

A Guide to the Twin Cities...*on the Cheap.*

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS

map of Mpls neighborhoods: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/about/maps/neighborhoods.pdf>

map of St. Paul neighborhoods: <http://www.stpaul.gov/maps/citymap2.html>

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

*Metro Transit (www.metrotransit.com)

Public Transportation in the Twin Cities is not equivalent to that in any big city (NYC, Boston, Chicago, DC) but there is a bus system that covers both cities (with limited access to some suburbs) and a short light rail line (connects downtown Mpls with the Airport and Mall of America). Plan your trip online with the trip planner and look up schedules for your favorite routes. Hi-Frequency routes and Limited Stop routes are the most convenient.

Fare: Rail tickets can be purchased with credit card or bigger bills but exact change is required for bus fare.

Frequent Rider Buss Passes: Ask Paula (at APHQ) if you are interested in ordering a discounted bus pass.

Bike + Bus: Take you bike on the bus (a bike rack on front) or on the light rail (bike racks inside).

Guaranteed Ride Home: If you ride the bus (or say you ride the bus), you can sign up for this program and get two vouchers (up to \$25) to use for cab fare every 6 months. You have to pay upfront, get a receipt from the cabby, and then mail it in with the voucher to get a check. We used one on a Saturday night to go to Barfly and Metro Transit picked up the bill! Sign up: <http://metrotransit.org/riderPrograms/grh.asp>

BIKE COMMUTING

If you chose to bike commute part-time or full time, make sure to pick up a map of bike lanes and paths in the twin cities, sold for \$10 at most bike shops.

***Express Bikes** (St Paul: 1158 Selby Ave) sells cheap, refurbished bikes.

***The Hub Bike Co-Op** (Minneapolis: 3020 Minnehaha Ave. S. AND 301 Cedar Ave. S)

This worker owned and operated shop sells new and used bikes and all kinds of accessories. You can also rent time with a stand and tools if you know how to fix your bike. Otherwise, you can pay for the experts to tune it up.

***The Grease Pit Bike Shop** (Minneapolis: 1507 S. 6th St.)

By bike, just take the bike trail that goes along the light rail line, and get off right behind the Riverside Towers. This shop is open in the evenings during weekdays (closed Friday) and during the afternoon on the weekend. It's a small space with 4 stands, all the tools and used parts you would ever need, and a stereo. Donations are accepted to use the space, tools, parts, etc. The owners pay rent on the space with donations and money they make from putting together bikes from used parts and selling them.

***Bell Museum of Natural History** (at the U of M)

Watch for Bike-in movies!

To Drink, Dance and be Merry:

***Happy Hour Search Engine:** www.thriftyhipster.com just enter a time and day of the week, and the locations of any specials (food and drink) at all bars in the twin cities are revealed!

Check Thrifty Hipster for exact times/days for the following sweet deals at our favorite TC establishments.

IN MINNEAPOLIS:

AZIA (2550 Nicollet Ave) sake, drinks, tasty apps & live DJ's.
Blarney Pub & Grill (412 14th Ave. SE) live music, no cover, wings special on Wed
Burrito Loco (418 13th Ave. SE) wings & trivia on Wed nights
Chino Latino (2916 Hennepin Ave) \$\$\$, drinks, tasty apps, great atmosphere
Figlio (Lake & Hennepin) cheap apps/beer/wine
First Avenue (701 First Ave N, Mpls) Salsa dancing after 10pm Thursdays, FREE with/a student ID!
Fuji-Ya (Lyndale & Lake) has discounted **SUSHI**, Saki and wine
Gasthof zur gemutlichkeit (2300 University Ave NE) shoot the boot, dance, German theme
Glucks (16 N. 6th St.) live band karaoke
Green Mill (2626 Hennepin Ave) drinks/apps
Hard Times Cafe (1821 Riverside Ave) 24-hour coffee shop. Eclectic crowd.
Herkimer Pub (2922 Lyndale Ave S.) Free shuffleboard, homemade brews, "great for Packers games"
Liola (Lake & Lyndale) Ladies night Th 9-11, \$5 all you can drink
Liquor Lyle's (2021 Hennepin Ave. S.) cheap deals ALL the time
Nomad World Bar (501 Cedar Ave. S.) Trivia night on Mon. International beer selection. Live music, free pool (only one table)
Psycho Suzi's (2507 Marshall St. NE) tiki-lounge cheap drinks.
Red Dragon (22nd & Lyndale) drinks are \$10 but you ONLY need one.
Rudolph's (Lyndale & Franklin Ave) has 2-for-1 rail drinks and tap beers after 10pm daily.
Solera (900 Hennepin Ave) tapas, beer, and sangria
Town Hall Brewery (1430 Washington Ave S.) \$1 pints the day a new beer is released. Free Birthday pint. Best beer in TC.
The Library (1301 4th St SE) live music Thurs-Sun, cheap wings and drinks.
The Independent (Lake & Hennepin) hip atmosphere and good specials.
Tracy's Saloon (2207 E Franklin Ave) cheap food & drinks

