



Ligonier Highland Games www.ligonierhighlandgames.org

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64TH LIGONIER HIGHLAND GAMES, September 16th, 2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*TIMES AND EVENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Friday, September 15th, 2023

6:00 pm – Professional Piping competition at **Holy Trinity Church** in Ligonier.

Admission is free. Parking is free. Light refreshments and drinks available for small donation at the church. Professional pipers, including some who officiate as judges at the Highland Games on Saturday, compete in 3 different categories of solo piping. Each piper plays a selected tune for the judges in each of three categories – Strathspey & Reel, Hornpipe & Jig, and Piobaireachd. Winners and prizes announced at awards ceremony Saturday afternoon at Highland Games.

Saturday, September 16th, 2023

8:00 am – Gates open to the public, tickets available at the gate. Cash or credit/debit cards accepted at entrance. Bring your own chair(s), picnic basket/cooler and a blanket too!

Free **Loyalhanna Limited train** runs all day to near **Main Field** available at train station near **Parking Lot A**.

8:00 am – Registration for Piping, Drumming and Pipe Band Competition entries begins at new location Pizza Shack patio (R-6, See Map). All solo piping and drumming competitors and pipe bands can check their registration and event competition schedule which will be posted on the bulletin board.

8:00 am – Scottish Vendors villages open at **Main Field** and new area in Splash Zone with vendors offering a wide variety of Scottish/Celtic goods, books, music, clothing and jewelry as well as equipment and instruments. Cash and credit cards accepted.

8:30 am – Scottish Clans tent area opens to public in new location by **Parking Lot D** (See Map). Come and find which Clan your family name is associated with and find out more about your extended family in the old country and it's role in Scottish history.

9:00 am – Solo Piping and drumming competitions begin at judging stations located in waterpark area (see map). Individual pipers and drummers play required tunes under the watchful eye of professional EUSPBA judges to win prizes in various categories. Some are quick while the piobaireachd (pronounced “pea-brook”) can last up to 12 minutes each.

9:00 am – 4:00 pm Highland Dancing competition at **Pavilion D2**. Youth of all ages compete in multiple categories of traditional Scottish dances, like the Sword Dance and Highland Fling, for prizes and trophies as well as points for regional ranking.

9:00 am - Scottish Harp Competition in **Pavilion C7**. All ages and skill levels work with and are judged by a master Scottish harpist in solo and group competitions playing traditional and modern Scottish tunes on beautifully hand-crafted instruments.

9:00 am – 4:00 pm Scottish Breed Dog Exhibit at Pavilions E1. Come and see the four legged friends and learn more about the wide variety of Scottish dog breeds, their history and origin and see them perform in various demonstrations or just visit with them.

9:00 am – 3:00 pm Gaelic Mòd Adjudicated Scotts Gaelic language, poetry and singing demonstration and competition at **Pavilion C8**. Learn how some of the wild combination of consonants and vowels are pronounced in ways that seem impossible at first glance.

9:00 am - Heavy Athletics competition begins at **Main Field**. Traditional Scottish competitions test the strength and skill of our kilted competitors. Various competitions such as the stone throw, sheaf toss, hammer throw and caber toss (throwing the phone pole) take place throughout the day in varying order depending the condition of the ground and the number of competitors. Amateur men and women compete in a wide range of age groups.

9:30 am – 4:30 pm Scottish tartans research at St. Andrews Society tent group near **Main Field** and vendor village. Find information on which Clan you might belong to and the traditional tartan pattern associated with those Clans.

9:30 am – Scottish Fiddling workshop in **Pavilion C3**. All ages and skill levels work with and a master Scottish fiddler to learn new techniques and gain insight in what is expected in the traditional tunes required in the competition.

10:00 am – 6:00 pm Celtic Musicians and groups perform alternating sets at the **Hillside Theater** throughout the day. Professional soloists and groups from around the country.

10:00 am – 4:30 pm Celtic Musicians perform alternating sets at the **Daniel Tiger Stage** throughout the day. Professional soloists and groups from around the country.

10:00 am – Celtic spinning and weaving exhibit opens, directed by master weaver **Kathy Wells**, creator of the Pittsburgh Tartan at **St. Andrews Society tent group** near main field. Come and see how the traditional wool kilt was made on the looms and the various tartans were designed and the terminology used in describing the color patterns.

10:00 am - 11:30 am - Children’s Games near the **main path**. A free activity for the little ones where they can try kid friendly versions of the athletic events. Best for those ages 10 and younger, all participants get prize ribbons.

