

DATE: May 11, 2026

FROM: Dillo Day 2026

SUBJECT: Buckle Up for Dillo Day

Racers, start your engines!

Dillo Day, one of our community's most anticipated traditions, is this weekend. Mayfest has curated an unforgettable festival experience with a new stage expanded lineup, new partnerships and the same great festival atmosphere we've come to know and love. We are thankful to Mayfest for their hard work and creativity, along with their collaborators FMO, MENA, WNUR, KASA and CSA.

Before you race off to the Dillo Speedway, remember, we all play a role in keeping the day on track. Take a few minutes to review the rules of the road with these tips from Mayfest and the [Smart Dillo](#) team so everyone can have a fun, safe ride.

Know Before You Go

- [Pick up your wristbands](#) from Seabury Hall at 2122 Sheridan Road by May 15. **Wristbands cannot be picked up on the day of Dillo.**
 - Undergrads can order up to two guest wristbands, but residence hall access is limited to **one registered guest** per student from 9 p.m. on May 15 through 8 a.m. on May 17. **All guests must be pre-registered by 4 p.m. on May 15.**
- Campus shuttles will be operating on their regular Saturday schedules. Use rideshare apps for reliable transportation throughout the day. The [Safe Ride](#) and [NUGuardian](#) apps are resources for those walking alone at night.
- Familiarize yourself with [what you can and cannot bring](#). Permitted items include empty plastic water bottles, sunscreen (non-aerosol) and towels. Prohibited items include blankets and sheets, recording equipment, glass containers, outside beverages, hammocks, umbrellas, weapons, tents or shade-making devices, banners, posters, flyers, stickers and flags.
- **Dean Mona's Fave Fits:** Think your Dillo Speedway outfit deserves a prize? [Submit a photo](#) of your look for a chance to win Cat Cash! Both individual and group entries are allowed. Contest closes May 20.
 - **Categories:** \$50: Most In-Theme; \$50: Most Outrageous; \$150: Best Group Costume (to be shared with group); \$50: Dean's Choice.

Important day-of reminders

- **Festival gates, located on the north side of Norris, will open at 11:30 a.m.**, with the first musical acts starting at 11:45 a.m.
- Metal-detecting wands will be in use at the entrance, and all bags will be searched. Please allow more time for entry due to these [security measures](#).
- To request a separate screening or other disability-related accommodations for the screening process, or to ask questions about the screening process generally, contact dilloopsforce@gmail.com.
- Special promotions and activities will take place throughout the day in Dillo Village, including exciting giveaways, exclusive sampling and the food court starting at noon.
- For the most up-to-date information, visit the [Dillo Day website](#) and follow [@dillo_day](#) on Instagram. For other questions about Dillo Day, email dilloday@u.northwestern.edu, and for accessibility or mobility accommodation requests, email community@dilloday.com.

[Start with a full tank](#)

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- **Free bagels will be available from 7 to 10 a.m.** in three locations, while supplies last: Emerson & Sherman (grass in front of Willard); Sheridan & Noyes (Southeast Corner); and Maple & Foster (Engelhart Parking Lot).*
- **Free pizza will be available at the entrance of festival grounds beginning at 11:30 a.m.,** while supplies last.
- Food trucks will be in the Dillo Village for the duration of the festival, and Norris dining options will operate on the traditional Saturday schedule.
- Late-night breakfast will be served at Sargent from 9 p.m. to midnight. Students with meal plans can use a meal swipe, dining dollars or Cat Cash, and guests or students without a meal plan can pay \$10 via credit/debit at the door.

Hydrate during the race

- Bring an empty reusable water bottle to fill at the water stations* or grab a free one in Dillo Village (while supplies last). Please recycle any disposable bottles and cans.

Know your speed limit

- The main stage beer garden and Luna's Pub & Grill are open from noon to 9:15 p.m. on Dillo Day.
 - A government-issued ID is required to purchase any alcoholic beverages at both locations and to enter the main stage beer garden; Luna's is open to all.
 - Students 21+ must pick up a wristband on the Lakefill and wear it all day.
 - Beverages must remain within the beer garden or inside/on the patio of Luna's; no sharing or purchasing for others. Food will be available for purchase at Luna's.
- Keep your BAC under .06 by setting a limit, pacing your drinks and choosing lower-alcohol options in mixed drinks or BORGs. Utilize our [BAC estimator](#).

Maintain control

- Mixing alcohol and drugs or trying something new may cause you to lose control of the wheel. Substances including cocaine, ecstasy and counterfeit pills [can be laced with fentanyl](#).

Get help from the pit crew

- For alcohol and drug use concerns, the [Amnesty Protocol](#) supports getting help for yourself or others. To receive Amnesty you must: **Call** for help, **Stay** with the person and **Cooperate** with emergency or University personnel.
- For support and assistance with non-life-threatening situations within festival grounds, you can also reach out to Mayfest's Student Intervention Service through the Dillo Day app or by looking for a team member in an orange vest.

Stay on track

- Stay within the speedway and keep off building roofs and the rocks on the lakefill.

Take pit stops in approved areas

- Public urination can take you out of the race. Avoid public urination fines by using the portable toilets inside the festival and [in the off-campus neighborhood](#).

Finish strong

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- [Avoid common party violations](#) and fines ranging from \$500-\$1,000 by clearing trash and keeping noise levels down. If you host a gathering, public sidewalks, parkways and neighboring areas must be clean by 10 a.m. Sunday.
- Join Off-Campus Life for **Post-Dillo Day Cleanup on Sunday, May 17**. Volunteers will meet at 8 a.m. at 2122 Sheridan. Student attendees will receive free breakfast and the chance to win prizes. [Register here.](#)

Enjoy the ride and do your part, so everyone can cross the finish line safely.

See you trackside,

Mona Dugo
Dean of Students
Assistant Vice President for Wellness

**Brought to you by Fraternity & Sorority Life, IFC, MGC, NPHC, and PHA.*