IN ST. PAUL

Billy's (857 Grand Ave) Apps and drink specials Sun-Thurs 9-11pm.
Green Mill (Hamline & Grand Ave) drinks/apps, trivia on Mon & Tues at 9pm
Happy Gnome (498 Selby Ave) good for beer and weddings (Meaghan L's reception was held here)
Sweeney's Saloon (96 Dale St.) heated patio, cheap beer, outdoor movies
The Groveland Tap (St Clair & Fairview) cheap beer and "best fries ever"
The Muddy Pig (196 Dale St. N.) Great beer selection
The Nook (492 Hamline Ave S) \$1 Burgers on Mon nights, drink specials Tues-Sun.
Turf Club (1601 University Ave.) Tons of live music, small cover, and drinks

Food:

Eating out is not a huge part of the AmeriCorps year but cheap restaurants and delis do exist in the Twin Cities areas. When you do decide to splurge, consider the affordable and/or tasty options below:

IN MINNEAPOLIS:

Al's Breakfast (413 14th Ave. SE) breakfast in Dinkytown
Café Barbette (1600 W. Lake St.) Expensive but lovely
Caffetto (22nd St. and Lyndale Ave.) coffee and wireless
Dunn Bros (everywhere) coffee and wireless
Falafel King (Lake St. & Lyndale Ave.) deli style Greek food. Take it to go or sit inside/outside.
Galactic Pizza (2917 Lyndale Ave. S.)

Holyland (2513 Central Ave NE) Greek food. Buffet. Buy some homemade hummus while you are there.
It's Greek to Me (Lake St. & Lyndale Ave.) Greek food, sit down.
Jasmine Deli (2532 Nicollet Ave.)
La Poblanita (1617 E. Lake St.) AP Student family owned
Maria's Café (1113 E Franklin Ave.) Cheap and delicious mammoth pancakes and Colombian cuisine.
Matt's Bar (3500 Cedar Ave. South) the Juicy Lucy
Passage to India (1401 W. Lake St.) Indian food, sit down.
Red Dragon (2116 Lyndale Ave. S.) Chinese food, sit down.
Seward Café (Franklin & 22nd) Awesome brunch
Uptown Bar & Café (3018 Hennepin Ave.) Hipster hangout. Food and live music.

IN ST. PAUL

ACME Deli (1552 St. Clair Ave) Big, juicy sandwiches made with fresh bread and ingredients.
Ai Hue's Vietnamese Deli (Western & University) BEST spring rolls
Black Sea Restaurant (737 Snelling Ave N.) Turkish food located super close to APHQ
Boca Chica Taco House (407 Wabasha St.)
Bread & Chocolate (Victoria & Grand)
Café Latte (Victoria & Grand) YUMMY salads, soups, pizza, etc. and desserts.
Coffee News Café (1662 Grand Ave) Coffee and wireless and amazing desserts
Italian Pie Shoppe (1670 Grand Ave) Pizza, etc.
Kim Huoy Chor/South China Island (University & Aldrich)
Neighborhood Café (Selby and Snelling)
New Asia (University Ave. & Lexington Pkwy)
Nina's Café (165 Western Ave. N.) coffee and wireless
Shish Amediterranean Grill (1668 Grand Ave) Mediterranean food
Taste of Thailand (1669 Selby Ave)

OTHER SUSTENANCE OPTIONS:

Midtown Global Market (Minneapolis: Chicago Ave and Lake St.)
 This bustling food and craft marketplace offers ethnic foods from across the globe, an organic produce vendor, crafts, coffee shops, Dos X happy hours, and free Wi-Fi. It is accessible by bus, car or bike (via the Midtown Greenway).

