What's Happening?

Minnesota School Nutrition Association
Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.

In the Spotlight! 🌟 Learn About Jessica

Welcome to MSNA's newest member spotlight! We're featuring Jessica Peglow, School Nutrition Manager at Christina Huddleston Elementary, Lakeville. Learn about Jessica and how she got started in school nutrition.



MSNA Scholarship Applications Opening Soon

Interested in attending a local or national school nutrition conference but need assistance in getting there? Apply for an MSNA scholarship! Applications will open in early November - watch your inboxes for the announcement. Conference eligible for scholarships include:

- **SNA Legislative Action Conference (LAC):** March 7-9, 2027, Washington D.C.
- **SNA National Leadership Conference (NLC):** April 15-17, 2027, Omaha, NE
- **SNA Annual National Conference (ANC):** July 11-13, 2027, Phoenix, AZ
- **MSNA Annual Conference:** August 1-4, 2027, St. Cloud, MN
- **MSNA School Nutrition and Industry Partner (SNIP) Conference**: October 27-29, 2027, Nisswa, MN

SNIP RECAP

ONE TRAY ONE MISSION
Nurturing Our Communities Together

October 21-23, 2026
Nisswa, MN
MNsna.org

Record-Breaking Attendance Seen at SNIP

School nutrition directors and industry partners gathered October 21-23 at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa for the 2026 School Nutrition and Industry Partner (SNIP) Conference! With a **record-breaking 167 attendees, up from 136 last year**, this year's conference brought three days of learning, networking, and fun against a beautiful backdrop of fall foliage. From a new geocaching adventure to an energetic evening of bingo, SNIP offered plenty of opportunities to connect, share ideas, and celebrate the school nutrition community.



Highlights from Wednesday

- Kicked off the conference with the School Nutrition Leaders of Minnesota meeting.
- Tried something new with **geocaching around Grand View Lodge**, combining outdoor fun with networking.
- Gathered for a picnic dinner social to reconnect with colleagues and meet new faces.

Highlights from Thursday

- Started the day with keynote speaker **Kim Hodous**, exploring how to be happy at work and protect your energy.
- Built leadership and communication skills through sessions on color personalities, effective AI prompting, protecting school nutrition programs, and connecting with fellow SNIP attendees.
- Heard important updates from **Emily Honer with the Minnesota Department of Education**.
- Wrapped up the day with an energetic evening of **bingo, prizes, and friendly competition**.



View the Photo Album



Jill Ponder
Bongards
Industry Award Winner

Highlights from Friday

- Started the morning with a fitness bootcamp led by Callie Neumann.
- Celebrated **Jill Ponder of Bongards**, this year's Industry Award recipient, and heard MSNA updates.
- Explored practical approaches to scratch cooking during the *Bring Comfort to Speed Scratch* panel with Glen Ritter, Genna Deprey, and Ted Norgaard.
- Shared ideas and tackled common challenges during the SNIP Forum, bringing school nutrition professionals and industry partners together.
- Closed out the conference with raffle prizes, including the grand prize: a **$150 Kwik Trip gift card**.

A huge thank-you to our **SNIP Committee Chairs Jackie DeRoma of Orono Schools and Callie Neumann of Simplot**, along with all committee members, sponsors, and MSNA Elite members for helping make this record-breaking conference possible. Please see the bottom of this newsletter to recognize our sponsors and Elite members for their support. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year - **October 27-29, 2027 back at Grand View.**



Blendology brings flavor, nutrition, and convenience to every sip! Our delicious smoothies combine fruity goodness with creamy flavor, while our refreshing Frosts deliver an icy burst of fun. Blendology Smoothies credit as 1 M/MA and ½ cup fruit, while Frosts credit as ½ cup fruit. With convenient, kid-friendly pouches and flavors students love, Blendology makes it easy to bring excitement and nutrition to school meals!



Step Into Your Potential

Eleanor Roosevelt wisely said, ***"You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing you think you cannot do."***

Glen Ritter, Past MSNA President, shares how taking small steps out of your comfort zone can translate to big rewards.

Read Glen's Message

MEMBERSHIP forward
Grow Together

Give and gain as an SNA member. SNA's new Membership Forward campaign is your chance to show your support for school nutrition and enter into a drawing to win a gift card!

How does the campaign work? Simply recruit at least one new SNA member during any calendar month from October 1, 2026, to May 31, 2027 and enter a monthly $25 gift card drawing. Plus, in November and May, you can nominate a colleague for a free SNA membership through the Pay It Forward Drawing. Learn more here.



Baker Boy is a bakery manufacturing leader in quality, innovation and convenience crafting premium bakery products for foodservice, bakery, C-store, supermarket, and private label customers.

MSNA Members in the News



October 16

KARE 11 hosted MSNA President and Director of Food Services for Moorhead Area Schools, Ashley Schneider, to discuss what's on school lunch trays and what school nutrition looks like today.

Watch Ashley's Interview Here

Upcoming Events

See the Full Events Calendar Here

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THANK YOU, ELITE INDUSTRY MEMBERS!

If you have any questions, please contact MSNA at 320-251-2344 or MSNA@fusionLP.org.



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