



President Donald Trump will begin his Independence Day weekend on Friday with a patriotic display of fireworks at Mount Rushmore before a crowd of thousands, but even in a part of the country where many remain supportive of the president, the event has drawn controversy and protests.

Trump is expected to speak at the event, which has issued 7,500 tickets to watch fireworks that he previewed on Thursday as a “display like few people have seen.” The president will likely enjoy a show of support, with the state Republican Party selling T-shirts that feature Trump on the memorial alongside George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. But concern about [the coronavirus risk](#) and wildfire danger from the fireworks, along with protests from Native American groups, will also greet the president.

Republican Gov. [Kristi Noem](#), a Trump ally, has said [social distancing won't be required during the event and masks will be optional](#)

. Event organizers will provide masks to anyone who wants them and plan to screen attendees for symptoms of COVID-19.

**TVNL Comment: Fools rush in....**

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