67th Annual
Ligonier Highland Games
July 18, 2026

Official Business Partner Sponsor of the Ligonier Highland Games

Organized in 1864, the OPCMIA has represented and trained plasterers and cement masons for the purpose of protecting and promoting the quality of our industry and the livelihood of our members.

Operative Plasterers' & Cement Masons' International Association
9700 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21046
(301) 623-1000

Clan Donald Educational and Charitable

The Clan Donald Educational and Charitable Trust is the parent organization that oversees and makes possible the Ligonier Highland Games. For over 60 years the Clan Donald Trust has used the proceeds from the activities to support the scholarship program for the advancement of students studying in Scotland and for the preservation and promotion of Scottish Arts here in the Pittsburgh region.

In the past 61 years the Clan Donald Trust has granted over $300,000 in scholarships for graduates students and for local practitioners to advance their knowledge of piping, drumming, dancing, fiddling, harping and the Gaelic language.

The Clan Donald Educational and Charitable Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with no paid staff and pro-bono board members. All proceeds from Clan Donald Trust fund raising activities go to support the scholarship program and for the preservation and promotion of Scottish culture, heritage and arts. Donations are tax deductible and donors receive special benefits and privileges at the Ligonier Highland Games in recognition of their support. More information on how to support the Clan Donald Trust is available on our website.

Each year the Clan Donald Educational and Charitable Trust awards a $7,500 scholarship to an American student doing graduate work at a University in Scotland. Past awards have been granted to educators, ministers, physicians, scientists and authors. Currently two previous scholarship recipients serve as board members on the Trust, including Elizabeth Knight, the 2016 Scholarship winner.

Schedule

Friday, July 17th

The Professional Piping Competition was held at Holy Trinity Church in Ligonier. Professional pipers, including some who officiate as judges at the Highland Games today, competed in three different categories of solo piping. Each piper played a selected tune for the judges in each of three categories - Strathspey & Reel, Hornpipe & Jig, and Piobaireachd. Winners and prizes will be announced at the 5 pm awards ceremony this afternoon.

Saturday, July 18th

(All events on Main Field unless otherwise stated)

8-9:30 am	Registration for Solo Piping and Pipe Band Competitions begins at the Headquarters Tent on the Main Field.
8 am	Scottish Clans tent area grassy area near Parking lot D opens
8 am	Scottish Vendors village opens at right side of the Main Field and Pavilion E2 on the park side.
8:30 am	Highland Dancing registration for competition in Pavilion D2
8:30 am	Scottish Harp Registration in Pavilion C7
8:30 am	Scottish Fiddling Registration in Pavilion C8
8:30 am	Heavy Athletics Competition begins
9 am	Solo Piping Competition begins along left edge of Main Field
9 am	Scottish Harp competition begins in Pavilion C7
9 am	Highland Dancing competition begins in Pavilion D2
9 am	Scottish Fiddling Workshops begin in Pavilion C8
9 am - 4 pm	Scottish genealogy research available at the St. Andrews Society tent on the way to vendors near the Main Field
9:30 - 4:30 pm	Scottish tartan research available at the St. Andrews Society on the way to vendors near the Main Field
10 am	Celtic spinning and weaving demo across from St. Andrews Society on the way to vendor area near the Main Field
10 am	Living History and Military Encampment in the grassy area to the left after you enter the Highland Games area.
10 - 12 am	Children's Games activities on path before the main field

# of Events

10:45 am	Heavy Athletics Competition Caber Toss (time approximate)
11:30 am	Scottish Harp awards presented Pavilion C7
11 am	Solo Piping Competition final along left edge of Main Field
Noon	Welcoming Ceremonies, Massed Bands and Parade of Tartans
12:30 am	Ladies Haggis Toss - sign up at Headquarter Tent ***before noon***
12:45 pm	Heavy Athletics Competition at Main Field
1 - 5 pm	Living History and Military Encampment in the grassy area to the left after you enter the Highland Games area.
1:30 am	Scottish Fiddling competition in Pavilion C8
1 pm	Scottish Harp band performance at Clan Forsyth tent in Scottish Clans area near parking lot D
2 pm	Pipe Band Competition begins on Main Field
2 pm	Scottish Harp workshop begins in Pavilion C7
3 pm	Barra the Bard Scottish Story Teller at Pavilion E1
3 pm	Tug-of-War event at Main Field, open to all children
5 pm	Awards Ceremony and Final Massed Bands performance
5:30 pm	Keg toss competitions, open to any willing ***participant over 18 sign up at the headquarters tent before 3 pm***

