

### **2021 Annual Report**

On behalf of Experience Sioux Falls (formerly the Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau), we are pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report of Sioux Falls' Official Destination Marketing Organization (DMO).

The visitor industry in Sioux Falls made tremendous gains in 2021, despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Room tax collection surpassed 2019 (pre-pandemic) by 1.6% with record totals in July, August, and September since fiscal year 2013-14. BID tax collection was down 6.8% compared to 2019, however collections in June, July, August, and September set new records since fiscal year 2010-11.

To all our partners and community stakeholders, we thank you for your tremendous resiliency. The incredible strength of the hospitality industry and our community has brought us back better than ever.

The Experience Sioux Falls team will continue to work hard to increase economic impact, the creation of jobs, tax revenues, community sustainability, and better the quality of life for residents.

We give a special thanks to our Experience Sioux Falls Advisory Council, the BID Board of Directors, and all who live and work in the Sioux Falls visitor industry.

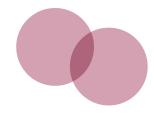


Warm Regards,

Teri Schmidt
CEO
Experience Sioux Falls



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# Meet the current Experience Sioux Falls Team



TERI SCHMIDT



**KATE SOLBERG**Sales Manager



**KATHIE PUTHOFF**Administrative Assistant



**ANNA DERRY**Director of Sales



**BRIANA JEWELL**Services Manager



**KATIE RONEY**Business Manager



**BRANDON VANT HUL**Sales Manager



**KRISTA ORSACK**Director of Marketing



MARY HUBLOU
First Impressions/Project Manager



**JACKIE WENTWORTH**Sales Manager



**EMILY SCHAFFER**Creative Development Manager



**MELEA HARRIS**Host City Manager



**JAY KALTENBACH**Sales Manager



MATT BARTHEL
Communications Manager

### Vision:

Share the community of Sioux Falls with the world.

### **Mission Statement:**

Market Sioux Falls as a one-of-a-kind destination and provide an energized visitor experience to enhance economic impact.