Farmer's Markets (June to the end of Oct)

Check out this website to find a Farmer's market near you in Hennepin or Ramsey County

www.landstewardshipproject.org/farmers_markets.html

Co-Ops

Be a working member and get discounts (see the volunteer and save \$ section below)

EBT Card (i.e. Food Stamps)

Consider applying for the food stamps of 2008: the convenient EBT card (use it like a debit card). Check out the section in this binder on Food Support to find out how.

Things To Do:

It may seem like all you will have time to do is Admission Possible, but making some time for a fun activity in your might just give your week a boost.

COMEDY

***ACME Comedy Company** (Minneapolis: 708 N. 1st St.)

FREE for you and five buddies during the month of your birth on Tues, Wed, or Thurs; \$5 Tues-Thurs with College ID.

***Brave New Workshop** (Minneapolis: 2605 Hennepin Ave)
 FREE late night admission, (Fridays @ 10pm; Saturdays @ midnight). Improv comedy for \$1 on Tuesdays (7:30 pm), Sundays (8pm)

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

All types of classes including dance, language, cooking, art, home repair etc. are taught in Mpls. and St. Paul public schools and community centers in the evenings and on weekends.

Minneapolis: http://minneapolis.registryinsight.com/ittrium/servlet/visit
You can search all the different classes on the website, and register online Fall 2007: registration begins Sept 4, classes begin Oct 1
St. Paul: http://www.commedprograms.spps.org/
The course catalog is available on the website. You can register online.

EXERCISE

***Cities Sports Connection Leagues** (<http://www.cscsports.com>)

High-quality adult recreational sports leagues (including indoor & outdoor soccer; beach, grass & indoor volleyball; indoor & outdoor touch football; broomball, softball, basketball, bowling, kickball & more...).

***YWCA and YMCA** (St. Paul and Minneapolis)

Both cities have both types of Ys but keep in mind that if you are a YWCA member in Mpls, you can only go to YWCA branches in Mpls, not YMCAs or any Ys in St. Paul. Keep in mind that you may be able to participate in pick-up Basketball nights or Community Nights at these facilities without being a member. Ask at the Y or community center near your house.

Sliding Scale Membership Fee. Because AmeriCorps member have such a low living allowance, you can apply to get financial assistance and pay a lower membership fee and no joiner's fee! Ask APHQ for the letter that explains how much money you make as an AmeriCorps member and bring it when you apply or turn in your application. Check out how to apply below.

St. Paul or Minneapolis YMCA: Pick up a financial assistance packet for membership at any branch. When you have completed the forms and gathered the required information, call Member Services to schedule an appointment to review your application.

St. Paul YWCA: pick up an application at any branch.

Minneapolis YWCA: Print the application form from the website and turn it in at any branch.

<http://www.ywca-minneapolis.org/healthfitness/pdfs/ScholarshipApplication06.pdf>

MOVIES

discount movie theaters:

***College Campuses** (all over)

Ask recent alums (ie your co-workers) from Twin Cities colleges and universities if they know where free movies are shown and when. Many of these events do not require college IDs.

***Hopkins Cinema 6** (Hopkins 1118 Main street - just west of highway 169)

Tickets are \$2, but only \$1 on Tuesdays. Call 952-931-7992

movie rental:

***Cinema Revolution** (Minneapolis: 26th St. and Nicollet Ave.)

specializes in foreign, independent and classic films on DVD

***Public Libraries** (all over)

Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Libraries have VHS and DVDs you can rent for free!

***Netflix** or **Blockbuster** online movie rental

***McDonald's REDBox Rentals** (any McDonald's) lets you rent new releases for \$1 for 1 day.

MUSEUMS, PARKS, ZOOS AND HISTORICAL SITES

***Como Park Zoo and Botanical Garden** (St. Paul: 1250 Kaufman Dr, St Paul)

FREE admission, but there's a \$2 suggested donation to keep it running.

***The Minneapolis Institute of Arts** (Minneapolis: 2400 3rd Ave S, Mpls)

FREE with free parking every day. Hours: Th 10am-9pm; Tu, Wed, Fri, Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 11am-5pm

***Walker Arts Center** (Minneapolis: 1750 Hennepin Ave)

FREE every Thursday evening from 5–9 pm

FREE the first Saturday of each month.

***Minneapolis Sculpture Garden** (across from the Walker Art Center)

FREE Open daily, 6 am-midnight. (yes, this is the location of the cherry and the spoon!)

