

# Welcome to Minneapolis and the Twin Cities – Host of the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Defense Credit Union Council Conference!



The Minneapolis-St. Paul area, collectively referred to as the Twin Cities, is renowned for its cultural and recreational opportunities and beautiful natural surroundings.

The Twin Cities are best known for their rich natural environment. Each season offers ample opportunity to explore the natural world in a variety of contexts. Twin Cities' parks and lakes are extensive with 136,900 acres of parkland and 950 lakes in the metro area alone. Hiking, fishing, swimming, golfing, snow shoeing, boating, or evening walks around Lake Harriet are all popular and accessible activities for any visitor.

Additionally, the metro area offers a wide selection of cultural and entertainment offerings. There are several public museums, private art galleries, music and arts festivals, historic theaters that offer drama, comedy and music, and a wide variety of cuisine options suitable for even the most discerning pallet.

If sports are your preferred form of recreation there are a variety of options. As a spectator you have it all. Each major professional sport is represented in the Twin Cities: Vikings, Timberwolves, Wild, Twins, Lynx and Thunder. The University of Minnesota teams are another possibility, and so is the St. Paul Saints, a minor league baseball team that is a local favorite for a summer evening of fun.

The Twin Cities also offer extensive opportunities to shop for many uniquely Minnesotan goods and services. Downtown Minneapolis has two million square feet of retail, one of the highest concentrations of shops in any city its size. The Nicollet Mall and the Uptown area are two of the most popular and well known shopping districts. And for pure shopping power, there is no better fit than the nation's largest shopping center, the Mall of America.



The Mall of America is an unprecedented mix of retail and entertainment, offering visitors the chance to shop their favorite stores as well as see a movie, ride a roller coaster, meet their favorite celebrity or build a LEGO castle. The Mall of America in Bloomington is the size of 78 football fields --- 9.5 million square feet. Over half a billion people have visited since the mall opened in 1992, making the MOA the largest tourist destination in the Midwest by far. It's truly the Disneyland of American shopping malls.

And most importantly, Minneapolis will host this year's DCUC Educational Conference. Mark your calendars today for August 22-25, 2010. Registration Materials and online Registration at [www.dcuc.org](http://www.dcuc.org) will be available in late February.