## **Experience Sioux Falls Board of Directors**

# **2021 - 2022 Advisory Council Voting Members**

Jan Grunewaldt, Chair

Best Western PLUS Ramkota

Frank Gurnick, Past-Chair

Dakota Alliance Soccer Club

Jodi Schwan, Treasurer

Align Content Studio

Matt Burns

Feeding South Dakota

**Shailesh Patel** 

Hampton Inn, TownePlace Suites, Hampton Inn SW

**Nicole Peyton** 

Holiday Inn City Centre

**Jessie Schmidt** 

Better Business Bureau

**Amy Smolik** 

Friessen Development, Inc/Lake Lorraine

Riccardo Tarabelsi

R Wine Bar & Kitchen

**Terry Vandrovec** 

Sanford Sports Complex

Jim Woster

Retired

Stacy Wrightsman

Sanford Health Public Affairs

Non-Voting Teri Schmidt, CEO

Experience Sioux Falls

**2021-2022 Business Improvement District (BID) Board of Directors** 

**Voting Members:** 

Frank Gurnick, Chair

Dakota Alliance Soccer Club

Jan Grunewaldt, Vice-Chair

Best Western PLUS Ramkota

Matt Brunick, Secretary

Hilton Garden Inn Sioux Falls South

**Tracy Kolb** 

Hampton Inn by Hilton & Hampton SW

**Paul Hegg** 

Hegg Companies

**Greg Jamison** At-Large

**Non-Voting Members:** 

**Tom Morris** 

Best Western PLUS Ramkota

Teri Schmidt

Experience Sioux Falls

Janet Brekke

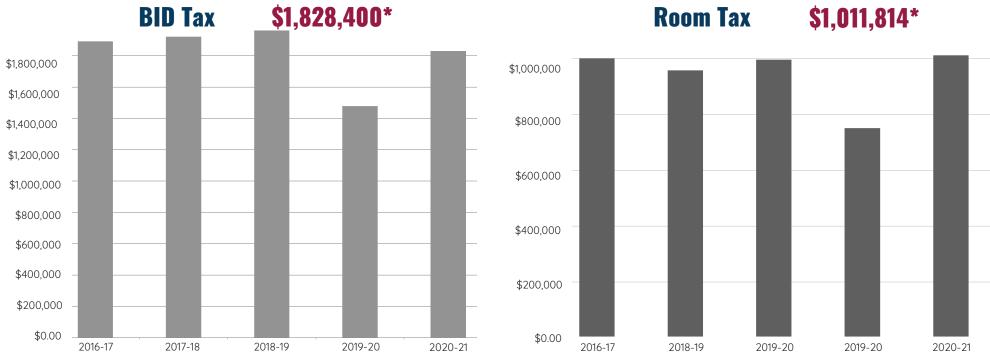
Sioux Falls City Council Liaison

**Shawn Pritchett** 

City of Sioux Falls Liaison

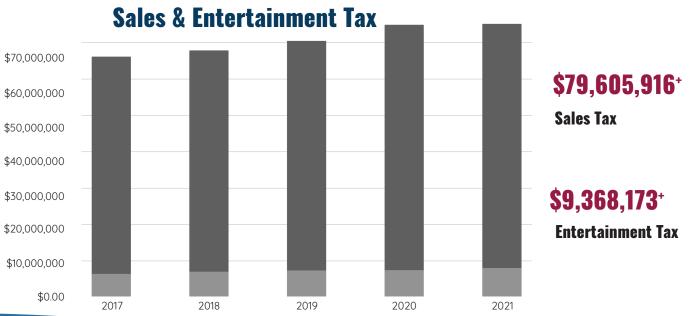


### **Tax Collections**



Experience Sioux Falls is solely funded by a 1% hotel room tax and a \$2 per room per night Business Improvement District (BID).

Visitors also contribute to sales and entertainment tax collections by money spent on shopping, dining, entertainment, transportation, and more.



\*Total recognized in the ESF's fiscal year October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021 +Total recognized in the City of Sioux Falls' 2021 calendar year net reportable revenue

### South Dakota Tourism Partnerships

# **2021 Visitor Impact**

The Southeast region was the region most impacted by the COVID pandemic with visitor spending dropping by more than 25% in 2020. The region recovered 90% of those losses in 2021. Visitor spending grew 30% in 2021 to nearly \$1.6 billion.

# Over \$1.25 Billion\*

36.4% of all visitor spending occurs in the Southeasten region of SD.

Minnehaha and Lincoln Counties captures \$1.25B and nearly 29% of all visitor spending state-wide. With higher wages paid in the region, 39% of the state's tourism-generated labor income goes to employees in the Southeast region.

\*This data reflects the 2021 county level impact



## **Cooperative Partnerships**

Direct Email Campaigns
Governor's Conference on Tourism Sponsorship
Instant Experience Social Unit
Peak Magazine Co-op Program
Peak & Shoulder Great Getaways
Rooster Rush
South Dakota Vacation Guide

# **2021 Visitor Impact to South Dakota**



13.5 Million Visitors 26% increase in visitors.



\$4.4 Billion 30% increase over 2020.



**\$345 Million**State and local tax revenue generated.



**54,208**Travel and tourism supported jobs.



\$980
Additional amount of taxes each S.D.
household would pay if tourism did not

# South Dakota Tourism Partnerships

# South Dakota Governor's Conference on Tourism

The South Dakota Department of Tourism hosted the 2021 Governor's Conference on Tourism, January 20-21, in Pierre, SD. Due to the Covid -19 pandemic, the conference limited inperson attendance and offered participants a virtual option.

The theme of the conference was, "Onward!," which acknowledged the challenges the industry had faced, yet provided encouragement to stay focused and determined through 2021 and beyond. As in years past, attendees heard from top industry experts and leaders who brought local, national, and international insights about the future of travel. Secretary Jim Hagen presented a "state of the state" report including marketing plans for the remainder of the year.

The conference concluded with Governor Kristi Noem's presentation of the annual tourism awards. General Manager, Ryan Friez, of Thunder Road in Sioux Falls, was awarded the Ruth Ziolkowski Outstanding Hospitality & Customer Service Award representing the Southeastern South Dakota region. Sioux Falls had 64 individuals representing all areas of the Sioux Falls visitor industry in attendance.



