



Stillwater-native & X Games Standout Nicole Hause to Grand Marshal Aquatennial's CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade

The CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade and Target Fireworks book-end two-dozen Aquatennial events July 18-21.

MINNEAPOLIS (July 9, 2018) – The Minneapolis Aquatennial announced today that Stillwater-native **Nicole Hause**, who will again participate in the upcoming X Games in downtown Minneapolis this month, will be the Grand Marshal of the 2018 CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade on Wednesday, July 18 at 8:30-10:30 pm

Known as the largest nighttime parade in Minnesota, the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade's Grand Marshal is one of the top female skateboarders in the world.

“Our company looks forward to the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade every year because it’s an exciting way to show appreciation for, and spend time with, the communities we serve each day,” said **Brad Tutunjian**, division vice president of Gas Operations in Minnesota. “For eighteen consecutive years, it has been a privilege to be able to sponsor this fun-filled event and it’s our hope that everyone can join us in celebrating on July 18.”



Hause was named 2016 Female Bowl Skater of the Year by World Cup Skating. Born in 1997 in Stillwater, Hause began skating at 10 years old after attending a friend’s skateboard birthday party. Her dad built her a ramp shortly thereafter, and at age 15 she turned pro.

Hause missed her 2016 high school graduation to participate in her first X Games. Since then, she placed first in 2017 and 2018 at Malmo, Sweden’s Vert Attack as well as first in the 2018 Vans Girls Combi Pool Classic Pro and first in the 2018 Dew Tour. Last year at X Games in Minneapolis, Hause placed fourth.

During her career, she has competed in the U.S.A., Sweden, Australia and Brazil. Hause is known for her big air, speed and powerful style on the skateboard.

“I am very excited to be the Grand Marshal at the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade,” Hause said. “It’s great to be home, and being part of the Aquatennial and the X Games in downtown Minneapolis in the same week is going to be awesome.”



The CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade, along with fellow flagship event Target Fireworks on Saturday, July 21 at 10 p.m., bookend four jam-packed days of Aquatennial events and

programming that features two-dozen free and family-friendly events throughout downtown and along the Mississippi Riverfront—where our city was born.

“Aquatennial will again feature four days filled with two dozen free activities this year, and the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade is a great way to kick off the festivities,” said Aquatennial Festival Director **Leah Wong**. “There is something for all ages and abilities, and we invite you to join us and celebrate summer together in downtown Minneapolis.”

Aquatennial goers can get to the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade and the Target Fireworks by bus or light rail for FREE thanks to Metro Transit’s free ride pass. From 4 p.m. to midnight on Wednesday, July 18 and Saturday, July 21, riders can ride Metro Transit for free by printing a pass—Wednesday’s pass is available at www.aquatennial.com/torchlightparade and Saturday’s pass is available at www.aquatennial.com/fireworks.

The Aquatennial has also partnered with the City of Minneapolis to bring Tap Minneapolis water fountains to the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade. These water stations will be available along Hennepin Avenue during the parade as well as the Life Time Torchlight 5K, which runs down Hennepin Avenue on July 18 from 7:30-8:30 pm. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to the event and use the fountains along the parade route for refills. Tap Minneapolis will also have water fountain at the Pre-Parade Family Fun Night in Loring Park on July 18 from 6-8:30 p.m. and the Target Fireworks on July 21 from 6-10:30 p.m.

Aquatennial’s full schedule, guide, sign-up links, Skipper Pin sales and more are located at www.aquatennial.com.

Media is encouraged to bookmark and follow <http://aquatennial.mediaelc.com/> for more information, photos, resources and updated content leading up to and throughout Aquatennial.