Times subject to change

Entertainers Schedule

Pavilion E1

Skara Brae
10 am | 2 pm

Bara the Bard
3 pm

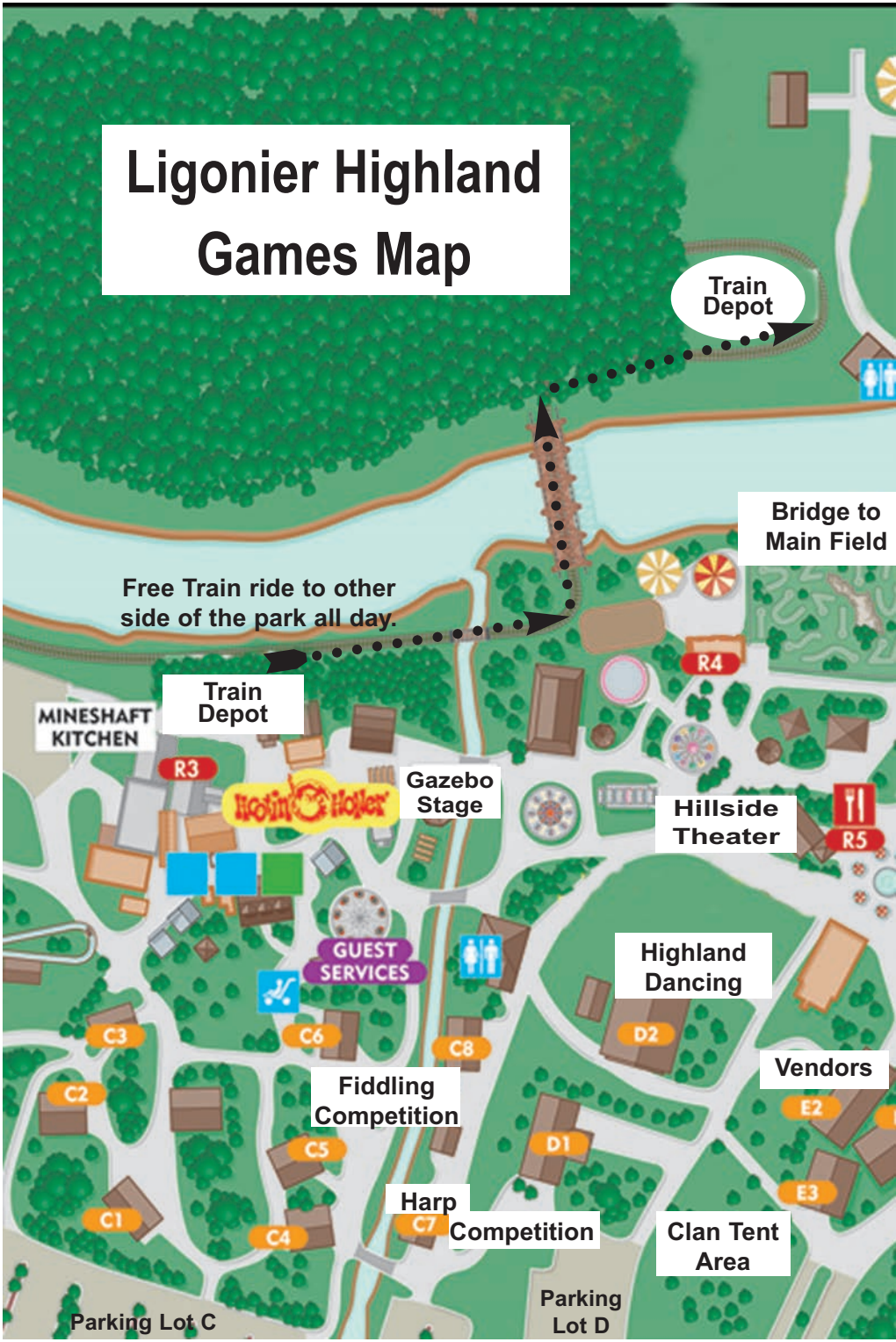
Scottish Country Dancers
11 am Workshop | 4 pm Demo