### **National Travel & Tourism Week**

Experience Sioux Falls kicked off National Travel and Tourism Week with a press conference on May 3, 2021 featuring Governor Kristi Noem, Mayor Paul TenHaken, South Dakota Secretary of Tourism Jim Hagen, and Experience Sioux Falls CEO Teri Schmidt. These leaders highlighted the enormous impact that tourism has on the economy.

Members of the industry gathered for a breakfast on May 5 to hear Mayor Paul TenHaken and Secretary of Tourism Jim Hagen discuss the positive outlook for the upcoming summer travel season.

National Travel and Tourism week activities continued throughout the week with a hospitality training seminar and a literature swap to distribute brochures to the South Dakota Welcome Centers.



### **Hunter's Welcome**

Experience Sioux Falls participated in the 2021 South Dakota Rooster Rush offered through the SD Dept. of Tourism. The program provides funding to South Dakota communities to be utilized for welcoming hunters who travel to SD for pheasant hunting.

Experience Sioux Falls applied its funding toward the 27th Annual Hunter's Welcome at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport which took place October 14-15 for out-of-state hunters. Hunters were greeted in the airport lobby with an enthusiastic welcome from Experience Sioux Falls staff and given a commemorative gift. There were also vendor booths with items available to prepare for the fields. The Hunter's Welcome is a long-running tradition, and many who return to SD year after year look forward to the event.

### **Estimated Visitors to Sioux Falls in 2021**



823,660 Non-overnight Visitors



411,830 Overnight Visitors



1,235,490 Total Estimated Visitors+



\$437,591,682 Estimated Economic Impact\*+

# **Booked Business through 2023**



131 Events New: 44 Repeat: 87



26,097 Room nights



69,792 Attendance



\$31,842,502 Estimated Economic Impact\*+

Market Segments of Booked Business		
Tour Operator	50	
Sports	33	
Corporate	16	
Other	13	
Religious	9	
Hobby/Clubs	5	
Trade/Business	5	

Scope of Booked Business		
National	52	
Regional	47	
State	20	
Local	11	
International	1	

Source of Booked Business		
Call-In	64	
ABA	33	
Other	11	
ESF Initiated	9	
Cvent	7	
Hotel Partnership	4	
Local Referral	3	

# **Year - End Pending Sales**



14 Events



29,514 Room nights



19,585 Attendance



\$4,208,245 Estimated Economic Impact\*+

## Sales & Servicing

### **2021 Convention Calendar**



119 Events New: 45 Repeat: 74



23,163 Room nights



76,455 Attendance



\$52,250,096
Estimated Economic Impact\*+

Market Segments of Convention Calendar		
Tour Operator	46	
Sports	30	
Corporate	11	
Religious	7	
Civic Organization	5	
Other	20	

### **2021 Services**



522.5 Personnel hours provided



225,208 Attendance



119
Events, conventions, and tours serviced



32 Groups utilized on-site registration assistance



# **Turned Lost Business in 2021**



42 Events



19,148 Room nights



29,232 Attendance



\$18,606,660 Estimated Economic Impact\*+

\*Destinations International Event Impact Calculator +Estimated visitors and economic impact based on numbers ESF could count

### Marketing - Website

Website traffic and engagement across all audiences are monitored throughout the year. Special attention is paid to organic traffic, paid media traffic, referral traffic, conversions, and more. A summary of key performance indicators comparing 2021 to 2020 are outlined below.

# **2021 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**

+35.8% +31.7% +41.3% +26.9% Sessions New Users Non-Local Sessions Sessions

+24.9% +1.9% +48.1% +37%
Pages Per Session Duration\* Email Sign-ups Goal Completions



### **Location-Based Sessions**

Nearly all the top ten metros visiting the website showed growth YOY. Minneapolis and New York City website traffic showed declines from record-setting traffic in 2020.

International travel sessions increased substantially throughout the year, although actual visitation has yet to return to pre-COVID levels.