Below is a full Aquatennial Schedule of events:

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

Aquatennial Blood Drive* | IDS Center Crystal Court (80 S. 8th St), 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Go Outside with Hennepin County Lawn Games and Activities | Hennepin County Government Center South Plaza (300 S 6th St), 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Loring Park Pre-Parade Family Fun Night | Loring Park, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
USTA Northern Rally the Family Tennis Lessons | Loring Park, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Wilderness Inquiry Voyageur Canoe Rides | Loring Park, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Life Time Torchlight 5K | Hennepin Avenue beginning at Basilica of Saint Mary, 7:30 PM
CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade | Hennepin Avenue from Basilica of Saint Mary to 5th St, 8:30 PM

THURSDAY, JULY 19

Nicollet Farmers Market | Nicollet between 6th and 9th St, 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Aquatennial Blood Drive* | IDS Center Crystal Court (81 S. 8th St), 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Go Outside with Hennepin County Piano Performance | Hennepin County Government Center South Plaza (300 S 6th St), 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
JB Hudson Family Fun Fest | JB Hudson Jewelers (901 Nicollet Mall), 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Core Power Yoga class/Mediation Hike with Gratitude Practice | Father Hennepin Bluff Park (420 SE Main St), 6:00 PM
Core Power Yoga Mediation Hike with Gratitude Practice | Father Hennepin Bluff Park (420 SE Main St), 6:00 PM
Twin Cities River Rats Water Ski Show* | Mississippi River, West River Road (between Broadway & Plymouth Aves) 7:00 PM

FRIDAY, JULY 20

Aquatennial Blood Drive* | IDS Center Crystal Court (80 S. 8th St), 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Alchemy 365 at Aquatennial | Minneapolis Sculpture Garden (726 Vineland Pl), 5:30 PM
Aquatennial's Fulton Downtown Thunderdome | Fulton Tap Room (414 N. 6th St), 4:30 PM - 9:15 PM
Twin Cities River Rats Water Ski Show* | Mississippi River, West River Road (between Broadway & Plymouth Aves) 7:00 PM

SATURDAY, JULY 21

National Parks Service Picnic & Lock Tours | St. Anthony Falls Lock & Dam (1 Portland Ave), 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Aquatennial Skyline Fest: Stand-Up Paddleboard Races, Wilderness Inquiry Voyageur Canoe Rides | Boom Island (724 NE Sibley St), Begins 11:00 AM
Core Power Yoga classes at Aquatennial Skyline Fest | Boom Island (724 NE Sibley St), Begins 11:00 AM
AquaJam Best Trick: Skateboarding | Guthrie Theater (818 S. 2nd St), 6:00 PM
Pre-Fireworks Festivities (Family Fun Zone , Live music, Food trucks & more) | West River Parkway near Portland Ave, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Target Fireworks | West River Parkway near Portland Ave, 10:00 PM

About the Minneapolis Aquatennial

The Minneapolis Aquatennial is the Official Civic Celebration of the City of Minneapolis offers outstanding entertainment and activities in the City of Lakes for all ages. It is managed and produced by the mpl's downtown council. The 2018 Aquatennial is sponsored by Target, CenterPoint Energy, U.S. Bank, Hennepin Healthcare, Skyline Specs, City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, K102, Go 96.3 FM, BUZ'N 102.9 FM, 104.1 JACK FM, 830 WCCO-AM and more. For more information, please visit aquatennial.com or call (612) 376-7669.

About the mpl's downtown council

Founded in 1955, and one of the most historic business associations in the nation, the mpl's downtown council (mdc) is a membership-based entity that works to create an extraordinary downtown. The mdc's collaborative development of the Intersections: Downtown 2025 Plan is designed to help downtown businesses, community leaders and citizens build on downtown assets and implement future goals. For more information, please visit mplsdowntown.com.

About CenterPoint Energy

CenterPoint Energy, Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas, is a domestic energy delivery company that includes electric transmission & distribution, natural gas distribution and energy services operations. The company serves more than five million metered customers primarily in Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. The company also owns 54.1 percent of the common and subordinated units representing limited partner interests in Enable Midstream Partners, a publicly traded master limited partnership it jointly controls with OGE Energy Corp., which owns, operates and develops natural gas and crude oil infrastructure assets. With nearly 8,000 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 150 years. The utility also operates a non-regulated business in Minnesota called [Home Service Plus®](http://HomeServicePlus.com). For more information, please visit CenterPointEnergy.com.

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