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For Immediate Release

HELP WELCOME MINNESOTA VIKINGS TO MANKATO

MANKATO, MN – A week from Thursday Vikings Training Camp opens in Mankato for the 48th year. This year Visit Mankato and associates are making a push to welcome Vikings players, coaches and staff to Mankato in a big way before camp even starts July 26 to August 15.

As the Vikings come to town on Thursday, July 25 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. the Vikings will be greeted with billboards along Highway 169, special street banners and hundreds of employees who work in bars and restaurants all over town wearing the official training camp t-shirts. The Vikings will also for the first time will be welcomed by four Vikings Tailgate Parties along the route from St. Peter to the Minnesota State University, Mankato campus.

Tailgate Parties

St. Peter Tailgate Party - Minnesota Square Park in St. Peter

Dairy Queen and Mankato Ford Tailgate Party - Dairy Queen West across from West High School on Stoltzman Road in Mankato

Pepsi Tailgate Party – Near Rasmussen Woods on Stoltzman in Mankato

US Bank and Children Museum of Southern Minnesota Tailgate Party - Minnesota State Mankato campus at the corner of Stadium and Ellis Avenue

Fans are encouraged to come and join in the fun of the free Tailgate Parties. This is a chance for fans to dust off their Viking gear and get in on the excitement of welcoming the Vikings to town.

At the Tailgate Parties fans can register for autographed Vikings items, meet Vikings Cheerleaders and see Victor the Viking. The first 100 fans at each tailgate party will get a free set of Vikings horns and more. Fans can even receive tickets to a VIP tent at Verizon Vikings Training Camp. Each tailgate sponsor will also offer their own twist including purple ice cream cones from Dairy Queen and free product samples from Pepsi.

The more purple pride fans show the better. Fans are even encouraged to bring their decked out Vikings Vehicles. This is our chance to show the Vikings just how happy we are to have them in Mankato for training camp.

After the Tailgate Parties join us for a special Vikings video shoot at The Blue Earth County Courthouse on 204 South Fifth Street in Mankato at 4:30 p.m. As another grass-roots effort to show the Vikings our support, there is a video being created meant to show Mankato supporting the Vikings and preparing for training camp. We are encouraging several different

groups of people from around town to be a part of the video including city officials, representatives from our colleges, individuals from the biking community, individuals from the medical community and much more. The video will have all the diverse groups of people singing portions of a parody of a popular song about the Minnesota Vikings coming to Mankato for training camp.

Find out more at <http://www.visitgreatermankato.com/VikingsTailgateParty.php>.

About Visit Mankato:

Visit Mankato, LLC, the local Convention & Visitors Bureau, is a Limited Liability Corporation of Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. Visit Mankato leads the development of the visitor economy in Mankato by actively promoting Mankato as a premier destination for conventions, tournaments and tourism. These activities bring a steady flow of visitors and business activity to Mankato that benefits local residents and future visitors. The work of Visit Mankato helps strengthen the hospitality industry which provides jobs, a diverse tax base and amenities for everyone to enjoy. www.visitmankatomn.com