



June 30-July 3, 2026 | Prior Lake, Minnesota

As you plan your trip, here are some tips, tricks, and activities to consider, recommended by local Rett families. We can't wait to see you in the Twin Cities!

What Families Need to Know about Mystic Lake

[Mystic Lake Casino Hotel](#) is a premier 24/7 destination resort situated on the ancestral lands of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community in Prior Lake, Minnesota, approximately 30 minutes south of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport (MSP). The hotel offers many onsite restaurants, an indoor pool, and a public golf course.

The surrounding area blends high-energy entertainment with serene natural landscapes, featuring 15 recreational lakes—including the massive Prior Lake and Spring Lake—which offer year-round activities like boating, fishing, and swimming at public sites such as Sand Point Beach.

Beyond the hotel, the immediate region is a hub for major Minnesota attractions, including Valleyfair Amusement Park, Canterbury Park horse racing, and extensive park systems like Cleary Lake Regional Park, which offer miles of hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing trails.

How to Get There

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP)

The nearest airport to the hotel is the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP). MSP offers direct flights from approximately 130 domestic and 35 international markets, serviced by 16 different airlines.

MSP consists of two terminals:

- Terminal 1 serves Delta, American, United, and others
- Terminal 2 serves Southwest, Sun Country, JetBlue, and others
- If necessary, you can get from Terminal 1 to Terminal 2 via the light rail train in the transportation center

Prior to airport travel, we *strongly recommend* you contact TSA Cares for any [assistance](#) or questions regarding traveling with your loved one with Rett. They can share more information about accessibility programs for navigating the airport. For more on this program, visit www.tsa.gov/travel/tsa-cares.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at ascend@rettsyndrome.org.



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Transportation to Mystic Lake

The hotel is approximately 30 minutes from the airport and does not provide a direct shuttle.

A **rental car** is suggested but not necessary. Rental car pickup is available at both terminals, so there's no need to take a bus to an off-site location. For more about renting a car at MSP, [click here](#).

Rideshare options like Uber and Lyft are easily attainable from each terminal. Follow the signs after baggage claim that direct you to the rideshare pick-up locations.

Accessible Van Rental options are also available in the area:

- Cummings Mobility: <https://www.cummingsmobility.com/>
- MobilityWorks: <https://www.mobilityworks.com/wheelchair-vans-for-rent/>

Other Transportation Options:

- Transportation Plus: 612-888-8888 or <https://www.tplusride.com/services/>; schedule in advance or request upon arrival (45min-1hr wait)
- Metro Mobility: 651-602-1111 or <https://metro council.org/Transportation/Services/Metro-Mobility-Home.aspx>; If the person with a disability has paratransit services in their own state, you can contact vienna.wilson@metc.state.mn.us to email proof and set up a visitor pass.

The Host Hotel: Mystic Lake

Mystic Lake Casino Hotel

2400 Mystic Lake Blvd.
Prior Lake, MN 55372

Rooms are available at a discounted rate of \$159/night as part of the IRSF room block when booked by **June 6, 2026**, or until the room block is full. This includes complimentary valet, self-parking, and Wi-Fi.

Standard hotel rooms at Mystic Lake are approximately 350 sq. ft. and newly renovated. These rooms should accommodate most families with individuals with Rett syndrome, but there are ADA rooms available via direct request with the hotel. All guest rooms include a beverage cooler, coffee maker, and other amenities.

It is recommended that families reserve rooms in the Promenade Tower, which has direct access to the conference center via an elevator and larger bathrooms. Both towers, Lobby and Promenade, are within a less than 5-minute indoor walk.

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Please note that during ASCEND, there may be construction happening in the lobby and registration area. This will not impact the conference. IRSF will keep attendees updated on any additional impacts.

To reserve your room:

Link: <https://mysticlake.book.pegasus.com/promo?offerCode=IRSF2026&hotel=MLCR>

Phone: Call [+1 952-445-9000](tel:+19524459000) and mention "2026 IRSF" program

Please note that while Mystic Lake has a casino, the hotel rooms and meeting space in the Mystic Lake Center are located on one side of the resort and are accessible without ever entering the casino floor.

Other Things to Know

Parking

If you are staying somewhere other than Mystic Lake, parking is available for free near Mystic Lake Center. For the most direct access to the event center, use the North Entrance / Mystic Lake Center entrance rather than the main casino entrance. A large open parking lot is located directly next to the conference space.

Weather

Plan for summer weather in the upper 70s to low 80s during the day, cooler in the low 60s at night, with a chance of humidity and occasional rain or thunderstorms. Most activities are indoors.

Dress Code

ASCEND is a fully casual event, so we encourage you to wear whatever feels most comfortable. Whether that means jeans, leggings, sneakers, or something else entirely, come as you are. Conference rooms can get cold, so we recommend bringing a sweater or a light jacket.

Near Mystic Lake

Grocery Stores:

- There are 2 Target retail stores within 10 minutes of the event property
- There are numerous regional grocery stores within 10 minutes of the event property, including Cub Foods, Hy-Vee, Lunds-Byerly's and others.

Hospitals:

- [St. Francis Regional Medical Center](#) – Level 3 Trauma Center, less than 10 mins away
- [Children's Minnesota](#) – ED for infants, children, and young adults:
 - o Minneapolis: 25 miles
 - o St. Paul: 30 miles

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- [Gillette Children's](#) – Home to the COE Rett Clinic, located in St. Paul (35 miles)
- [Masonic Children's Hospital](#) and University of Minnesota Hospital (30 miles)

Other Activities to Consider:

- [Rock and Rockets Fourth of July Party](#) at Mystic Lake
 - o Saturday, July 4th, with doors at 7 p.m. and Fireworks at 10 p.m.
 - o This free outdoor festival returns to Mystic Lake with fun for the whole family, including live music, local food trucks, and a spectacular fireworks show.
- Shopping:
 - o [Mall of America](#)
- Theme Parks:
 - o [Valley Fair](#)
 - o [Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America](#)
- Golf:
 - o [The Meadows at Mystic Lake](#) (public golf course)
 - o [Launchpad Golf](#) The Meadows (like TopGolf)
- Accessible playground and splash pad:
https://www.shakopeemn.gov/business_detail_T11_R627.php

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