botanical Gardens. “Beautiful” and a “must see” are how most TripAdvisor reviewers describe it — and it boasts being voted one of the top ten most inspiring gardens in North America by *Horticulture* magazine.



Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Visitors can stroll among 16 acres of outdoor gardens, including a two-acre rose garden, a perennial garden, a sunken garden and an herb garden. The Bolz Conservatory features exotic plants, flowers, orchids, birds and a waterfall. The Thai Pavilion is another highlight. It was crafted without nails or screws by Thai artisans. (olbrich.org)

The Wisconsin State Capitol is ranked as the second most popular TripAdvisor activity in Madison. The Capitol is crowned with the only granite dome in the United



Wisconsin State Capitol

continued on page 34...

Quirky museums

- For little tykes, the **Madison Children’s Museum** is a fun getaway. Activities include exploring the city of “Possible-opolis,” using pulleys and a harness to move Gertrude the cow, running in a giant gerbil wheel or playing a video game with giant controllers. (madisonchildrensmuseum.org)
- Take a short drive to Middleton, Wis., and tour the **National Mustard Museum**, which features 5,000 different types of mustards from all 50 states and over 60 different countries. Of course there’s also a gift shop with lots of mustard-themed items. (mustardmuseum.com)
- In nearby Mount Horeb, Wis., the **Wally Keller Tool Museum**, located in the Duluth Trading Company flagship store, showcases hundreds of antique hand tools dating from 1865-1950, documenting the history of the working man.



Madison Children’s Museum

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Dane County Farmers Market

States. A mural titled “Resources of Wisconsin” lavishly decorates the interior dome of the rotunda. Free one-hour tours feature the elegant art and architecture of the century-old building, including 43 varieties of stone from around the world and unique glass mosaics. Tours are offered Monday through Saturday on the hour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (tours.wisconsin.gov/)

The Dane County Farmers Market and Capitol Square hold the third and fourth most popular Madison destinations on TripAdvisor. Fortunately for visitors, the farmers market is held within the square on Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout the summer. Weekly, the market welcomes

280-plus vendors selling fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, cheeses, flowers and more. Street performers and musicians add to a festival atmosphere. Don’t forget to enjoy the fantastic views of the Capitol while you’re there. (dcfm.org)

More of Madison

For great shopping and restaurants, spend some time on State Street — a bustling pedestrian mall that links the State Capitol to UW-Madison. You’ll find specialty gift and accessory shops, an indie bookstore and “made in Wisconsin” items at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art gift shop, as well as the Wisconsin Historical Museum gift shop.

Madison’s Lakes

Madison hosts five area lakes: Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, Kegonsa and Wingra. Whether you’re looking to enjoy cruises and boat rentals, fishing or kayaking, you’re sure to enjoy every moment on Wisconsin waters.

If you’d rather be in the lake than on it, there are more than a dozen parks and beaches to help you beat the heat during the summer months. In addition to the beaches, Madison also has a brand-new public swimming pool. The Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Swimming Pool is complete with two water slides and several play areas for children.

The Greater Madison area also offers a wealth of waterfront restaurants that allow you to savor unique flavors—and watch the sun set while you dine.

For more information check out visitmadison.com/things-to-do/lakes/on-the-lakes/. **HW**

Last but not least, to beat the summer heat dessert lovers may want to seek out the perfect cool treat — ice cream! The Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream Co. along State Street boasts more than 40 homemade flavors including one dubbed the “Exhausted Parent,” which is bourbon-spiked espresso ice cream swirled with bittersweet chocolate chunks. (chocolateshoppeicecream.com)

On the University of Wisconsin campus, the Babcock Hall Dairy Store is the flagship of the University’s respected dairy program. Known for generous scoops of campus-made ice cream, some of their signature flavors include Irish Crème, Angel’s Food and Orange Custard Chocolate Chip. (babcockhalldairystore.wisc.edu) **HW**

Editor’s note: Learn more about Madison’s attractions at visitmadison.com.



State Street

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