Metro	Sessions	YOY
Minneapolis/Saint Paul	49,069	-9.4%
Chicago	44,761	+35.8%
Omaha	39,803	+68.4%
Dallas/Ft. Worth	29,570	+221.8%
Des Moines	11,903	+73.2%
Sioux City	11,582	+2.04%
Washington DC	11,226	+7.05%
Denver	8,825	+57.0%
New York City	8,238	-38.2%
Lincoln-Hastings	6,351	+48.8

Country	Sessions	YOY
India	7,621	+948.3%
China	2,405	+536.2%
Indonesia	2,188	+927.2%
Ireland	2,141	+2,645%
Canada	2,127	+29.9%
France	1,349	+167.1%
United Kingdom	1,346	+67.8%
Germany	1,022	+52.8%

## Marketing - User Generated Content

CrowdRiff galleries on ExperienceSiouxFalls.com had a **31.7%** engagement rate, with **108K** interactions, and **342K** views.







valdphoto





@ExperienceSFSD

42,808 Likes (+800)



**Social Media** 







#ExperienceSiouxFalls



In 2021 Experience Sioux Falls reached over **11.7M** users and generated **312.6K** engagements. Engagements included comments, retweets, and likes from people across America.

# **Email Strategy**

Over 1.3 million emails were sent out across 77 campaigns throughout the United States and achieved an average of 16.3% open rate and 2.2% click rate.



**(100000** 

# Top Reasons to Visit Sioux Falls This Fall



Fall isn't complete without chilly weather, cozy sweaters, and warm comfort food. See why you should make Sioux Falls your next destination to enjoy the fall season.

Learn More

#### **NEW VIDEO**

A new video series called "We Are Sioux Falls" features the many faces and places that make up Sioux Falls. Check out the first video, Active Adventurer.

Watch Video



#### SIOUX FALLS SOURCED

Have you signed up to win the Sioux Falls Sourced Fall box? Put your name in the hat to win one of 50 total boxes stuffed with locally sourced goods from Sioux Falls.

Enter to Win



Don't know where to start when it comes to planning a trip? Start by looking through our list of attractions to see what might interest you and your family.

View List



#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

There's a lot going on in Sioux Falls. Here are just a few events we think you should know about.

# Marketing - Earned Media



15 Pieces of content



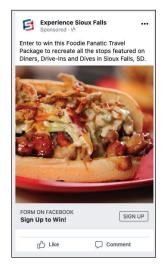
127,792,307 Reach



\$480,950 Value

# **Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**

During the month of January, several Sioux Falls and surrounding area restaurants were featured on Food Network's Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. Four completely new episodes were created and reached Food Network's audience across 87 million homes. The episodes also regularly repeat providing Sioux Falls immeasurable earned media exposure.



To take advantage of a captive audience of food lovers, Experience Sioux Falls created a lead generating campaign on Facebook and Instagram. More than 1,220 people signed up to win a package for a three-night hotel stay along with gift cards to each restaurant featured on the show. To keep momentum going, the campaign ran through March. Over the course of three months, campaign efforts drove a total of 2,429 non-duplicated leads or registrations.



### Marketing - Visitor Guide

The Official Sioux Falls Visitor Guide is a primary marketing tool meant to inspire travelers to visit the city and experience more once they are here. It is distributed several ways during the inspiration, research, planning, booking, and experience phases of travel. In 2021, the Visitor Guide was not updated due to COVID hardships on paying advertisers, however, it still garnered record engagement bettering the last record set in 2018 by 13.9%.

Paid Media	
Impressions	2,966,010
Engagements	17,485
Engagement Rate	1.63%
Goal Reached	136.5%
YOY	34.1%

54,012 Online Views +106.5%

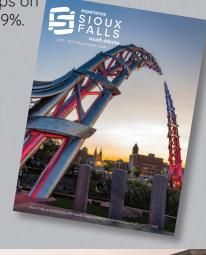
1,287
General Office
Requests

659 Downloads

3,504
Website Requests

272 Advertising Reader Response

59,734 Total +72.5%





### Marketing - Peak Campaign 2021

The 2021 Peak Campaign focused on inspiring travel during the spring and summer months (March-August/September) with continuous monitoring of pandemic concerns. Travelers were still reminded that Sioux Falls is a safe destination with room to roam.

