

FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION TOURS

Three exciting tours will be offered to all attendees on Friday, April 17th, 2015. For more information, contact Kathy Cyr at: hathautes@yahoo.com or 218-751-0994. ***You must pay for Tours #2B and #3 as part of your registration. Note: Convention registration runs from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Evening convention activities begin at 7:30 p.m.***

Tour #1 – “Lunch on Your Own” (Noon to 2:00 p.m.)

Launch your lunch experience at one of Bemidji’s award-winning restaurants. Choose from cozy coffee shop fare to casually sophisticated Italian atmosphere. You will receive a map for listings and locations.

Note: This activity is self-guided.

Tour #2 – “Area Attraction Tour Options” (2:00 to 4:00 p.m.)

Meet at The Sanford Center - George W. Neilson Convention Center lobby for both tour departures. Choose one of the following options. Tour guides will provide insights and information to make this a memorable day.

Option 2A: Concordia Language Villages - Driving Tour (No charge)

Concordia Language Village is the premiere language and cultural immersion program in the USA, attracting youth and adults from all 50 states and over 40 countries. Join us for a narrated driving tour of seven culturally authentic village sites tucked into the woods near Bemidji.

Option 2B: Downtown Bemidji History Tour (\$3 admission)

*The first stop, and photo opportunity, is at the legendary statues of Paul Bunyan & Babe the Blue Ox, one of the top ten most photographed roadside attractions in the nation. Visit the adjacent [Tourist Information Center](#), with its unique Fireplace of States and Bunyan Memorabilia, and hear a presentation by a local Bemidji historian.

*The next stop will be at the [Beltrami History Center](#), a state-of-the-art, full-service history museum located in the renovated Great Northern Railroad Depot. Here you will see two exhibit halls including a collection of Ojibwe baskets and bead weaving.

*Our final stop will be at the family-owned, [Bemidji Woolen Mills](#) factory & outlet store where, in 1920, they began producing high quality outdoor woolen apparel for lumberjacks. As the logging era faded and times changed, the family expanded the apparel market to outdoor enthusiasts. The 4th generation of the family added knitting machines to the business operations. Tour the factory side of the business where woolen garments are still made by individual seamstresses, see the knitting machines in action, and shop the retail portion of the store.

Tour #3 – Wine and Cheese Tasting at Sparkling Waters Restaurant (\$15.00; 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.)

Join old friends and new acquaintances at [Sparkling Waters Restaurant](#) for conversation and refreshments, including a presentation of wine selections served with a variety of hors d’oeuvres. (Depart from the Sanford Center - George W. Neilson Convention Center lobby for this tour.)