

# Valentine's Day in the Twin Cities

BY REBECCA BEASLEY

**W**HETHER YOU'RE single or dating or somewhere in between, there are plenty of things to do to celebrate Valentine's day with someone you love. This list will have some of the classic, cheesy couple-y things to do as well as some things you might not have thought of. Here are some ideas worth considering!

**1. Ice skating.** The best place around here to go ice skating is the outdoor loop at Central Park in Maple Grove. While the loop is free to skate on, there are skate rentals for \$7.50/pair, making this a cheap and fun date with no experience necessary. Other ice skating rinks around the Twin Cities may even have free skates to rent! Learning to skate can be part of the fun, and will definitely be a date worth remembering. If the weather gets too warm for outdoor skating, there are plenty of indoor rinks to check out.

**2. Window shopping.** When the weather is less than ideal, sometimes walking around indoor malls can be the best way to spend your time. Think about taking your special date to Ridgedale Mall or even the Mall of America for some window shopping and boba.

**3. Escape Room.** Double dates can be awkward and intimidating, but if it means you get to do something as fun as an escape room, why not do it? Bring some friends along for Galentines Day or for a double date and visit an escape room in the cities.

**4. Bookstore/Movie date.** If you and/or your partner are interested in books, I highly recommend going to a bookstore and picking out a random book for the other person to read. You can make a whole night out of it. If you're not too into reading, try doing the same thing but with movies!

**5. Stay in and bake or cook.** A night in can be just as fun and rewarding as a night out if you do it right. Plan out a meal or bake something together for some quality alone time. I recommend trying something simple like chocolate chip cookies or chicken alfredo from scratch.

**6. Ice castles.** If weather permits, the ice castles in New Brighton should still be open for Valentine's Day. Tickets are just over \$20/person, making this a great middle-priced date that can be paired with a nice dinner before. Spectacular ice architecture is sure to dazzle your date.

**7. Casetta's.** This restaurant is commonly recommended, and is a great place to get pasta. It isn't too expensive for college students, but is still a bit nicer of a place to take your special date.

**8. Pizza Luce.** I'm recommending this restaurant because of its proximity to campus, for those of you who live nearby, and for its unique pizzas. Try something new on the menu, order a drink, and enjoy a date night within walking distance!

**9. Red Cow.** I've only heard good things about this restaurant. While not an ideal place if you or your partner are vegetarian, I still recommend checking it out with your date.

**10. Green Mill.** This is another great place within walking distance to campus. They've got a great variety of food for pretty cheap prices, as well as beverages.



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This restaurant is commonly recommended, and is a great place to get pasta.

Photo Credit: Molly Dekarski

**11. Game night.** This is another great idea for a double date or friends night. Get together and play video games, card games, board games, or whatever you like to do to have fun. Make a stop at the Target by campus and pick up a new game, or check out JackBox games on Steam.

**12. Pottery painting.** This can be done at a studio or in your apartment at home! Pick up some pottery, some paints, and maybe some wine for a great date night. Otherwise, check out places like Color Me Mine in Eagan.

**13. Nature walk.** Sometimes, the weather works in our favor. On a nicer day, consider taking your date to a local park or nature preserve like Banning State Park or Fort Snelling State Park. If you're not into hiking, maybe take a walk around the city and grab a meal on the way!

**14. Bryant Lake Bowl.** Has bowling gone out of fashion? I say no! Take your date out to Bryant's for food and bowling, where there are plenty of drink options (including NA).