Persona specific messaging and targeting was used to reach potential travelers with content relevant to their interests across several digital tactics. Learnings from previous campaigns showed the average search-to-book and book-to-travel windows had decreased from the year prior (hotel search-to-book: 5.2 days vs 13.7; hotel book-to-travel: 21.6 vs 29). This travel planning data was integrated into the strategy with some COVID-19 related unknowns still lingering.

Target markets were slightly adjusted with more budget allocated toward in-state travel, while some tried and true markets remained.



#### **Engagement by Audience**

Persona	Impressions	Engagements	<b>Engagement Rate</b>
Music Enthusiast	1,661,400	98,730	6.57%
Active Adventurer	1,476,690	78,020	6.44%
Culinary Explorer	1,269,930	47,780	5.34%
Family Fun Finder	1,271,500	47,010	5.25%
Culture Seeker	1,265,040	46,630	5.24%









**NEED MORE** 

INSPIRATION?

#### **Audience**

- Culinary Explorers
- Culture Seekers
- Active Adventurers
- Family Fun Finders
- Music Enthusiasts

#### Goals

- Position Sioux Falls as a Safe Travel Destination
- Hotel Bookings
- Flight Bookings
- Visitor Guide Interactions

### Geography

### Primary

- MNPLS/St. Paul, MN
- Sioux Falls, SD DMA (minus +50 miles)
- Chicago, IL
- Omaha, NE

#### Secondary

- Rapid City, SD
- Des Moines/ Ames, IA
- Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX
- Sioux City, IA

#### Results

- Impresssions 15,320,000
- Engagements 1,378,080
- Engagement Rate 9.0%
- Travel Intelligence Platforms
  - Impressions 11,440,150
  - Hotel Revenue\* \$398.855
  - Average Hotel Revenue ROI 4.8

\*Observed Adara Impact Data

### Marketing - Sioux Falls Sourced Phase 1

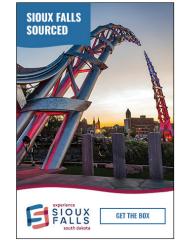
In September 2021, Experience Sioux Falls launched a campaign called "Sioux Falls Sourced" which encouraged people to sign-up to win a box full of locally sourced products made in the Sioux Falls area. Each quarter (or season) 50 boxes were mailed to randomly selected leisure consumers and 10 qualified planning professionals to get a taste of what the city has to offer. The goal was to engage both audiences to provide their contact information and retarget them through their travel or event planning process.

The Sioux Falls Sourced campaign complimented the ending of the peak season campaign and start of the winter season campaign. Phase I included promotion of the fall and winter boxes.

Paid Media	
Impressions	698,1778
Engagements	35,847
Engagement Rate	5.13%
Leisure Leads (deduped)	15,961
Planner Leads (deduped)	236









### **Sioux Falls Sourced Fall Box**

(Valid for entry between September 1-October 31, 2021.)

- Dagger & Arrow Diablo Verde Serrano Hot Sauce
- Inca Salsa
- Juniper Apothecary Sore Muscles Balm
- Little Shire Cinnamon Cardamom Honey
- Simply Perfect Freedom Candle
- Sonja Gloria Pottery Cup
- Sweetgrass Soapery Cozy Soap
- Tea & Spice Exchange Ruby Cider Herbal Tea

Total Value \$59-\$80



### **Sioux Falls Sourced Winter Box**

(Valid for entry between November 1, 2021-January 31, 2022.)

- Dagger & Arrow Diablo Verde Serrano Hot Sauce
- Inca Salsa
- Juniper Apothecary Peaceful Bath Bomb & Minty Lip Balm
- Little Shire Cinnamon Cardamom Honey
- Simply Perfect Freedom Candle
- Sonja Gloria Pottery Cup
- Sweetgrass Soapery Mint Soap
- The Breaks Daily Coffee

Total Value \$77-\$78



### Marketing: Winter Campaign 2021-22

Promoting leisure travel into the shoulder travel seasons (October-March) remains an imperative strategic effort to fill hotel rooms during a traditionally slower time of year. Potential travelers were inspired by new messaging that Sioux Falls is "Always in Season" with a plethora of activities across all persona types.