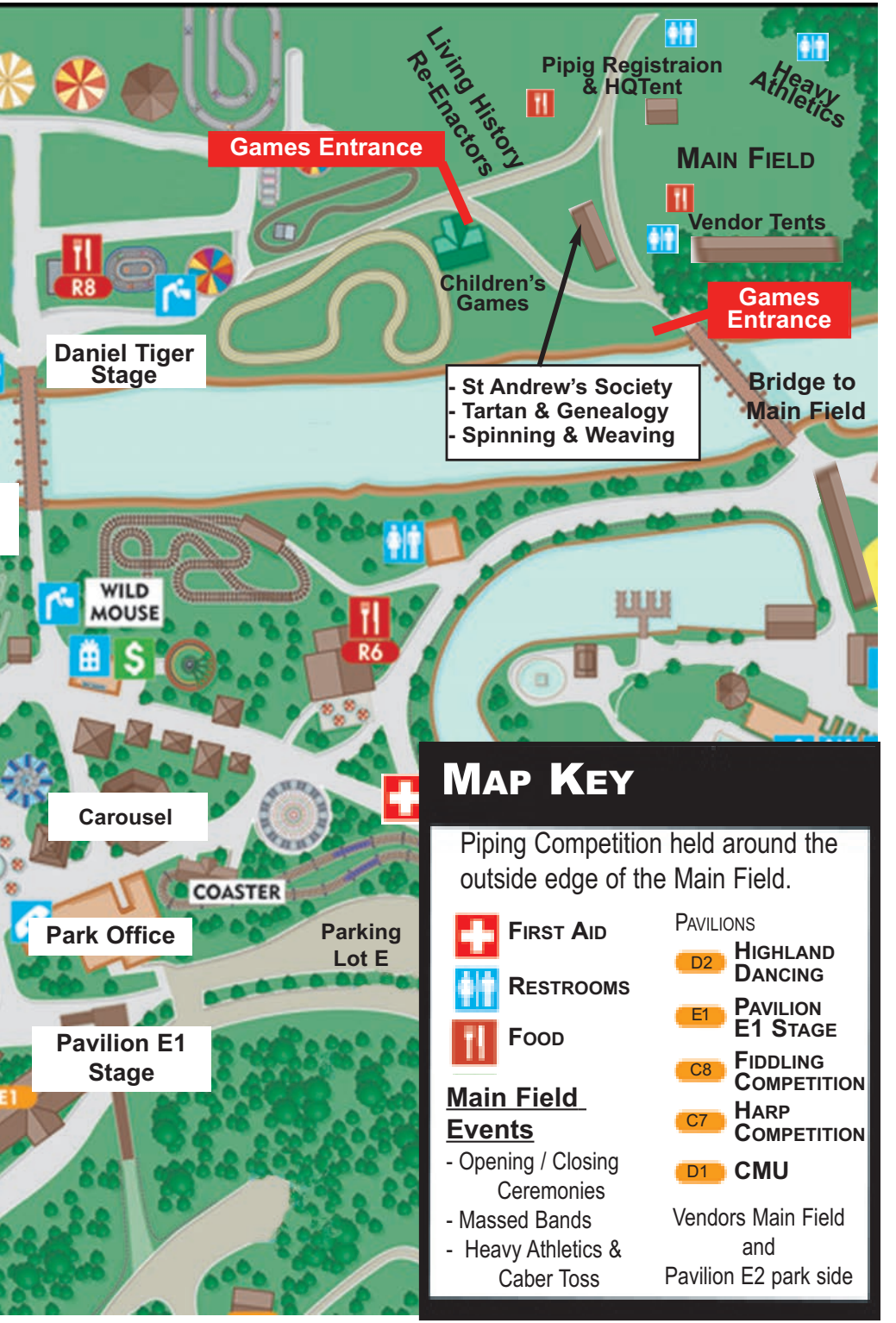
Pavilion E3

DruidSong
10 am | 2pm

Red McWilliams
11 am | 3 pm

Red McWilliams & Bruce Golightly
4 pm


Ligonier Highland Games Map
Train Depot
Bridge to Main Field
Free Train ride to other side of the park all day.
R4
Train Depot
MINESHAFT KITCHEN
R3
Gazebo Stage
Hillside Theater
R5
GUEST SERVICES
Highland Dancing
C3
C6
C8
D2
Vendors
C2
Fiddling Competition
E2
C5
D1
E3
C1
C4
Harp
C7
Competition
Clan Tent Area
Parking Lot C
Parking Lot D



Map Key

Piping Competition held around the outside edge of the Main Field.

- First Aid
- Restrooms
- Food

Main Field Events

- Opening / Closing Ceremonies
- Massed Bands
- Heavy Athletics & Caber Toss

Pavilions

- D2 Highland Dancing
- E1 Pavilion E1 Stage
- C8 Fiddling Competition
- C7 Harp Competition
- D1 CMU

Vendors Main Field and Pavilion E2 park side

Ligonier Highland Games

Welcome back to many old friends of the Ligonier Highland Games and "well met" to the many new friends who are here for the first time.

We have compiled the following information which we hope will answer many questions you may have and thus enhance your enjoyment of this great day for Scots and their friends.

Solo Piping events will take place along the left edge of the Main Field..

Children's Activities - Games for children up to age 12 or thereabouts will take place in the grassy area near the main from **10am - 12 am.** During the day, children are invited to visit the Clan Tents and get their "Passport" signed or stamped then come to the Headquarters Tent on the main field for a special prize any time after the opening ceremonies.

Storytelling at 3pm with **Barra the Bard** will be at **Pavilion E3**.

Genealogy Information - volunteers from the Scottish Genealogy Society, the Ulster Historical Foundation and the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society will be available to answer Scottish and Scots-Irish genealogical inquiries. They will be on hand near the Vendors Area by the Main Field in the St. Andrews Society tent. A Tartan Information tent is also available to help you find your plaid.

Vendors are found along the right side of the Main Field and in Soak Zone.

Highland Dancing - will take place in **Pavilion D2** located on the Amusement Park side of the bridge, at the top of the hill overlooking the **Hillside Theater.**

Pittsburgh's Scottish Country Dancers will be performing at **Pavilion E1**. A dance workshop will be offered in **Pavilion E1** at 4 pm.

Scottish Fiddling - workshop will take place at the **Pavilion C8** which is just off the path from Parking Area B or C.

Celtic Harp - workshop and competitions will take place in **Pavilion C7** down the hill from the Highland Dancing, in the pavilion behind the Fiddling pavilion. The workshop, which is open to all, starts at **9 am.**

Lost and Found - Articles and children may be brought to the announcer at the platform on the Main Field. Any items not picked up at the Games may be inquired after by calling the Idlewild Park office at (724) 238-3666. Children, not claimed, will be given tender care but may be given a puppy and an espresso.

Restrooms - are indicated on the map. Permanent flush toilets and diaper changing facilities are found next to the bridge and below Pavilion D2. Porta-potties are located conveniently around the Main Field.

Entertainers

Red McWilliams is a world-renown Celtic singer who continues to please audiences all over with his craic humor, heart-wrenching ballads and spirited songs of Scotland and Ireland. Red will have you singing and tapping your toes to your favorite traditional and contemporary Celtic songs. His shows are full of humor, elements of surprise and wonder, as he takes you through his musical journey through Scotland and Ireland. Critics have touted him as "America's Celt". Red's award winning arrangements and unique performance style will surely capture your heart!

PERFORMING IN PAVILION E3 11AM & 4PM

Out of the Mists of Time, the village of **Skara Brae** reemerged. Built before the pyramids, or even Stonehenge, this tiny town was there. The band chose this name because they play music from another time. Celtic Tunes played on guitar, whistle, and Flute weave through the air and take you back to the days of old when people would gather at the Pub to hear the songs of Ireland and Scotland. Join Matt and Marielle as they play traditional and original tunes in the Celtic Spirit!

PERFORMING IN PAVILION E1 10AM & 2PM

DRUIDSONG is the musician, singer, songwriter and performer Bruce Golightly. He has appeared at the Ligonier Highland Games sereral times of the years and performs regularly in the Pittsburgh region. He performs a mix of Scottish, Irish and Celtic Folk Songs and some more traditional, American Folk Songs as well.

PERFORMING IN PAVILION E3 10AM, 2PM & 4PM

Highland Dancing Tradition in Action!

It is so easy to sit in the Dance pavilion (D2), mesmerized by the skill, grace and rhythms of those participating in the Highland dance competitions at the Ligonier Games. Many who enjoy the dancing often don't realize the long and distinguished tradition, the legend and lore, of Highland dancing.

History tells us that forms of the Sword Dance (one of the most popular) dates to the late medieval period, perhaps even earlier. Scottish literature from the 15th century mentions ritualistic dances that imitate swordsmanship. Renowned dance teacher and judge Charlie Mill notes that the first professional Highland piping competitions were first introduced in Scotland in the 1780s; dancing functioned as the entertainment between the piper events. Actual dance competitions were first held in the 1790s. Interestingly, the dancers - all men - wore kilts in spite of the fact that many were concerned that their exposed legs might be offensive to "every lady of correct taste and feeling." (As if!)