***Cowles Conservatory** (at the Sculpture garden)

FREE admission. Open: Tu-Sat, 10 am-8 pm; Sunday, 10 am-5 pm

***The Weisman Art Museum** (Minneapolis: 333 E River Pkwy)

FREE modern art museum located on the U of M campus.

***Science Museum of Minnesota** (St. Paul: 120 W. Kellogg Blvd.)

Super discounted rate if you bring your EBT card; only \$3!

***Minnesota Museum of American Art** (St. Paul: 50 W. Kellogg Blvd.)

FREE general admission, new exhibits every month, Hours: Tu, Wed, Fr, Sa: 11-4; Th 11-8; Sun 1-5pm

***Museum Adventure Pass** (Any Minneapolis or St. Paul Public Library)

Go to any library branch and see which museum passes are available to check out. Use your library card to check out a Museum Adventure Pass and get free admission for up to four people at the museum you chose. The pass must be used within a week of checking it out. *Participating Museums:* American Swedish Institute, The Bakken Museum, Bell Museum of Natural History, Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life, Historic Murphy's Landing, Mill City Museum, Minnesota History Center, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Minnesota Museum of American Art, Minnesota Zoo, The Museum of Russian Art, Science Museum of Minnesota, Twin Cities Historical Sites: Alexander Ramsey House, Historic Fort Snelling, James J. Hill House, Oliver H. Kelly Farm, and Sibley House.

FAVORITE PARKS:

***Theodore Wirth Park** – bird sanctuary, bike path, bog

***Phalen Park** – nice trail around the lake, hop on the Gateway bike trail from the top of the lake!

***Uptown Lakes** (Harriet, Calhoun, and Isles) – crowded but quintessential Minneapolis

***Cherokee Park** – great view of downtown St. Paul and the river

READING

***Public Libraries** (Minneapolis or St. Paul)

Stop by a branch and apply for a card. If you already have a library card in St. Paul but moved to Mpls, bring your old card, and vice versa. You can request books/DVDs/CDs to be delivered to the branch that is most convenient for you. For those from out of state, and no MN license, bring a piece of mail verifying your address when you apply.

***booksfree.com**

It's like netflix, but with books! A monthly fee as low as \$10 (for 2 books at a time) with perks such as unlimited rentals, free shipping (both ways), no due dates, no late fees, and you can cancel at anytime. Also, you can sell your used books to booksfree and then use the credit to purchase books from them!

Used book stores:

***Book House** (Minneapolis: 429 14th Ave SE)

***Book Smart** (Minneapolis: 2914 Hennepin Ave)

***Common Goods** (St. Paul: Selby & Western)

***Cummings Books** (Minneapolis: 417 14th Ave SE)

***Half Priced Books** (St. Paul: 2041 Ford Pkwy)

*Magers & Quinn Booksellers (Minneapolis: 3032 Hennepin Ave)

*Sixth Chamber (St. Paul: Grant & Hamline)

THEATRES

free tickets:

***Project SUCCESS** (at South, Southwest, North and Humboldt high schools)

If your school has Project Success, you can get (2) free tickets for different shows or concerts.

rush tickets:

***The Children's Theatre Company** (Minneapolis: 2400 3rd Ave S)

Rush tickets as low as \$13, available 15 min. prior to every performance. No credit cards.

***The Guthrie Theater** (Minneapolis: 818 South 2nd St.)

Rush tickets are on sale 10 minutes before every performance. Get there and in line 45 min. early. Rush line accepts cash/check only. \$15 for previews; \$20 for weeknights and matinees; and \$25 for Friday and Saturday nights and openings. You can also sign up on their website for the Guthrie G-mail club, where they'll sometimes let you know of discounted tickets (usually half price) that you can get in advance. In 2007-2008, Sarah Idowu (at APHQ) kept getting us tickets for free. Hopefully, we get more tickets this year. ☺

***The Jungle Theater** (Minneapolis: Lyndale Ave & Lake St.)

Rush tickets 30 minutes before every performance.

