Plan Safe Visits to Summer Fairs, Festivals and Vacation Destinations

During the summer, Ohio is home to many fairs, festivals and vacation destinations such as zoos and amusement parks. These venues make great family and individual getaways. To ensure safety and enjoyment for yourself and those going with you, follow a few simple tips.

Planning Your Visit

- **The websites for popular attractions and events** often include advice for avoiding crowds and long lines, as well as maps, parking information and other tools to help plan your visit. Also, you often can get the best prices on admission, gifts and other purchases online.
- **Make a budget for your visit.** Know how much you expect to spend for travel, parking, admission, food, gifts and other expenses. Include padding, but try to keep to your budget. Leave unneeded credit cards at home.
- **Contact the venue in advance to see about discounts** on admissions, food or gifts for veterans, children, seniors or groups.
- **Check to see if you can bring your own food and drinks.** This can save money over buying there and allows you to tailor meals to any dietary needs. Many parks and attractions do not allow guests to bring their own food and drinks, but offer accommodations for guests with special needs due to medical conditions.
- **Most venues welcome guests with wheelchairs and motorized mobility scooters** and may offer on-site rentals. Availability and fees may vary, and rental of motorized wheelchairs and scooters may require a valid driver license. Call ahead to see if there are any areas of the venue that are not accessible for people with limited mobility.
- **Ask if pets are allowed before bringing yours.**
- **Bring any necessary medications with you** in a sealed, waterproof container. Also bring a list of the medications you take, along with dosage information.

During Your Visit

- **Wear light-colored, lightweight, all-cotton clothing.** It absorbs less heat from the sun, allows good air circulation and dries quickly if it gets wet. Wear comfortable, broken-in shoes and bring a change of socks.
- **Wear sunscreen on any exposed skin.** Reapply sunscreen every few hours, according to package label instructions. Wear sunglasses with UV protection. Also consider a hat with a brim to protect your face and eyes from the sun.
- **Drink plenty of non-alcoholic beverages.** Watch for signs of dehydration and heat-related illness, such as muscle cramps, light-headedness, nausea, rapid heartbeat, flushed or clammy skin and disorientation. Seek cool environments and medical attention if you or someone in your group experiences symptoms.
- **Know your limitations when riding rides.** Ask the ride operator if you are unsure. If you are not comfortable in the ride restraints, ask to be let off the ride before it begins.

Visiting With a Group

- **Carefully consider if each member in your group is physically and mentally capable** of handling the day's activities and if you have adequate support to ensure their safety and enjoyment.
- **Make sure a responsible person in your party has a mobile phone** and have everyone in your group carry that number in their own phones or on a piece of paper.
- **Give each person in your group an ID card or tag** that lists his name as well as the name and mobile phone number of a responsible person in your party. Make sure everyone knows what to do if he or she gets separated from the group (e.g., go to first aid or security station or pre-arranged meeting spot).
- **Remember where you parked.** If the venue has labeled parking (section and row designations), write your location down and make sure everyone has a copy. Otherwise, identify a permanent and identifiable landmark nearby (such as a tree or building), and be sure everyone in your group knows how to find it.
- **Agree upon a meeting place and regular check-in times** throughout your visit. Good places include the entrance you came in, first aid stations and any unmistakable attractions (like a large ride or exhibit).

Ohio | Department of Aging