Most traditional Highland dances refer to preparing for battle, celebrating after victory, and daily tasks. Often the movements are telling a story, from historic duels to the banning of kilts after the Jacobean Uprising. No matter the legendary event they represent, Highland dances are celebrations of strength and physical skills. In fact, there are debates about whether Highland dance

falls into the arts or sports category. Many believe that those who dance are both artists and athletes. Many Highland dances have been passed down for centuries, from teachers to students, and are still being performed today.

At the Ligonier Highland Games, you will find competitors at all stages of training and experience. The event calls for the dancers to be grouped into the Primary, Beginner, Novice, Intermediate, and Premier categories. Within those classes, dancers perform the Pas de Basques, Highland Fling, Sword Dance, Scottish Lilt, Seann Triubhas ("torn trousers," reflecting displeasure at being barred from wearing the kilt), and the Sailor's Hornpipe.

The criteria for judging have been developed under the aegis of the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing, created in 1950. Competitors are assessed on timing, correct execution of the steps, artistic interpretation, dress, and presence. Students study and perform for years in order to perfect their technique, proudly showcasing the athleticism and style of Highland dancing.

So, while you're comfortably watching the Ligonier Games dance competitions, remember that these artists have spent years mastering their craft, interpreting the history of Scotland and its traditional dances. Applaud long and hard for our competitors, regardless of their status within their class. Although we offer the beautiful Clan Donald Award to the competitor voted "Dancer of the Day," all of these amazing athletes are truly winners.

HIGHLAND DANCING EVENTS GOING ON IN PAVILION D2

The Celtic Harp

Judge - Jennifer McGovern Narkevicius

Jennifer McGovern Narkevicius teaches and performs traditional music on the harp. She came to the harp from piano and boisterous singing but fortunately, the harp won. Jen also likes having music in the world where it is created and so acts as a music guide sharing Scotland and the beauty and splendor of the Highlands and Islands through its tunes, lore, and history with harp players of all levels. While the harp is her first love, Jen is an internationally recognized expert in ergonomics and human performance and is trained in education of the gifted and talented. She merges the two parts of her world through consulting and teaching workshops, lectures, and private lessons to help musicians improve their performance on or off stage by understanding how their bodies and minds work. She teaches at Harp Camp in SE Pennsylvania and was a 2012 instructor at the Ohio Scottish Arts School. Currently Vice-President and Competition Committee Chair of the Scottish Harp

SCOTTISH HARP EVENTS GOING ON IN PAVILION C7

Schedule of Events

9:00 am Harp Competition
11:30 am Harp Awards
1:00 pm Performance at Clan Forsyth tent
1:45 pm Harp Workshop

Scottish Fiddling

Judge - Emerald Rae

Emerald Rae is an American Fiddler & Folksinger who blends energetic traditional dance music with modern songwriting. As a powerhouse fiddling-singing one-woman show, she has been delighting festival audiences all over the US and Canada. She is a US National Scottish Fiddle Champion and Scottish F.I.R.E Judge, and one of the few renegades to hop between Scottish, Cape Breton and Irish music and dance fluently. Growing up and starting her career in Boston, she's been an active member of the Scottish and Cape Breton communities in the Northeast. She also spent over a decade teaching performance-based Irish Dance, and toured with The Cathie Ryan Band, The Outside Track, and Mick Moloney's Green Fields of America all over the US, Canada, UK and Thailand. In 2022, Emerald was the Artist in Residence for the City of Joliette, Quebec and performed traditional Québécois music and song with Jean-François Branchaud of La Bottine Souriante. Emerald is an enthusiastic educator who enjoys empowering her students and opening their minds to endless possibilities.

SCOTTISH FIDDLE EVENTS GOING ON IN PAVILION C8

Schedule of Events

8:30 - 9 am Registration
9 - 10 am Beginner/Intermediate Workshop
10:30 -11:30 am Intermediate/Advanced Workshop
1:30 pm Competition Begins

2026 Ligonier Highl

These individuals, through their generosity, have supported the scholarship activities of the Clan Donald Educational and Charitable Trust, which also sponsors the Ligonier Highland Games. We express our gratitude to them.

Official Co-Sponsors of the Highland Games

Contributed $5000 to support th eHighland Games and Scholarship programs.

N. David & Janet M. Campbell Family Foundation

Operative Plasters and
Cement Masons International Association

Honorary Chief of the Highland Games

Contributed $2000 to support the Highland Games and Scholarship programs.

Clan Galbraith Society

Contributed $1500 to support the Highland Games and Scholarship programs.

Brick layers & Allied Craftworkers Local 9 Penna.

Contributed $3000 to support the apprentice program for building trades.

Bon Tools

Contributed $1000 to ssponsor a competition or event..
Sponsor of the Scottich Fiddling Event

Rev. Canon Dr. & Mrs. John A. Macdonald
of Kingsburgh

Sponsor of the Men's Ahtletic Event

Mr. & Mrs. Allan MacDougall, III

and Games Sponsors

Sponsor of the Women's Ahtletic Event

Mrs. Virginia Peet

Sponsor of the Scottish Harp Event

St. Andrews Society of Pittsburgh

Contributed $750 to ssponsor a competition or event..

Sponsor of the Drumming Competition

Willam Hamrick

Contributed $500 to ssponsor a competition or event..

Alan & Karen Reid Tom & Julie Reid.

Janet Lois Walker, PhD.

Athletes T-Shirt Sponso

Burgher Brewing Company

Contributed $250 of sponsorship.

Della Terra Italian Bistro

BoydS. & Rev. Janice L Murray

Kenneth Reid

Scholarship Sponsor

Contributed to the cost of an individual music or dance scholarship.

Wendy Lint

We also wish to thank those sponsors whose name
do not appear in the program due to printing deadlines.

In Memoriam

We honor the memory of **Gordon MacDonald Reid**, our long time President of the Clan Donald Educational & Charitable Trust, who passed away at the age of 90 this January.