***The Orpheum, State, and Pantages Theatres** (Minneapolis) and the **Ordway** (St. Paul)

Big performing arts centers that bring in national tours of Broadway shows throughout the year, and normally have rush tickets when the shows are not sold out. Every tour varies a bit, but just give the box offices a call.

student discounts (hold on to that College ID):

***Theatre de la Jeune Lune** (Minneapolis: 1st Ave & 1st St.)

"Anytime Rush" for all younguns' under 25: \$9. It isn't even a Rush ticket; you can buy them in advance. This theater won the 2005 Tony for best regional theatre—arguably one of the best companies in the nation, and right in our city of Minneapolis for the cost of a movie. Very unfortunately, the place is expected to sell the building and "reduce artistic involvement" effective July 2008. But if a small miracle occurs, well, they once and still might have cheap tickets.

***Frank Theatre** (in found spaces all over the city of Minneapolis)

They normally have a student rate; volunteer to usher and watch for FREE.

***Mixed Blood Theater** (Minneapolis: 1501 S 4th St.)

They have student discounted tickets, depending on the production. This company founded on cultural pluralism and is very focused on multi-racial and color-blind work. They also heart volunteers.

***The Southern Theater** (Minneapolis: 1420 Washington Ave S)

Student rush tickets are \$10, cash. Get there at least 1 hour before a performance to get on the rush list. If you like dance-theatre and movement performance, the Southern will be of interest to you.

SPORTING EVENTS

professional sports:

Minnesota Twins (Minneapolis at the Metrodome) Major League Baseball American League

Wed night games: tickets are \$5 (\$4 student ID) & \$1 hotdogs.

Tues: half priced home run porch tickets

Specials everyday (check the website)

St. Paul Saints (St. Paul at Midway Stadium) Baseball, American Association

Cheap tickets, cheap beer, and "more fun than Twins games"

Minnesota Timberwolves (Minneapolis at Target Center) Basketball, NBA

Minnesota Lynx (Minneapolis at Target Center) Basketball, WNBA

Cheap tickets, buy 3 get 1 free

Minnesota Ripknees (St. Paul at Roy Wilkins Auditorium) Premier Basketball League

Minnesota Vikings (Minneapolis at the Metrodome) NFL

Minnesota Wild (St. Paul at Xcel Energy Center) Ice-Hockey, National Hockey League
Never cheap; tickets occasionally listed on craigslist.org

Minnesota Thunder (St. Paul at Jame Griffen Stadium) Soccer USL First Division
1st game of the season is free

Minnesota Swarm (St. Paul at Xcel Energy Center) Indoor Lacrosse, National Lacrosse League

College Sports: (check the schools' Athletics webpage for schedules)

***Division I:** Big Ten Conference

University of Minnesota Golden Gophers

***Division II:** Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

Concordia University

***Division III:** Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletics Conference

Hamline University, Macalester College, St. Thomas University, St. Catherine's University, Bethal College, and Augsburg College

OUTDOOR FREE EVENTS

All season outdoor free events

Fall:

***Halloween Puppet Show** – Brave New Workshop (in South Minneapolis)

***Apple Picking** – try Afton Apple in Hastings <http://www.aftonapple.com/>

Winter:

***Harriet Island Ice and Snow Sculptures**

***Ice skating** - at the Depo in downtown Minneapolis (expensive expect FREE Sunday afternoon)
- Van Cleve Park near U of M has man made lakes (FREE, limited skates available)

Spring:

***May Day Parade** - on Bloomington Ave in Minneapolis

***Cinco de Mayo Festival** - in St. Paul

***Grand Old Days** - on Grand Ave

FREE Things (promotions)

***Rake Magazine** (<http://www.rakemag.com/>)

At their website, click rake readers, then promotions to sign up for give-aways, tickets to free advance movie screenings, discounts at events, and some plain advertising of cool events going on.

***CityPages** (www.citypages.com/promotions)

Same deal as the promotions above; sign up for movie tickets and other discounts in the twin cities. ***Thrifty Hipster** (www.thriftyhipster.com)

Thrifty hipster sends out a email newsletter with ticket giveaways and free event listings. Sign-up to receive the email, then reply to indicate which ticket you want to win. Seems simple enough.

VOLUNTEER and SAVE \$

If you want to make your AmeriCorps dollar go farther, get in with the places you want to frequent...

***Cedar Cultural Center** (Minneapolis: 416 Cedar Ave. S.)

A really cool venue that I wished I was able to go to more often. One reason I didn't: most shows cost about \$20 to attend. However, check out this page about volunteering and learn how you could watch shows while volunteering and also earn credit towards tickets to future shows. <http://www.thecedar.org/volunteer.html>

***Ushers at local Theatres**

Almost all theaters (excluding the Guthrie) are constantly looking for volunteer ushers to hand out

programs/take tickets at the beginning of the show, and the perk is that ushers see the show for FREE. Call the theater company as soon as a show opens and get on their list of volunteers—the earlier you call, the more choosey you can be about *when* you usher. Especially Frank, Mixed Blood Theaters.

