

# Franklin Midwest 2025 Fall Meet Exploring Minnesota's Iron Range on the Taconite Trail

September 17–20, 2025

Hosts: Greg Lundeen and Rita Larson.

**Host City: Mountain Iron, MN** – Founded 1892      Population: 2,869 | Households: 1,336

Nestled in the heart of the Mesabi Iron Range, Mountain Iron—"Taconite Capital of the World"—is your gateway to a scenic and history-rich tour of northern Minnesota. Join fellow Franklin enthusiasts for three days of motoring, camaraderie, and discovery along the legendary Taconite Trail.

**Ely, MN** – Gateway to the Boundary Waters, total miles for the day 110.

Located in the heart of the Superior National Forest, Ely invites you to:

Visit the International Wolf Center

Explore the Dorothy Molter Museum

Discover the North American Bear Center

Stroll historic Sheridan Street, and browse charming art galleries and local shops

**Tower & Soudan, MN** – Home of Minnesota's Oldest Mine, total miles for the day 89.9.

Dive deep into history—literally!

Take a guided underground tour of the Soudan Underground Mine and historic physics lab

Explore the Soudan Underground Mine State Park, reaching 2,341 feet below the surface

**Hibbing, MN** – Birthplace of Bob Dylan & Mining Legacy, total miles for the day 54.5.

Tour the Hull-Rust-Mahoning Mine View, one of the world's largest open-pit mines

Visit the Greyhound Bus Museum, where Eric Wickman founded the company in 1914

Step inside the grand Hibbing High School, inspired by French theaters—you won't believe your eyes!

As we travel through the Great North Woods, keep your eyes peeled—you may spot bears, wolves, or even a moose. Come drive, explore, and celebrate the Franklin spirit, golden fall colors, rich heritage, and unforgettable roads await!

We hope to see you all in September! *Greg and Rita*