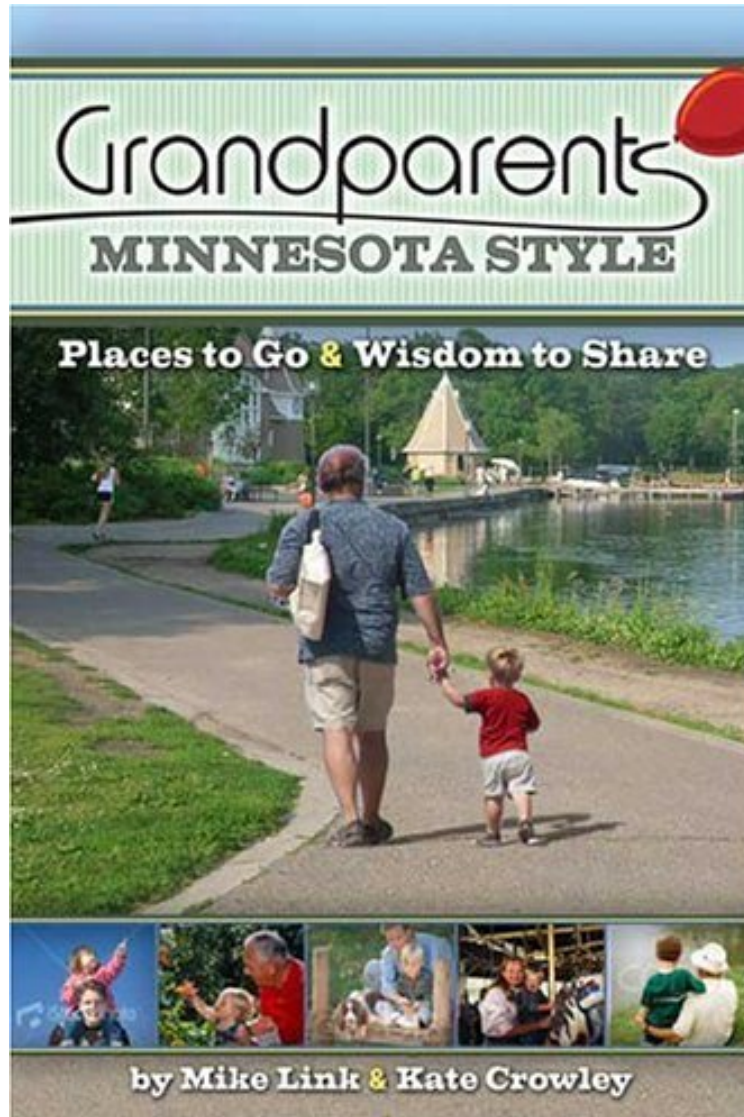


Grandparents Minnesota Style: Places to Go And Wisdom to Share

Mike Link, Kate Crowley

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Mike Link, Kate Crowley : Grandparents Minnesota Style: Places to Go And Wisdom to Share before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Grandparents Minnesota Style: Places to Go And Wisdom to Share:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved this bookBy Cathi HoganLoved this book. Bought three more to share with others. It's made a great gift for new grandparents! There are so many wonderful places to visit with kids. This book has brought days of joy!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great resourceBy cyndimUser friendly guide to the many resources in MN that are family friendly. Appreciated the concise presentation and photos

so that the grandchildren could participate in the planning for excursions. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not just for grandparents

By K. Norlander
This new book encourages grandparents to spend time exploring Minnesota and its recreational opportunities with their grandchildren. Several of the options focus on specific sites in Minnesota, and similar alternative sites are always suggested. Toward the end of the book, more general activities are suggested, such as kite flying and tea parties. As a parent who tries to take lots of "field trips" with her child, I found this a useful book. It mentions some activities I had never considered, and it includes several useful Web sites. In addition to using what I learned from the book, I plan to buy copies for my daughter's grandparents, both local and distant. Prospective buyers should know that the authors decided to focus on attractions that featured "culture, history and oneness with nature," so you won't find the Mall of America, for example, in this book. That's fine with me; I don't need anyone to tell me about the mall anyway. I did think it was too bad that the Minnesota Zephyr was featured so prominently in the "train ride" category. While the Zephyr is a well-known recreational train in Minnesota, it isn't even the best choice for kids most of the time. Beyond its Polar Express Ride, most rides are long, expensive meals better suited for adults. There are other, less expensive trains better suited for the 2-10 year age range the authors recommend for this field trip (including the Osceola St. Croix Valley Railway; granted, the depot is in Wisconsin, but you can travel into Minnesota, and the railway is part of the Minnesota Transportation Museum). The book isn't perfect, and I wish it were bigger (fewer than 100 attractions are mentioned, not including alternatives), but it is the best book I know of on exploring Minnesota's wealth of recreational opportunities with kids.

Explore. Share. Bond. This is your guide to touring Minnesota with grandchildren. Take an active role in their lives, by showing them the best of the Land of 10,000 Lakes. Teach the valuable lessons you've learned throughout the years with more than 70 Minnesota attractions and activities, as well as tips on making each stop a bonding experience. If you're a grandparent who wants to play an instrumental part in your grandchildren's healthy development, this book is for you!

Grandparents Minnesota Style Grandparents, Minnesota Style, by Mike Link and Kate Crowley. Adventure Publications, Inc., 2007. 170 pp., soft-cover, \$14.95 At first glance, the book, Grandparents, Minnesota Style, seems like a concise listing of kid-friendly activities geared toward "grand-boomers." As I read, however, I was impressed not only by the omission of the obvious commercial choices, but even more by the writers' personal reasons for writing the book. The husband-and-wife authors, Mike Link and Kate Crowley, note the changes in our society that have made activities, such as daily farm life, home cooking, or tree climbing, no longer a part of most children's experiences. "Parents are scheduling rather than parenting, channeling rather than nurturing, coaching rather than modeling." Crowley and Link seek to fill the gap left by the demands on today's working parents and encourage grandparents to take a greater role. This is a thoughtful collection of activities that gives grandparents opportunities to talk to kids about the larger world, encourage their creativity, and get them to ask questions. Each destination or activity has a section called "bonding and bridging" that suggests the type of questions or discussions a grandparent might wish to explore with a grandchild. These are not meant to be "lessons," so much as an opportunity to share values and history I am amazed at the ways my grand parents have influenced my adult life. Both of my father's parents were pioneer children, raised in western Nebraska. What I remember most are the summer afternoons spent picking cherries from their backyard trees because we were light enough to climb into the upper branches, feeding stale bread to the ducks in the coca park, and the yearly trip to the Omaha Indian Reservation for their powwow. When wild roses suddenly appear(in my long-cultivated flower garden las year, I immediately thought of my grand mother and left them there to grow. Can we really ever know the impact of digging in the garden on a summer aftrernoon, listening to songbirds, and pointing out wild flowers to a small child? I certainly do- and so do the authors of Grandpparents Minnesota Style. By Sharon Weneland--Sharon Wetteland "The Standard" (11/16/2007)