Gordon was born and raised in Glasgow, with the World War II years spent in the small village of Tighnabruaich. This village in the Argyll and Bute section of Scotland imprinted a deep love for the Highlands that Gordon never lost.

He graduated from the University of Glasgow with a Metallurgical Engineering degree and then emigrated with his family to Toronto, Canada. While there he served as an army reservist with the 48th Highlander Regiment.

Gordon moved to Syracuse, New York, where he began a family and his life-long attachment to Highland Games. His work then took him west to Washington, east to New Jersey, and finally to the Pittsburgh region.

Gordon's long career of sales in the minerals and coal business took him around the country and across the globe. His travels provided him with an endless source of stories and returned him many times to Scotland, deepening his love of the beauty and history of that land.

Gordon also had a passion for philanthropy and service believing in giving back some of the many blessings he enjoyed. Gordon was a Mason for over 50 years and most proudly for over 46 years the President of the Clan Donald Educational and Charitable Trust.

His work as President helped to guide the Trust and the Highland Games it supported, from a small family picnic at Kennywood, into a highly respected and successful event and charitable foundation. Over the years the Games has grown and helped fund the Trust which has granted over $300,000 in scholarships.

It is this legacy of service, philanthropy and dedication that we honor, that of a full life, lived well and in service to his family, his countries and his community.

BON TOOL COMPANY

MASONRY TOOL SPECIALISTS

Bon®

CALL US AT 800-444-7060

Innovation, Value & Service since 1958

MASONRY CONCRETE DRYWALL STUCCO & PLASTER FLOORING GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

della terra
OF THE EARTH

DELLATERRAPGH.COM

100 NORTH MAIN STREET - ZELIENOPLE, PA

BURGHERS
— BREWING CO —

BURGHERSPGH.COM

ZELIENOPLE	LAWRENCEVILLE	SOUTHSIDE	MILLVALE

J.R. Judd Violins

1964 Lycoming Creek Road Williamsport, PA 17701

Call 570.321.8070

CLAN
HAY

FORSYTH

KILT

YOUNG
KENNEDY
CLAN
YOUNG

Seton Hill University
SHU
PIPE BAND
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Scottish Country Dancing

Country Dancing emerged in Scotland at the beginning of the 18th century in the social halls of the cities, castles and villages. The steps and formations synthesize influences from Gaelic stepping, English country dances, and the French court. But the music and the emphasis on technique are distinctively Scottish. Country Dancing is a form of social dancing, usually done in groups of four couples somewhat like its cousin, Western Square Dancing. Progressive formations synchronized with the music lead each dancer to greet and join with other dancers in turn.

After two centuries of mass popularity, Scottish Country Dancing was a fading memory when in 1923 the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society was founded to restore and preserve the tradition. A system of training teachers has provided a standardization which enables Scottish Country Dancing to be taught the same way around the world, and has preserved the techniques and dances to this day.

The Pittsburgh affiliate of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will demonstrate this happy blend of music and movement in Pavilion E1 with a workshop at 11 am and a demonstration at 4 pm. The workshop is available to anyone interested, though it is suggested that participating children be at least 8 years old. Comfortable shoes are all that is required!

Links to information about the Pittsburgh group and other Scottish Country Dance groups nearby and around the world can be found on the Pittsburgh Scottish Country Dance Society website at www.pscds.org.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss but celebrate the life of **Sarah Jean Thompson**, who passed away on October 23, 2025. Sarah Jean was the director of the Highland Dancing event at the Ligonier Highland Games for many years and was the force behind growing and expanding the Highland Dancing event and the Ligonier Highland Games too.

Sarah Jean was a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, earning a B.S. in Business, and taught for several years at Thomas Jefferson High School in Jefferson Hills. She also worked as the general manager of the Children's Festival Chorus of Pittsburgh and served on the boards of or volunteered with many non-profit organizations, including the Discovery Enrichment Program, the Friends of the Delmont Public Library, and the St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh.

Her involvement with dancing started in her teens and she went on to become a teacher of Scottish Highland Dancing for over fifty years, being recognized for her talents by the Royal Scottish Official Board of Highland Dance.

Both of her parents immigrated from Scotland and that cultural heritage was of central importance in her life. In addition to the Highland Dancing, she also played the bagpipes and was a registered teacher of Scottish Country Dancing. And for many years she choreographed and produced the Scottish performances at the Pittsburgh Folk Festival.

Sarah Jean is greatly missed by all who knew her, but her spirit lives on in all those that learned from her or who shared in her wisdom and guidance.

The Saint Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh

Preserving and Promoting Scottish Heritage and Traditions in the Greater Pittsburgh Area

Proud Sponsor of the Ligonier Highland Games

We are a 501(c)(3) organization with membership open to all with Scottish ancestry or an interest in Scottish heritage and traditions. You'll find a warm welcome, with many activities and events such as Burns Night and St. Andrew's Day to enjoy! In the spring we hold Tartan Day—a celebration of Scottish heritage, free to the public. This year 600 people enjoyed piping, dancing, fiddling, Celtic harps, storytelling, history, genealogy, clans, vendors, and Scottish foods. The Kilted Klassic Golf Outing is held in the fall, and we support our local Highland Games at Ligonier. At Ligonier, we have genealogy booths and produce souvenir T-shirts; many of our members are involved in various activities and events here as well. Each year our society gives individual scholarships, and some of these talented scholarship recipients perform for several of our events. We also sponsor the Balmoral Classic Piping and Drumming championships.

If you're proud of your Scottish heritage, or if you enjoy Scottish music, dancing, food, etc., we'd love to have you join us in the St. Andrew's Society.

Please see www.standrewspittsburgh.org for general information on the St. Andrew's Society and membership applications.

Clan Galbraith Society

AB OBICE SAEVIOR - Stronger When Opposed

The Ligonier Highland Games welcomes the Clan Galbraith Society as the 2026 Honored Clan and the honorary Chief of the Games. The Clan Galbraith Society is hosting their annual gathering at Ligonier and we welcome them back greatly appreciate their generous support.