10:00 am - Noon – Living History and military re-enactors exhibits near **Loyalhanna Limited** train stop (see map). Re-enactors in period costumes bring to life figures from Scottish military history from the colonial period to the present era.

10:45 am - Heavy Athletics continue at **Main Field** with Caber Toss. Watch our athletes attempt to throw the telephone pole and flip it end over end for a perfect score.

11:00 am - Southminster Ringers kilted hand-bell team performs near **Carousel**. These talented young people are under the direction of Mr. Richard Pinkerton from the Southminster Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh and have traveled throughout Europe and the world giving performances that are astonishing in their graceful beauty.

11:00 am - Scottish Fiddling competition in **Pavilion C3**, judged by our guest master Scottish Fiddler. Watch as soloists from various skill levels compete for prizes in traditional Scottish music categories and techniques.



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11:30 am - Scottish Harp competition prizes and awards **Pavilion C 7**. All are invited to see this year's champions in the various categories as they are recognized.

Noon - Welcoming Ceremonies, Massed Bands and Parade of Tartans at **Main Field**. The Scottish Clans, escorted by the Scottish regiment from Fort Ligonier in 1758, lead the procession onto the main field, with 40 or more Clans present, followed by all the attending Bagpipe bands marching onto the field in formation and playing several traditional tunes. Hear the stirring sounds of hundreds of pipers and drummers echoing through the surrounding valley.

12:30 pm - Gaelic M6d Medalists perform at the Hillside Theater. Traditional and modern songs and poems performed in Scotts Gaelic.

12:30 pm – Ladies Haggis Toss on Main Field. A perennial fan favorite. Ladies of all ages are invited to sign up (at the HQ Tent) and compete for cash prizes. Best of two throws of a 2 pound sandbag haggis is measured for distance. Longest throw wins

12:45 pm - Heavy Athletics competition resumes at Main Field. Finals of the Caber Toss and stone weight throws for distance and other events, field conditions permitting.

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm - Children's Games afternoon session activities across from the main path shuttle stop. More of the children's versions of the events the heavy athletes compete in, with ribbons for all participants.

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Highland Dancing Competitions resume at **Pavilion D 2**. Dancers perform traditional Scottish gambols such as the Sword Dance, Highland Fling and Seann Triubhas, in all age and skill levels.

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm – Living History and military re-enactors exhibits resume near **Loyalhanna Limited** train stop, See how the soldiers of Scotland have served around the world throughout the past three hundred years.

1:30 pm - Drum Major Competition at **Main Field**. Where the pipe band leaders are judged on appearance, comportment and skill according to EUSPBA rules.

1:30 pm - Scottish Harp performance at **Clan Forsyth** tent in **Scottish Clans Area**. The Ringold ensemble plays tunes at the tent area of a sponsor and supporter of the event.

2:00 pm - Scottish Fiddling open non-sanctioned competition in **Pavilion C 3**. A more relaxed competition for those that are new to the traditional Scottish fiddling.

2:00 pm - Scottish Harp workshop **Pavilion C 7**. The adjudicator leads the participants in learning more advanced techniques in the traditional Scottish Harping.

2:00 pm - Barra the Bard traditional Scottish storyteller, performs at **Birthday Party Room**. Barra tells stories handed down over generations in a form and rhythm that has endured in Scotland for centuries when many people could not read or write and relied on the stories to pass along histories and traditions and instruct people of all ages.

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Pipe Band Competition on Main Field. Each band performs several tunes individually under the watchful eyes of three EUSPBA judges for ranking in their respective Grades for this Games and the cumulative season ranking.

3:00 pm - Scottish Harp freestyle music session **Pavilion C 7.** With the competition over, the harpists play tunes with some of the techniques they've learned today.

3:30 pm - Tug-of-War event at **Main Field** open to all children. Groups of youngsters can either form their own teams/groups or be helped to evenly divided teams by the Games staff. All participants receive a souvenir Tug of War button.

4:00 pm Southminster Ringers kilted handbell team performs near **Carousel.** The final afternoon performance of one of the best handbell choirs in the nation.

5:00 pm - Awards Ceremony at **Main Field** and **Final Massed Bands performance.** All the participating bagpipe bands march onto the field in formation and play a massed performance. Winners of the piping and drumming competitions are announced and trophies and prizes awarded, followed by the hundreds of pipers and drummers giving a stirring rendition of Amazing Grace before marching off in formation of waves.

5:30 pm -Keg Toss competition on **Main Field,** open to any willing participants. Our final event of the day with cash prizes for men and women of various age groups. Best of two attempts to throw an 18 pound sixth keg for distance, longest throw wins.