



**NAPERVILLE**  
**WINTER ALE FEST**  
**NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS**

**SURVIVAL GUIDE**

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27TH**  
**12-4PM AT FRONTIER PARK**



**[NAPERVILLEWINTERALEFEST.COM](http://NAPERVILLEWINTERALEFEST.COM)**

## Naperville Winter Ale Fest Survival Guide

Welcome to the winter of 2016 where it can range from sunny and 50 degrees, to 32 and snowing, or freezing rain. Winter in Chicagoland can be messy and unpredictable, but we'd all go crazy if we hunkered down inside for three months. The trick to surviving winter is to bundle up and embrace the crazy weather, whatever it may be. What better way to embrace winter than to drink craft beer outside in February? That's why we created the Naperville Winter Ale Fest. With a little planning and preparation you can turn your humdrum winter into an unforgettable experience. Whether this is your first craft beer festival, or you are a veteran of the beer fest world, this guide will help you make the most of your day.

**Plan, Plan, Plan:** Check out the Naperville Winter Ale Fest website and Facebook page to create a plan for the day. Make a list of your must-try beers and make sure you visit those brewers first. Remember, rare or hard to find beers, the infusion tent beers, and hot ciders will most likely run out before any of the others so visit them early if you want a sample.

**Don't Let Parking Derail your Day:** If at all possible, have a friend, cab, or Uber drop you off and pick you up from the fest. If you must drive, be prepared for traffic delays and give yourself plenty of time. Please only park in designated fest parking lots and watch for the shuttle to the fest. The satellite parking location is Wheatland Salem Church Naperville (1852 W. 95th Street, Naperville, IL 60564) and the buses will be on a consecutive round trip loop from 11:30am - 4:30pm. Parking will also be available at Nequa Valley High School (2360 95th St, Naperville, IL 60564).

**Food is Fuel:** Eat a good breakfast and come to the fest well hydrated. Also, plan to eat throughout the day. Food will be available for purchase from some of Chicago's favorite food trucks. Don't forget to drink water throughout the day too. Water stations will be available at the entrance of every tent and at a centrally located designated water tent.

**Bring Your Ticket:** You might think this is another no-brainer but it warrants mentioning. Print out your ticket, preferably not the morning of the fest because something inevitably will go wrong, and bring it with you or have it easily accessible on your phone.

**Dress Warmly:** This seems like a no brainer, right? You're outside, in a parking lot, in the middle of winter. But when we say dress warm, we mean WARM. Break out the long johns, the fleece lined pants, the snow pants, and the parkas. Don't forget about the hats, gloves, scarves, wool socks, and boots. Throw some hand and foot warmers in your pockets and dress in layers. If you get too warm you can always take off a layer, but there is nothing worse than getting cold and feeling chilled.

**Avoid the Front Gate Frenzy:** Be prepared for a line to get into the fest. This is unavoidable when over 4,000 people are going to the same place at the same time. Do your part to keep the line moving smoothly. Have your photo ID and ticket out and ready. Look for the signs posted at the top of the entrance tents. There will be separate lines for Designated Drivers and General Admission. Be sure you are waiting in the correct line to get into the fest. If you are purchasing a ticket at the gate, look for the ticket booth before you head to the entrance line. Bring cash for a quicker sale.

**Respect the Tents:** The beer will be served out of four very large heated tents. Please keep moving through the tents as you get your samples, and don't hang out too long inside each tent. If you do happen to get cold, you can warm up at the fire pits. Also, smoking is strictly prohibited near the entrance of each tent and inside the tents. If you choose to smoke cigarettes, cigars, or use e-cigs, always be aware of your surroundings so everyone can have an enjoyable festival experience.

**Pace Yourself:** Four hours is a long time to drink, once you are inside the fest take your time and enjoy your surroundings. Remember your game plan and don't just rush to the first tent you see. After you try your must-haves, visit at least two breweries that you haven't heard of before. Take advantage of the brewery reps being there - ask questions and get to know the people behind the beers. Other fest goers are great sources of information too. Don't be afraid to chat it up with the people around you while you are waiting in line. Also remember that you are not obligated to drink every ounce poured. If you don't like it, dump it out (dump buckets will be placed throughout the fest). You won't like everything you try, and that is okay.

**Have Fun:** Take some time to enjoy the music, check out the ice sculpture carvings, sit around a fire pit and talk to friends, pose for selfies, buy a pretzel necklace and some Naperville Winter Ale Fest swag, and make the most of your day. The Naperville Winter Ale Fest is not just about beer; it's about the experience.

Cheers,  
The Lou Dog Team