*Co-Ops

Volunteering at a Co-Op you like to shop at could result in big discounts for you. Or you could just convince a house mate to volunteer and leach off the benefits! Check out the options below

North Country Co-Op		Hampden Park Co-op		
<i>Minneapolis:</i> 1929 South 5 th Street		<i>St. Paul:</i> 928 Raymond Ave.		
Member-workers	Volunteer Coordinators	Working members		
6 hrs a month	4 hrs a week	3 hrs a month	6 hrs a month	12 hrs a month
10% discount	20% discount.	15% discount	21% discount	28% discount
The discount applies to all purchases except milk, butter, eggs, meat and clearance items.		Up to two adults per household can share the discounts. The discounts apply to all purchases except milk, eggs, frozen orange juice, prepared soup and prepared coffee.		
There are also reciprocal discounts for working members with North Country Co-op - show your card to obtain a 5% discount when shopping at NCC (and of course the same applies for NCC working members shopping at Hampden Park).				

*Science Museum of Minnesota (St. Paul: 120 W. Kellogg Blvd.)

This HUGE museum in St. Paul has awesome exhibits and omnitheatre movies but tickets are not cheap. If you volunteer 4 hours every other weekend, you can get free passes and a discount at the museum store! Look here for more details and the application: <http://www.smm.org/volunteer/>

Clothes, Furniture, & Household Items:

*Savers Thrift Store (Minneapolis: 2124 E. Lake St. AND St. Paul: 235 E. Maryland Ave.)

Open M-Sa 9-9. Sun 10-6

Watch out for 50% off days, which occur periodically throughout the year. Bring one or more things to donate, and receive 20% off your entire purchase. Great Halloween costumes, some nice shoes, ties (Andy Haug), and furniture. Avoid their appliances. Returns are good for store credit only; bring the receipt and item back within 10 days of the purchase.

*Salvation Army (Minneapolis: 900 N 4th St.) To get there, go west on Washington, take a left on 10th Ave (at the Jager Bar), go two blocks and park underneath the highway.

This store is very different from most thrift stores because there is an entire floor (the basement) where Target ditches its unused products. Some are samples, some are irregulars, and some just didn't sell. It's a popular spot so it's often busy but the merchandise is constantly new. Beware: there are no dressing rooms so wear shorts or a skirt to try stuff on!

*Plato's Closet (Roseville: 2100 North Snelling Avenue -- in the Har Mar Mall)

You can sell your old "gently used" clothing and then use store credit to buy replacements. This branch is located directly north of the office in the suburb of Roseville. There are a few other branches in other farther out TC suburbs.

*Axe Man Surplus (St. Paul: 1639 University Ave AND St. Louis Park: 8008 Minnetonka Blvd.)

Everything you didn't even know you wanted or needed.

***Freecycle.** www.freecycle.com

Join this Yahoo Group (freecycle Minneapolis), and participate an on-line community where everyone gives away stuff. People post free offers for their stuff; generally others respond within minutes.

***www.twincitiesfreemarket.org**

The Free Market is a listing service for residents who want to give or get free reusable goods for the home, garage and garden. It is part of an effort to reduce the amount of reusable goods being thrown away.

***www.craigslist.com**

a website to find a roommate, apartment, a part-time job, tennis partner, and free or very cheap things.

Cheap Travel

***MEGABUS.com**

From the Chicago Hub, Megabus routes connect big cities in the Midwest with daily direct bus rides. The only trip from Minneapolis is to Chicago. Ticket prices are as little as \$1 (when bought months in advance) but become more expensive as the bus fills up. I bought a ticket 2 weeks in advance and paid \$20 for the one-way trip. Each passenger is allowed 1 suitcase (50lb limit) and 1 carry-on.

***farewatchers** or ***netsavers** lets you sign up with your favorite airlines for cheap last minute flights (ex. \$99 weekend fare from MSP to Chicago ORD on American)

***www.kayak.com**

This website searches ALL airlines and presents you with the total price (with all taxes and fees included). You can also look at the price trend for a certain flight and search with flexible dates. This site is awesome.