A variety of digital paid placement executions were used to guide users through the travel planning funnel, ultimately leading them to book a vacation. Phase one of the campaign focused on fall messaging, phase two focused on winter messaging, and phase three slowly transitioned to spring and summer planning.

Limited emphasis was also placed on targeting those physically in attendance at the Macy's Day Parade in New York City, to coincide with the South Department of Tourism's Macy's Day Float.



#### **Engagement by Audience**

Persona	Impressions	Engagements	<b>Engagement Rate</b>
Family Fun Finder	66,257	1,561	5.53%
Music Enthusiast	377,920	19,685	5.01%
Culinary Explorer	222,960	7,023	3.16%
Culture Seeker	179,300	5,175	3.01%
Active Adventurer	781,682	18,799	2.54%









#### **Audience**

- Culinary Explorers
- Culture Seekers
- Active Adventurers
- Family Fun Finders
- Music Enthusiasts

#### Goals

- Inspire travel to Sioux Falls in the fall and winter
- Hotel Bookings
- Flight Bookings
- Lead Generation

#### **Geography**

#### Primary

- Sioux Falls, SD DMA
- +300 mile radius Secondary
  - Chicago, IL
  - Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX

#### Results

- Impresssions 11,050,000
- Engagements 966,780
- Engagement Rate 8.75%
- Travel Intelligence Platforms
  - Impressions 8,584,437
  - Hotel Revenue\* \$212,579.94
  - Average Hotel Revenue ROI 3.29

\*Observed Adara Impact Data

### Marketing - Spotlight Campaigns

Throughout 2021 there were several smaller campaigns that targeted leisure travelers, sports event organizers, and sports fanatics. Many of the campaigns appealed to both consumer and business audiences at the same time and generated nearly five million impressions and 417,000 engagements from people across the country.

### **Travel Articles**

During the month of June, a campaign was launched with a primary goal of driving users to the travel articles section on ExperienceSiouxFalls.com through the promotion of written

content pieces. Tactics included native display, paid social, and boosted social posts. This paid effort successfully elevated on-going organic content calendar activities and finished with a 7.2% increase year-over-year for time spent on-site.



# **Mobile App**

Full promotion of the BrewFalls Craft Beer Adventure was placed on hold after its launch in 2020 due to COVID-19. Paid promotion started as a late summer/fall campaign in

July-August 2021. The engagement rate of 28.76% far exceeded expectations and the total number of users for the year was 1,270.



# **Colorado Springs**

The 2021 Colorado Springs campaign focused on reaching visitors, athletes, and sports event organizers at the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center to drive brand awareness of Sioux Falls as a premier sports destination. A variety of tactics were implemented including geo-fencing, geo-behavioral display, video, and social media. Users who visited the facility as well as engaged with video were

as well as engaged with video were retargeted using programmatic display.







### **Road to Sioux Falls**

Experience Sioux Falls partnered with the Sanford Pentagon to promote three premier sports events in November and December 2021. Impressions totaled over 370K with an engagement rate of 5.3%.

- November 11: University of South Dakota vs. Air Force Men's Basketball Veterans Day event
- November 12: Mammoth Sports Construction Invitational Women's Basketball featuring the University of South Dakota, University of South Carolina, University of Louisville, and University of Arizona
- November 22-24: Men's Crossover Classic featuring South Dakota State University, George Mason University, University of Nevada, and University of Washington

### Marketing - ADARA Impact

ADARA Impact is a travel intelligence tool that quantifies the impact of digital marketing efforts and website visits into travelers, flight bookings, hotel room nights, and hotel revenue. It provides traveler insight data such as booking window attribution, traveler type, and length of stay.