Clan Galbraith has a long history, stretching back to when Scotland became a single kingdom in 1124. In previous centuries Scotland's southern half was three separate kingdoms and the area around Lennox was settled by Welsh speaking Britons.

From these people the first chief of Clan Galbraith, Gilchrist Bretnach arose. Due to close ties to the royal houses of Scotland, their fortunes rose until the 1400's.

After 1425 their involvement with dynastic struggles led to the decline and ruin of the Clan Galbraith fortunes. At times force to flee from Scotland, they eventually lost possession of their castles and strongholds in the area of Loch Lomond over the ensuing two centuries. In 1632 the 19th and lastChief of Clan Galbraith inherited his title, but left no heirs. The Galbraiths have been an armigerous clan since then and although diminished in power and influence, have survived to the present.

The current Clan Society was establish in 1980 and has several hundred official members worldwide and looks to welcome new members on it's official website: Clan Galbraith Society Home

The Galbraith tartan, crest and heritage are kept alive by the Clan Galbraith Society and several of their former castles survive as historic locations in Scotland.

Paul Munshower, the current president of the society invites all members of the Galbraith family and it's septs to come and visit them at the Scottish Clan Village adjacent to parking lot D and become a member of the society and learn of their long and storied history.

E.U.S.P.B.A.

Eastern United States Pipe Band Association

The piping and drumming competitions at the Ligonier Highland Games are held under the sanction of the E.U.S.P.B.A., the governing body that establishes the rules for competition, assigns grade designations for solo and band competitors and conducts tests to qualify the judges. All members receive quarterly copies of the VOICE, an outstanding publication that serves both as a newsletter and informative magazine containing articles by many of the top grade judges, teachers and competitors both in the U.S. and abroad. Competition results of all sanctioned games are printed in each issue.

In November of each year E.U.S.B.P.A holds its annual meeting for the general membership. To learn more about the E.U.S.P.B.A. or to become a member, visit their home page at euspba.org or write EUSPBA, PMB 316 560 Peoples Plaza, Newark, DE 1972-4789, USA.

Open Piping Competition

Friday evening, starting at 6:30 pm, some of the finest pipers in North America meet to compete in the Professional Piping competitions. Winner of the Piobaireachd (classical bagpipe) event takes home the **John Ure Anderson, Jr., Gold Medal;** while the top player in the March, Strathspey & Reel set will receive the **Somerled Macdonald of Kingsburgh Award.** The top Hornpipe & Jig competitor receives the **Clan Stewart Society in America Award**.

Drum Major Competition

All Drum Majors competing with or without a band are invited to enter this competition. Field entries will be accepted.

In addition to their work on the field, all Drum Majors will be given a thorough personal inspection before they go on parade. For a pipe band, the Drum Major not only directs the band on parade, but also serves as the standard of dress and deportment for the rest of the band members.

The Hurling of the Haggis

Legend has it that women would stand on one side of the River Dromach and hurl haggis luncheons to their husbands on the other side. Out of these humble beginnings grew a World Haggis Hurling Association with Haggis Hurling competitions held in the USA, the UK, Australia, Canada. The world finals are held in Edinburgh in September.

Ligonier Highland Games will host it's annual "Hurling of the Haggis" for our female audience members. Meet at the Main Field HQ Tent at 12:30 pm and we'll kick off the event after the Massed Bands.

Here are the basic rules:

Register by 12 noon to compete.
Competitors must be present by 12:30 pm at the HQ Tent.
Every competitor will have two chances to hurl the haggis for distance.
All competitors must stay within the marked-off throwing zone.
We will score your longest throw.
Prizes for each category: If you didn't win you will be eligible for a consolation prize drawing of $25, so you can still win even if you don't have the best throwing arm!

Keg Toss

Think you can toss a beer keg further than anyone you know? Have the best throwing technique around? Here's your chance to earn bragging rights and some prize money too!!

Ligonier Highland Games will host it's annual Keg Tossing competition later in the afternoon. Meet at the Main Field Tent at 4:45 pm to check in. Must Register by 3pm,.

Here are the basic rules:

1. All competitors must be registered by 3 pm and by present at 5 pm
2. Every competitor will have two chances to toss the sixth barrel slim keg (approximately 17 pounds) for distance. Longest throw counts.
3. Distance measured from throwing boundary to first impact.
4. All competitors must stay behind the marked-off throwing zone. Crossing the boundary is a foul and thrower gets a zero for that toss.
5. Competitors may toss keg in any manner they wish, one hand or two, underhand, overhand, spinning or moving approach – all permitted.

PRIZES FOR FIRST 3 PLACES IN COMPETITION CATEGORIES

WOMEN	MEN
AGE 18 – 35	AGE 18 – 35
AGE 36 – 54	AGE 36 – 54
AGE 55+	AGE 55+

Plus if you didn't win we will draw from the entrants for a consolation prize of $25, so you can still win even if you don't have the longest toss!!

Children's Games Open to All

Children are always special guests at the Ligonier Highland Games with child-sized activities scheduled throughout the day - in addition, of course, to the many activities that appeal to all ages. Starting at 10 am until noon in a grassy area on the path before the main field children will have the chance to try their skills with athletic events similar to the "heavies" on the Main Field - including the caber toss! Ribbons are awarded to all our young athletes. Each child will also receive a Scottish Games coloring book and a "passport" which they can take to the Clan Tent area to get signed. Four Clan stamps or signatures qualifies the "traveler" to receive a prize when taken to the Headquarters Tent at the Main Field after the Opening Ceremonies.

At 11 am and 2 pm, our children's storyteller, Barra the Bard, entertains the young folks in Pavillion E1 on the other side of the park. Then at 3 pm, they can gather on the Main Field to join in the Tug-of-War contest. .

Scottish Storytelling Barra the Bard

Barra the Bard, our seannachie, has been telling Scottish tales with us for the last quarter-century. A seannachie is the Scots Gaelic word for "storyteller". She's only ever repeated one tale one time, and that was a request!

