

What is it like to attend your first ever North American Bridge tournament?

Truth be told, it is a little scary. But, it is also fun and exhilarating!

Let us follow two people who played in their first ever NABC - **Nancy Balfanz** and **Sandy Johnson** of the St Cloud (MN) Duplicate Bridge Club. In 2024, they had qualified to play in a North American Pairs event, and were off to Louisville!

The scary part. They felt some trepidation walking in the venue, but were quickly put at ease...



Sandy (l) and Nancy(r) encountered a huge Welcome!

The exhilarating part. Playing against players from around the world makes you sit up a little straighter in all of the games offered! At the end of the first day of NAP competition against 90 pairs from across all of North America, Sandy and Nancy made the cut to advance to day two!



The fun part! While Sandy and Nancy didn't win the NAPs, by the end of the second day they were on a first name basis with over half the room of players! When one ten-year old player and his Dad did well, the first people they ran to tell were Nancy and Sandy.

Fun is to be had in all the games offered at a NABC - games for every player of every level. One pair Sandy and Nancy met at a different game were Gunnar and Anki from Sweden. They enjoyed each other's company so much, they went out to dinner together. One of the Swedish pair emailed to say, *"I will keep you in my heart forever."*

Fun is be had away from the bridge tables as well. Each and every NABC offers an opportunity to discover and explore the charms of the host city. Sandy and Nancy went out each evening, exploring Louisville for the first time.



New sites (Big Four Bridge)



Out w/ Gunnar and Anki



New tastes (Phoenix Hill)

Now, we invite YOU to Minneapolis. Come for the fun at and away from the tables!