710
Flight Total Travelers
2,886
Flight Total Nights



29,544
Flight Searches
1,460
Flight Bookings

37,400
Hotel Total Travelers
37,302
Hotel Total Nights



382,868 Hotel Searches 22,863 Hotel Bookings



\$5.26M Hotel Revenue \$120.24 Average Daily Rate

# Flight Data (days)

**36**Book to Arrival

11.1

Avg. Search to Booking



1.3
Avg. # of Travelers
5.3
Avg. Length of Stay

# **Hotel Data** (days)

19.4 Book to Arrival

11

Avg. Search to Booking



1.9 Avg. # of Travelers

1.9

Avg. Length of Stay

Top Origin Flight Markets	% of Bookings
Phoenix	10.2
Denver	8.3
Seattle	4.8
Washington D.C.	4.6
Chicago	3.9
Charlotte	3.4
Orlando	1.8
San Antonio	1.8
Atlanta	1.4

Top Origin Hotel Markets	% of Bookings
Sioux Falls MSA	17.1
Minneapolis-St. Paul	11.6
New York City	6.4
Chicago	6.4
Rapid City	3.4
Los Angeles	3.0
Sioux City	2.9
Indianapolis	2.7
Omaha	2.6



<sup>\*</sup>The data above only represents a subset of total digital advertising activities. ADARA Impact has an average of 45% visibility of hotel and flight inventory into Sioux Falls.

### **Marketing - Planner Strategy**

Planner campaign efforts in 2021 positioned Sioux Falls as a host city for meetings, conventions, sports, events, and leisure travel. An 'always on' campaign strategy was implemented throughout the year to ensure Sioux Falls remained top of mind and generate leads for the Experience Sioux Falls sales team. Audiences were targeted at local, state, regional, and national levels across several print and digital tactics.

#### Goals

- Position Sioux Falls as an attractive meetings and event destination - Increase sales

leads

#### Geography

- United States
- CO
- IL
- TX
- FL
- I L

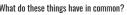
#### **Audience**

- Meeting & Convention Professionals
- Sports EventOrganizers & Right'sHolders
- Travel TradeProfessionals & GroupTour Operators



#### A Celebrity Chef, A Wild Fig Tart & A Beauty Line





Meet Sanaa Abourezk, owner and chef of Sanaa's Gourmet Mediterranean in Sioux Falls. We won't take up too much of your time with why Sioux Falls should be the host for your next meeting. You can discover more about that here when you are ready >> ExperienceSiouxFalls.com/Meetings.

However, we do want to share this unique story, flavorful lip balm, and a savory recipe to try out at home.

It was no surprise to the Sloux Falls community that local favorite and celebrity tohef, Sanaa Abourezk, was tapped by Glossier, Inc. to be an influencer within their social community. The goal was to promote a new lip balm flavor called Wild Fig. So, naturally, Sanaa come up with an amazing recipe as a source for inspiration through her lively and creative



ExperienceSiouxFalls.com

200 N. Phillips Ave., Suite 102 | Sioux Falls, SD 5710 05.275.6060 | #ExperienceSiouxFalls | @ExperienceSFSI

# Sanaa + Glossier Campaign

In late 2020 national skincare and cosmetic company, Glossier, reached out to Sioux Falls' own Sanaa Abourezk, owner of Sanaa's 8th Street Gourmet, to partner with her in creating a Wild Fig Tart recipe to help promote their wild fig flavored lip balm. Sanaa recorded the baking process and Glossier pushed it out through their social media channels.

In April 2021, Experience Sioux Falls purchased 150 wild fig lip balms and packaged them each with the Wild Fig Tart recipe and Sanaa's story and sent them to a targeted list of meeting and travel professionals. Feedback from many of the recipients was overwhelmingly positive with appreciation for the promotion of a popular local icon. The sales team booked six pieces of business due to this campaign and are currently working with three additional groups.

### **Marketing - Planner Strategy**

### **Planner Guide**

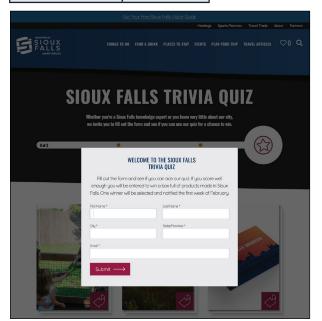
The Sioux Falls Planner Guide was promoted through both search and display. Due to the changing landscape of large meetings and events, search terms were tweaked to promote the safety precautions being implemented. Prospecting display was used to encourage planner guide downloads and display remarketing encouraged planners to come back and take a newly created interactive quiz. The quiz was used to generate leads for the sales team.