Barra learned many Hebridean and Scottish tales from Catriona MacNeill Ellison, her blind great great grandmother, who emigrated from the Isle of Barra (yes, Barra was named for it) in the 1820s.

She tells stories in the ancient manner as a traditional teller, not reading a book aloud but working from memory, the heart. If you hear a story more than once, you may notice a few differences because she never tells it exactly the same way. Some stories are multi-layered, and over the years, she finds new meanings in them applicable to different programs.

Barra estimates her repertoire is well over 5,000 folktales, myths and legends from around the world. Besides those genres, she delights in telling folk- and fairytales, ghost stories, historical tales, a few literary adaptations, and a few of her own.

COME HEAR BARRA AT PAVILLION E1 AT 3 PM

THANKS TO THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF

N. DAVID & JANET M. CAMPBELL FAMILY FOUNDATION

OFFICIAL 2026 CO-SPONSOR

OF THE

LIGONIER HIGHLAND GAMES

Highland Heptathlon

Adjudicator - David Strunk

From the syllabus of "heavy" athletic contests held at Scottish Games, Ligonier offers seven events which compose the Highland Heptathlon. There are three classes of competitors entered - the Open or Professional Class, the Amateur Class, and the Masters Class composed of older competitors all competing on the Main Field. Advance registration is required and competition slots are limited. The Professional Class compete in all seven events: the Stone Put, 56lb. weight for height 56lb weight for distance, 28lb. weight for distance, hammer throw, sheaf toss and caber toss. The Amateur and Master Class compete in only five events: the Stone Put, 56lb. weight for height, 28lb. weight for distance, hammer throw and caber toss. Games are conducted under the sanction of the North American Scottish Games Athletics.

Scottish Athletic Events

Tossing the Caber

Tossing the caber, once known as "Ye tossing of ye bar," is the most traditional Scottish athletic event. The origin of this event is somewhat obscure although records describing this sport date back to the 16th century. This event, like many of the Scottish athletic events, may have started out as a military discipline. Today, the caber toss measures strength, accuracy and balance. The object of the contest is to flip the 100 to 130 pound 17 to 20 foot long caber end-over-end so that it lands with the small end (bottom) pointing directly away from the contestant. The athlete with the straightest toss is the winner. Distance has no bearing on the outcome of the event at all. Each contestant has three tries to toss the caber and all tries are scored.

Tossing the Sheaf

In this contest a bale of hay in a burlap sack, normally about 16 pounds, is pitched over a bar. The athletes have three opportunities to toss the sheaf at each height of the bar, which is raised at

six inch intervals until all contestants but one are eliminated. The origin of this event obviously lies in the fields of Scotland, where young lads would engage in games of skill and strength.

Weight Toss and Weight Throw

These two events are normally combined into a three part competition using two weights, one 28 pounds, the other 56 pounds. The 28 pound weight is thrown for distance only; the 56 pound weight is thrown for both distance and height. The weights are traditionally block or bell shaped, with a curved or angular grip on a short chain. Scores are established on the best of three system, and for this event timing, speed and strength are keys to success.

Putting the Stone

Putting the stone is another Scottish contest of strength and coordination, known in Gaelic as "Clachneat." This event is believed to be related to the ancient "stone of strength." The stone weighs 16 to 20 pounds and is thrown much like the modern day shot put. Each contestant is allowed three throws for distance. Touching any part of the trig - the toeboard - except the face, or stepping in front of the trig, is scored a foul. Judging is on the longest of three throws only.

Scottish Hammer Throw

Throwing the hammer supposedly became popular in the Scottish Highlands as a pastime among young lads who gathered in the late afternoon at the local black smith shop. There, the Smith's long-handled 22 pound hammer was thrown to prove one's strength and agility. The weight of the hammer today is between 16 and 22 pounds. It consists of a metal head and a 50 inch long handle of cane or wood. The Scottish throw does not permit the contestant to turn his legs until he releases the hammer. Each competitor is allowed three throws and judging is on the longest of the three throws.

Sutherland Memorial

One of Pittsburgh's greatest athletic names is that of the late Dr. John Bain "Jock" Sutherland, coach of both the University of Pittsburgh football team and the Pittsburgh Steelers. As a bequest of the Sutherland estate through Dr. Sutherland's sister, Marion Sutherland, the Ligonier Highland Games is proud to offer the John Bain Sutherland Memorial Award to the top Athlete of the Day.

Living History - Tradition in Action!

History books and legends tell us of heroic battles and crushing defeats. There are songs and stories about skirmishes and museums devoted to telling us about Scottish military history. However, Ligonier visitors to the Highland Games have a special opportunity to learn more about the day-to-day life of soldiers who served in Scottish brigades and units in wars ranging from the 1740s to the 1990s.

The Games are proud to host a living history demonstration of the Scottish military. Everyone is encouraged to stop by the encampment and discover how soldiers lived their lives and survived under harsh conditions. You can discover how they got their food during the French and Indian War and what they did during their down-time in World War One. What sorts of drills were standard during the pre-Jacobean period? What was typically part of a World War Two soldier's kit? Who travelled with the military unit?

So make sure that you stroll through the living history military camps and displays. Don't miss this chance to talk with experts in Scottish military history, to explore the contributions that Scottish soldiers made to the world order, and to understand the challenges of daily life - whether in the 1740s or the 1940s.

We are pleased to welcome the following military units:

- The Cataran Society - 1745 Jacobite era
- 42nd Regiment of Foot - The Black Watch
  French and Indian War era
- 42nd Black Watch Regiment
  World War I era
- 51st Highland Division - World War II era
- 2nd Battalion Scots Guards 1980s & 1990s

Wool Dyeing & Weaving

Because the hand looms used in Scottish home weaving, the material was never more than 30 inches wide. In order to produce a belted plaid, it was necessary to sew two lengths of tartan together. A finished garment was no more than a rectangular piece of woolen cloth, fifteen feet long by five feet wide. It served as "a cloak by day and a blanket at night."

