

**News Release  
For Immediate Release**

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**Grab your Kilt - the Celtic Highland Games Are Just One Week Away!**

**Davenport, Iowa:** The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Celtic Highland Games swirl into town on Saturday, August 22 in a blast of bagpipe-powered sound and colorful plaids at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds in Davenport, Iowa. A number of new events are now on the schedule for the one-day festival, which celebrates Celtic sports, bagpipes, dance, culture and family fun.

A Celtic Beer Dinner has just been added for Friday night. August 21, at Blue Cat Brew Pub, 113 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island. The Blue Cat is a charter sponsor of the Celtic Games. The all-inclusive four-course menu - created especially for hungry competitors and others who need to build stamina for the festival the next day- starts at 6 p.m. An optional beer making tour is also available at 5:30 p.m. Courses include scotch eggs and salmon puff, lamb stew with salad, turkey leg stuffed with spinach, garlic and herbs and a blueberry lemon mousse for dessert. Cost with beer tasting flights is \$40; without is \$32. The meal is limited to 40 guests. Reservations are required. Call the Blue Cat at 309-788-8247.

On Saturday, the fairgrounds transform into a little bit of Scotland for one day, as the Blackhawk Pipes and Drums of the Quad Cities, the Celtic Cross Pipes and Drums of Peoria and the City of Rockford Pipe bands perform throughout the day. In addition to many impromptu solos, doubles and trios, the bands will perform as a whole at the following times:

9am.	Opening Ceremony: Blackhawk Pipe Band
10 a.m.-11:15	Blackhawk Pipe and Drum Band
Noon - 12:30	Parade of Tartans --All bands
12:30 to 1:15	Celtic Cross Pipes & Drums
1:15-2:00	City of Rockford Pipe Band
2 pm -2:30	Blackhawk Pipe Band
2:30-3:15	Celtic Cross Pipes & Drums
3:15-4:00	City of Rockford Pipe Band
4:30 p.m.	Battle of the Bands

A new event, The Battle of the Bands, has been added this year. Each band will take turns playing two 3-4 minute music sets. Tunes are piper's choice. At the close of all sets, the audience will select a "people's choice" winner by applause. All bands will then play together as one.

Educational workshops have now been announced:

10:15 a.m. QC Cloggers demo and lessons

10:30 a.m. Basic Gaelic - With Mayre Wanlass  
12:30 p.m. Hammered Dulcimer with Reg and Linda Shoesmith  
12;30 p.m. Gaelic Lessons - repeated  
12:45 p.m. Bagpipe Appreciation Bob Gough of the Rockford Pipe Band  
2 p.m. Bodhran Irish drum, beginners. Randy Robinson & Kristi Rudd.  
2:30 p.m. Intro to Irish string music with Mike Romkey.  
3:15 p.m. Bodhran Irish drum lessons, intermediate.

All day Spinners & Weavers Guild

In the late afternoon, musicians in several of the workshops will gather for an informal Irish-style music session in the shaded garden by the Starlight Ballroom. Others are welcome to bring instruments and join in.

In other highlights, more than 45 Highland dancers from six surrounding states will be competing in five dance classes (beginner, novice, primary, intermediate and premier) from 9 am to about 3:30 pm in the Starlite Ballroom. On the athletics grounds, the Games of Strength has added a special junior division involving high school and college athletes. And while these students are competing for bragging rights only, a host of about 30 adult amateur throwers will be competing for prizes in the A, B, C, novice, women's and master's division classes. After competition closes in late afternoon, the athletes will stick around for a variety of fun exhibition events.

Gates open at 8 a.m. with day events running from 9 a.m. to about 5 p.m., with an evening party featuring music by New Grass Review and The Mayflies starting at 6 p.m. in the fairgrounds' Starlite Ballroom. All events are included in the ticket price. More schedule information is available at [www.celtichighlandgames.org](http://www.celtichighlandgames.org), by e-mail at [infocelt@celtichighlandgames.org](mailto:infocelt@celtichighlandgames.org) or by calling 309-794-0449.

The Celtic Highland Games is a program of the Celtic Cultures Alliance.

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