



Reception Event Description

Kick off the Explore Minnesota Tourism Conference with a distinctly Duluth welcome. Hosted by Visit Duluth in partnership with the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center, this opening reception brings conference attendees together in the Harborside Ballroom for an evening that celebrates all things *Duluthy*.

Expect interactive experiences, local flair, and lively connections and conversation — unmistakably Duluth. Guests can mix and mingle over delicious bites and beverages (cash bar available) while enjoying playful, place-based activities, including a longest slapshot contest and a Wellness Room designed for rest and reset.

Boarding for the ticketed AFTER AFTER PARTY begins immediately following the reception, with boarding ending at 7:15 p.m. Guests will then enjoy a scenic ride aboard the North Shore Scenic Railroad to the historic Fitger’s Complex for a curated passport experience featuring food, beverages, and interactive stops throughout the complex, before returning by train at 9:30 p.m.

After-After Party Description

The night doesn’t end when the reception wraps — it just shifts gears. Following the opening reception, guests are invited to continue the experience with the ticketed AFTER AFTER PARTY, traveling together aboard the North Shore Scenic Railroad for a scenic evening ride along Lake Superior.

Upon arrival at the historic Fitger’s Complex, the fun continues with a curated passport experience that leans fully into the Duluthy theme. Guests will explore the complex while sampling bites and beverages from a variety of local vendors, discovering new favorites and familiar classics along the way. It’s equal parts social, flavorful, and experiential — a relaxed, memorable way to cap off the first day of the conference before returning by train later in the evening.

Event High-level Details for Explore Minnesota Tourism Conference

- **Events:** Opening Reception + After-After Party
- **Host:** Visit Duluth & the DECC
- **Venue (Reception):** Harborside Ballroom, Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC)
- **Date:** Following Day 1 of conference programming, Wednesday, February 11

Opening Reception

- **Time:** 5:00–7:00 p.m.
- **Theme:** All Things Duluthy
- **Experience Highlights:**
 - Longest slapshot contest
 - Wellness Room (quiet, restorative space)

- Interactive, locally inspired activities
- **Food & Beverage:**
 - Hosted bites
 - Cash bar

After-After Party (Ticketed)

- **Cost:** \$50 per person
- **Boarding Ends:** 7:15 p.m.
- **Transportation:** North Shore Scenic Railroad
- **Destination:** Fitger's Complex
- **Return Time:** 9:30 p.m.
- **Experience Includes:**
 - Passport-style experience featuring food, beverages, and interactive stops
 - Time to explore the historic complex before returning by train