



Celtic Highland Games/Celtic Cultures Alliance
www.celtichighlandgames.org

NEWS RELEASE
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Editor: The release below contains a limited time money-saving advance offer for family passes to our event. The offer expires Aug. 17.

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**Deadline Approaching for money-saving family pass:
Families Can Save on a Stay-cation to “Scotland and Ireland”**

The Celtic Highland Games of the Quad Cities is Saturday, August 22, 2009, and organizers want families to experience their own “stay-cation” to Scotland and Ireland right here in Davenport, Iowa.

The 11th annual event takes place at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds in Davenport, with day events running from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and an evening music and dance party from 6 p.m. to midnight. To help families attend, the day-long cultural and music festival of Celtic sports, music, dance, heritage and education has re-introduced an advance \$25 family rate that brings admission down to \$5 each a person for a family of five. The \$25 family pass is good for up to two adult and three children’s admissions. Children under five are admitted free.

Passes may be bought online at www.celtichighlandgames.org using the event’s secure PayPal account. Just click “Buy Now” to enter the PayPal payment system. Deadline for advance ticket orders is August 17, 2009. Purchases will be recorded with passes picked up at the “Will Call” Table at the Front Gate.

“If you have three children over five, this is a pretty good deal for 15 hours of entertainment in one place,” said chair Lisa Lockheart. Admission is good for all day and the evening Ceilidh (*kay-lee*), too. Guests may re-enter the grounds by showing their wristband. Online Purchases will be logged and picked up a “will call” area at the gate. Passes will not be mailed.

Other ways to save include buying the official souvenir t-shirt in advance. It’s available at Games sponsors Blue Cat Brew Pub, Rock Island, and Katy’s Import Foods, Moline, for \$20. When worn on the day of the Games, it includes free

admission.

Regular admission to the event is \$10 for adults 18 and over and \$5 for youth ages 5 to 17. Children under 5 are admitted free. In return, families get a whole day of outside events, and an evening full of all-ages music and dance too, with New Grass Revue playing from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and The Mayflies performing from 8 to 11 p.m.

Based on traditional Scottish and Irish festivals, the line up of events includes a blend of the sporting, the cultural, the social and the educational. Traditional athletic events in the Scottish Games of Strength, including putting the stone, tossing the sheaf, throwing the hammer, throwing weights for height and distance, and the ever popular tossing the caber, run until late afternoon. Nearby, bagpipers will be playing throughout the afternoon in pre-arranged performances. In the Starlight Ballroom, graceful Scottish dancers are performing their best Highland flings, Sailor's hornpipe and other dances.

Other things to do and see include just-for-fun children's games and demonstrations of medieval life in the Kingdom of Andorra, family activities and crafts in the Modern Woodmen family tent, a bouncing castle and opportunities to try "sport combat" with Belgarth Medieval Sport Combat.

Free workshops include opportunities to learn how to play the Irish drum, clogging lessons, Gaelic language instruction, an Irish stringed instruments workshop followed by an informal music session, bagpipe appreciation, spinning and weaving demos, a presentation of Celtic tunes on the hammered dulcimer and more.

Families can learn a little something about Celtic heritage and history from a wide variety of Scottish and Irish clans and Celtic societies. They may also choose to celebrate their family name by marching in the Parade of Tartans at noon. Other things to see and do at the festival include sheep-herding demonstrations and exhibitions of Celtic horses and cows. Guests can taste meat pies, sausage rolls and fish and chips at the Highland Glenn food stand and shop for all manner of Celtic goods and gifts on vendor row.

Look online at www.celtichighlandgames.org for a schedule of events, directions and other information. Weekend hotel specials are also available at the Davenport Travelodge and the Heartland Inn, Brady Street. Information is also available by phone at 309-794-0449 or e-mail infocelt@celtichighlandgames.org