



PWHL Minnesota Walter Cup Champions to Serve as Grand Marshals for Aquatennial Torchlight Parade

WHAT: The Aquatennial Torchlight Parade kicks off the 2024 Minneapolis Aquatennial on Wednesday, July 24 and will feature members of the Walter Cup-winning PWHL Minnesota hockey team as Grand Marshals: Goalie Nicole Hensley and Defender Lee Stecklein.

The Aquatennial Torchlight Parade is the largest nighttime parade in Minnesota and features units, bands, performers, and organizations from throughout the state.

WHEN: Wednesday, July 24 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Nicollet Mall from 12th to 4th Streets

WHO: **Goalie Nicole Hensley:** Nicole Hensley was the first goaltender selected in the inaugural PWHL Draft and brings a wealth of experience between the pipes with the U.S. National Women's Team. Her international success includes Olympic gold in 2018 and silver in 2022, plus five medals at the IIHF Women's World Championship counting three gold and two silver. The 29-year-old from Lakewood, Colo., played collegiately at Lindenwood University. She went 7-6-1 with a 2.19 goals against average and .919 save percentage with PWHL Minnesota last year.

Defender Lee Stecklein: Lee Stecklein is a Roseville native who played at the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Whitecaps. A fixture on the Team USA blue line since joining the U18 program in 2010, she is a three-time Olympic medalist (1 gold, 2 silver) and 8-time World Championships medalist (6 gold, 2 silver). She also won three national championships with the Gophers. Last year, she scored two goals and six assists with PWHL Minnesota and added three assists in the postseason.

This year's Aquatennial Torchlight Parade will again be emceed by K102's Chris Carr & Co. You can check out their play-by-play near Peavey Plaza at 11th and Nicollet.

INFO: You can take Metro Transit to the Aquatennial Torchlight Parade for free. Get there by bus or light rail using a free ride pass found on the [Torchlight Parade webpage](#).

Parking information, a parade map, and more details can be found at Aquatennial.com/torchlightparade.

About the Minneapolis Aquatennial

The Minneapolis Aquatennial, 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. This year's Aquatennial is sponsored by Target, Hennepin Healthcare, Minneapolis Recycles, City of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, Metro Transit, Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel—The Depot, Ameriprise Financial and Verizon. 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. For more information, please visit mplsdowntown.com.

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