



Quick Facts for State Fair Volunteers

Use these quick facts if you're asked about AFSCME at the kiosk. You don't need to memorize them, just be yourself and speak proudly about your union!

What does AFSCME stand for?

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. AFSCME represents working people who provide essential public services and many other services our communities depend on.

Who is AFSCME Council 5?

AFSCME Council 5 represents more than 43,000 working Minnesotans across the state. Our members work in state and local government, counties, cities, schools, higher education, health care, nonprofit organizations and many other workplaces.

What kinds of jobs do AFSCME members do?

Hundreds of different jobs! AFSCME members include nurses and health care workers, corrections officers, highway and maintenance workers, social workers, clerical and administrative workers, school employees, university workers, library and museum employees, public safety workers and many more.

If Minnesotans rely on a public service, there's a good chance an AFSCME member helps make it happen.

What does AFSCME do?

AFSCME members join together to have a stronger voice at work. Through our union, members work together for:

- Fair wages and benefits
- Safe and healthy workplaces
- Fair treatment and respect on the job
- Adequate staffing and resources
- A voice in workplace decisions
- Strong contracts and workplace protections
- Quality public services for our communities

Why does being a union member matter?

There's power in numbers. When workers stand together, they have a stronger voice to negotiate wages, benefits and working conditions and to address workplace problems.

Our strength comes from members participating, speaking up and standing together.

What is collective bargaining?

Collective bargaining is the process where workers, through their union, negotiate with their employer over things like wages, benefits, hours and working conditions. The result is a union contract that spells out negotiated rights and protections.

Is AFSCME only for government workers?

No. While AFSCME has deep roots in public service, Council 5 also represents workers in health care, nonprofit organizations and other private-sector workplaces.

How big is AFSCME nationally?

AFSCME has approximately 1.4 million members nationwide working in hundreds of occupations.

AFSCME began 90 years ago and has grown into one of the nation's largest unions representing public service workers.

What does AFSCME Council 5 stand for?

Our mission is to advocate for:

- Excellence in services for the public.
- Dignity in the workplace.
- Opportunity and prosperity for all workers.
- We believe every worker deserves respect, dignity, safety and a meaningful voice at work.

MOST IMPORTANTLY...

You don't have to be an expert to represent AFSCME.

Tell your own union story. Why are you a member? What has your union meant to you or your coworkers?

That's something no fact sheet can say better than you can.

AFSCME STRONG
We Make Minnesota Happen.