

Save the Date for the 2010 Celtic Highland Games!
NEW DATE, NEW LOCATION

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Davenport, IOWA - The Celtic Highland Games of the Quad Cities will bring the best of Celtic sports, music, dance, heritage, food and family fun to a new location on the Davenport riverfront in 2010, and a new weekend as well. The annual event is moving to Saturday, September 18 in Centennial Park in downtown Davenport.

In another new development, the event will feature free daytime admission for the first time in its 12-year history. The family-oriented event features a wide variety of Celtic traditions in one spot, making it a grand substitute for a trip overseas. The events celebrate Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall and Isle of Man, as well as Celtic France (Brittany) and Spain (Galicia). Day activities of Scottish athletic events, bagpipe performances, animal Highland dance competitions - run from about 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

But the fun doesn't stop after the competitions, vendor tents, clan society tents and animal events wrap up around 5 p.m. A musical Ceildih party (pronounced kay-lee), starts at 6 p.m. and features band performances and dancing until 10 p.m. or so. With all the kilts, squealing bagpipes and traditional foods, organizers say the event is like having a one-day passport to visit another country - without ever leaving home.

Featured athletic events in the Scottish Games of Strength include the ever-popular caber and sheaf tosses, along with other events that pre-date traditional track and field events, such as the stone and hammer throws. Bagpipe fans will be able to catch performances all day with a number of bands hired to play. Other favorites include workshops in a wide variety of arts, music and cultural topics that let guests learn by doing. Feeling brave? Show off in the just for fun "bonnie" knees competition for men, create your best call to the haggis in the haggis howl, or test the strength of your arm in the "wellie toss." Or make the leap to wearing the kilt yourself by shopping vendor's row, which features a wide array of Celtic goods. And though many folks stop by the clan tent area to check on family connections, Scottish or Irish heritage definitely is not required.

Families may savor the taste of traditional British meat pies, pasties, sausage rolls or fish and chips. Other family events include children's games and crafts, storytelling, sheep herding exhibitions, chances to meet the Highland cow and other beasties, the family Parade of Tartans at noon, and more Celtic heritage and genealogical information. Entertainment includes rollicking band performances from Celtic music bands, as well as high-stepping dance performances. A complete schedule of events is posted online at www.celtichighlandgames.org one month before the event.

Centennial Park is located just to the west of Centennial Bridge, along Beiderbecke Drive. Davenport, Iowa is one of the "Quad Cities," a bistate Eastern Iowa/Western Illinois region bordering the Mississippi River. For more activities and lodging information, please visit the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau website at www.visitquadcities.com