Clan setts (patterns) were recorded on pattern sticks carrying the number of threads for each line of check of the tartan. These were wound around the stick in correct order and the stick handed down religiously from generation to generation.

Christian Hesketh in his book **Tartans** writes "the sheep, now familiar a feature of the Highland scene, is by no means an indigenous one. When tartans first began to assume a definite pattern, the material out of which they were made was both expensive and scarce." Hence plaids too, were carefully passed on from father to son.

Ligonier Highland Games

Clan Anderson
Paul Anderson
233 Partridge Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601

Clan Barclay
William Barclay Mears
5380 Tuscarawas Road
Beaver, PA 15009

Clan Bell
Joseph Bell
49 Graystone Lane NW
Cartersville, GA 30121

Clan Buchanan
Elaine McMasters
561 6th Street
Pitcairn, PA 15140

Clan Campbell
Jack Campbell
206 North 6th Street
Youngwood, PA 15697

Clan Craig
Leslie R. Craig
242 Greenwood Drive
Butler, PA 16001

Clan Donald
Peter Kish
Commissioner Mid-Atlantic Region
pkishphd@gmail.com

Clan Donnachaidh
Tom Due
325 West 7th Avenue
Tarentum, PA 15084

Clan Elliot
elliotclanpgh@gmail.com

Clan Forsyth
Chad Burkholder
117 Highland Drive
McMurray, PA 15317

Clan Galbraith
Paul Munshower
208 Devon Drive
Johnstown, PA 15904

Clan Gregor Society
Joseph Greer
118 Braybarton Boulevard
Steubenville, OH 43952

Clan Hamilton
Angus David Hamilton
P.O. Box 122
Scotland, PA 17254

Clan Hay Society
Kathy Wells
517 East Chestnut Street
Washington, PA 15301

Kennedy Society of North America
Colleen Caldwell
278 Reservoir Road
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

Clan Lindsay
John Lindsay
P.O. Box 336
Homer City, PA 15636

Clan Little
Margaret Little
424 Main Street
Salladasburg,PA 17740

Clan Society Sponsors

Clan MacBean
Scott Coleman
364 Monkey Wrench Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

Clan MacDougall
John Cowan
520 Luzerne Street
Johnstown, PA 15905

Clan MacEwan
Valerie Farschman
548 Elyria Avenue
Amherst, OH 15229

Clan Mac Farlane Worldwide
William Hamrick
7052 Pershing Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63130

Clan MacGillvray
Robert McGilfrey
42 Kalina Drive
Saugerties, NY 12477

Clan MacLean
Kurt Rankin
178 Mesa Drive
Freeport, PA 16229

Clan McPherson
Christopher McPherson
308 Newport Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Clan Murray Society of North America
Jane E. Murray
412 Village Walk
Exton, PA 15610

Clan Ramsay
Rich Ramsay
305 Meteor Road
Acme, PA 15610

Clan Scott Society
Marybeth Miller
201 Edith Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15211

Clan Stuart
Tom Benn
5128 Chevy Chase
Ginleyville, PA 15211

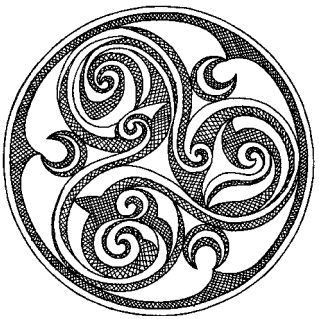
Clan Stewart
Colin Stewar
2459 Tevis Ann Court
Dublin, OH 43016

Clan Turnbull
Fred Turnbull
781 Westminster Drive
Irwin, PA 15642

Clan Young
Alfred Young
709 North Chestnut Street
Derry, PA 15627

Knights of St. Andrew
Tommy Morris
7306 Roberts Circle
Frederick, MD 21701

St. Andrews Society of Pittsburgh
Kenneth Stiles
375 South Fairmount Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15232



In Memoriam

With great sadness we announce the passing of **Roberta M. Goss** at the age of 91, this past year. Roberta served as the secretary and treasurer of the Ligonier Highland Games for over 40 years. She was also one of the founding members and officers of the Association of Scottish Games and Festivals. Much of Roberta's life was spent in volunteer work to support the organizations that worked to preserve and promote the Scottish Heritage she was so proud of and loved so much.

Roberta was the daughter of Scottish immigrant from the Glasgow region, born in a suburb of Pittsburgh and spending her early life down the street from the Homestead steel mill. Her father worked on the Pennsylvania Railroad and this led the family to the rail center of Altoona, where she married, raised a family and became involved in volunteer work and the arts and church life.

Roberta met Dave Peet, the long serving Executive Director of the Ligonier Highland Games in the 1980's. Together they worked to bring the Games to Idlewild Park and built the event from a small picnic to the large and respected event it has become.

She passed her love of Scottish heritage to her children and grandchildren and extended family of nieces, nephews and cousins, many of whom now work as volunteers at the Highland Games. She lived a life of dedication to preserving and promoting arts and heritage and exemplifying the value and impact of volunteers working for something they love and wish to preserve.

MACDONALD PIPE BAND • PITTSBURGH, PA

MCMLXVI

60TH ANNIVERSARY

Macdonald Pipe Band
60th Anniversary Concert

4 p.m. | Saturday | 9.19.26
Bethel Presbyterian Church
2999 Bethel Church Road, Bethel Park, Pa.

More information available soon on our
Facebook page or www.macdonaldpipeband.net

The Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming

Summer schools, Concerts, Pipe & Drum Band, solo lessons

20th Anniversary Celebration

Balmoral Classic

November 6-8, 2026

Concert 7:30pm
Saturday November 7
at Carnegie Library Lecture Hall,
Oakland/Pittsburgh

Stay tuned!

www.bagpiping.org

The U.S. Junior Solo Bagpiping & Drumming Championships
Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026 Pittsburgh, PA