



The Haunting Experience Announces Extension of Haunted Hayride to 1.5 Miles

August 14, 2026

COTTAGE GROVE, MN - August 14, 2026 -

The Haunting Experience has extended the length of its signature Haunted Hayride from one mile to 1.5 miles, creating a longer and more immersive outdoor experience for the upcoming season. The expansion represents a substantial update to Minnesota's longest-running haunted hayride, allowing additional scenes and encounters along the tractor-pulled route through haunted forests and the fictional Wilhelm Steelworks.

The extended path provides more opportunities for live scare actors to stage timed interactions involving maniacs, monsters, and atmospheric effects. Guests travel aboard wagons that move through darkened trails, tunnels, and wooded areas, encountering the evolving narrative of the attraction's outdoor storyline. The increase in distance supports a more gradual build of tension while maintaining the established pacing that has defined the hayride for decades.

This development complements the property's other attractions. The Haunted House continues to offer a walkthrough experience filled with dark entities and close-quarters terrors in dimly lit hallways. The Massacre cornfield provides an intense outdoor option with permitted light physical contact for guests ages 13 and older. Together, the expanded hayride and indoor house create a balanced progression of outdoor and

enclosed scares.

Tom Zywiec, Owner of The Haunting Experience, stated: "Extending the hayride to 1.5 miles gives our team additional space to develop scenes and interactions that enhance the overall journey. It builds on the foundation of live performances that have been central to the attraction since its beginning."

The Zywiec Family established the attraction in 1986, and it has operated continuously as a family-owned business for 40 years. A seasonal crew of scare actors, artists, and builders prepares the expanded route each year, focusing on practical effects and human-driven encounters rather than extensive technology. Safety protocols remain consistent, with guidelines that prohibit running or interfering with performers to ensure a controlled environment.

Daytime programming through the Fall Fun Fest on select dates offers a non-scary alternative. Families can participate in art activities, pumpkin painting, free hayrides without actors, lights-on tours of the Haunted House, and goat petting. This dual approach allows the venue to accommodate varied preferences while the evening experiences deliver the primary thrills.

Visitor feedback has long highlighted the hayride's role in creating memorable group experiences. Comments frequently note the combination of outdoor movement, live actors, and thematic continuity that distinguishes the ride. The added length is expected to further support these elements by providing more room for sequential scenes.

Group rates for parties of 20, 50, or 100 people continue to facilitate larger outings such as school groups and corporate events. The attraction operates rain or shine, with covered waiting areas available. On-site concessions provide refreshments to complete the visit.

The extension reflects ongoing efforts to refine the outdoor component while preserving the core identity of the longest-running haunted hayride in the state. Preparation for the upcoming season involves meticulously mapping the new route, strategically positioning performers along the path, and seamlessly integrating the additional distance into the existing flow of the property for an enhanced experience.

The Haunting Experience remains a cherished family-owned haunted attraction located in Cottage Grove, Minnesota. Established in 1986 by the Zywiec Family, this destination features a captivating Haunted House, Minnesota's longest-running Haunted Hayride, the thrilling Massacre cornfield experience, and fun-filled daytime Fall Fun Fest activities. This seasonal attraction serves visitors from the Twin Cities metropolitan area, offering an array of Halloween entertainment that delights both the young and old alike.

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For more information about The Haunting Experience, contact the company here: The Haunting Experience Zywiec Family 651-459-3001 info@hauntingexperience.com 10900 E Point Douglas Rd S, Cottage Grove, MN 55016

The Haunting Experience

Welcome to The Haunting Experience, the scariest of all the Halloween attractions and haunted houses in Minnesota.

We invite you to visit us this October? if you dare.

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