Paid Media	
Impressions	1,053,530
Engagements	11,295
Engagement Rate	1.71%
Goal Reached	108.6%
YOY	13.1%









# **Planner Quiz Re-Engagement**

The Planners Campaign launched during the month of June with a primary goal of driving quality users to the planners quiz page on ExperienceSiouxFalls.com. A variety of placements were utilized including display, video, and paid social.

Paid Media	
Impressions	1,672,280
Engagements	184,460
Engagement Rate	10.03%
Leads	250











### **We Are Sioux Falls Season 1**

Experience Sioux Falls launched a new video series late summer 2021 to showcase authentic and original stories about the people and places that make Sioux Falls a travel destination. The theme of the video series called "We Are Sioux Falls" was released in monthly

episodes. Research continues to show that travelers to Sioux Falls are interested in six categories or personas: active adventurer, family fun finder, culture seeker, music enthusiast, culinary explorer, and sports fanatic.

This project will continue to grow into a longer series taking place over the next couple of years. Video remains a top priority in strategic marketing efforts as a key component in capturing the attention of potential visitors.

Paid Media	
People Reached	350,359
Video Views	266,731
Engagements	12,397



Active Adventurer



Family Fun Finder



Culture Seeker



Music Enthusiast



Culinary Explorer

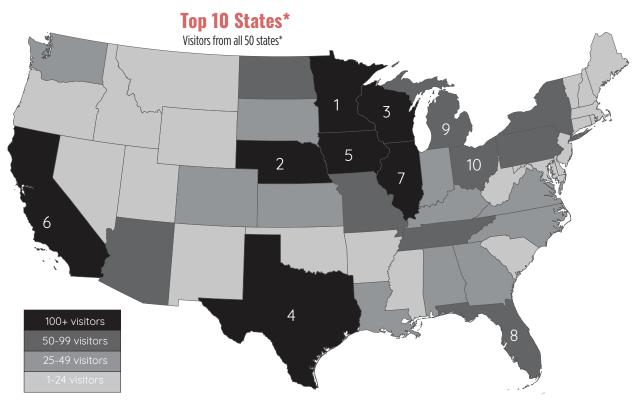


Sports Fanatic

### **Falls Park Visitor Information Center**

# **Demographics of Visitors to Falls Park**

186,622 Visitors entered the Falls Park Visitor Information Center in 2021. Number reflects approximately 1/3 of total visitors to Falls Park.



### How Visitors Heard About Sioux Falls\*

Friends/Family Internet Previous Visitor Stumbled Upon Magazine



### **Top 5 Countries\***

Visitors from 27 countries\*

Canada United Kingdom Mexico Australia Germany

\*Reflects visitors who signed the guest book at the Falls Park Visitor Information Center









### 2021 Events Schedule\*

### January 20

Northland Youth Wrestling Association Site Visit

#### May 5

NTTW Visitor Industry Breakfast with Sioux Falls Mayor & South Dakota Sec. of Tourism

#### **June 2-5**

American Tour Guide Group Tours FAM

### September 20 & 23

American Coalition for Ethanol
Site Visit

#### October 21-23

American Harp Society
Site Visit

#### Novmber 1-4

The Questers
Site Visit

### **January 20-21**

South Dakota Governor's Conference on Tourism Virtual Continuing Education

### May 6

NTTW South Dakota Tourism's Spring Hospitality Training

### July 23

World Taxidermy and Fish Carving Championships Site Visit

#### **October 14-15**

Hunter's Welcome

#### October 26-28

Adobe MAX
Virtual Continuing Education

#### November 1-4

National Veterans Golden Age Games Site Visit

### May 3

NTTW Media Day at Falls Park Press Conference with South Dakota Governor & Ice Cream Social

### May 6

NTTW Eastern South Dakota Literature Swap

### August 9-10

Legacy Tour & Travel
Site Visit

#### **October 19-21**

USA Skate/Smithsonian Site Visit

#### October 28-30

Rocky Mountain National Events Site Visit

#### November 7-9

National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) Region IV Site Visit

\*Schedule includes a sampling of events Experience Sioux Falls participated in