

Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Minnesota Scots Gather for Annual Fair & Highland Games

If you are yearning to hear bagpipes and see hundreds of men in kilts it's time to mark the calendar for Saturday, May 14 and the 8th annual Minnesota Scottish Fair and Highland Games. Scots and non-Scots from across the state will gather at 9:00 am for Minnesota's largest Scottish event, at the Dakota County Fairgrounds in Farmington, just 30 minutes south of downtown Minneapolis or St. Paul.

Complete with pipe bands, great food, traditional athletic, dance and harp competitions and musicians who will set your toes tapping, you won't want to miss a minute of the fun! This year featuring Double Fiddles, Ross Sutter, Laura MacKenzie, Claireseach, Night Scotsman and, returning from Indianapolis is fair favorite, Highland Reign. Looking for your personal Scottish connection? There are dozens of exhibits where you may be able to track down a family name and learn which tartan is yours. Also featured are vendors where you can purchase your tartan, CDs, pottery and other Scottish wares. Children will love the exhibits of Shetland sheep and Highland cattle.

Watch the majestic Parade of Scots at noon. Thrill to the sound of the massed bands, when dozens of pipers and drummers take the field at 5. Bring the entire family. There are child friendly performances and activities throughout the day. Spend the day and stay into the evening for the traditional Scottish ceilidh (party) that closes the day with performances by Highland Reign and the debut of a spectacular new ceilidh band. Tickets are available only at the gate ~ FREE for 5 & under - \$15 for adults. FREE parking. Details and a schedule of the day's events at www.mnscttishfair.org.

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Fact Sheet

WHAT:

The Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games (MSFHG) is an annual festival celebrating all things Scottish. It is Minnesota's largest gathering of Scots ~ descendants of many of Minnesota's earliest settlers, newly emigrated Scots and Scots wannabes. The MSFHG is filled with music, dancing, tradition athletic competitions, exhibits by Scottish cultural / historical organizations, FREE children's activities, shopping and great food, both Scottish & American.

WHEN:

Saturday, May 14 Rain or Shine

Gates open at 8:00 am, Events begin at 9:00 am and continue until 5:30 pm. The day's events are followed by a ceilidh (pronounced "Kaylee") from 5:30 – 8:00 pm.

WHERE:

Dakota County Fairgrounds 4008 220th Street West Farmington MN 55024
Just 30 minutes south of downtown Minneapolis or St. Paul

TICKETS (at the gate only):

General admission tickets \$15; Seniors 65+ \$10; Children 6 – 15 \$5; Children 5 & under FREE
FREE Parking

Pets of any description are not allowed at the fair, service animals are always welcome.

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY:

In addition to the performance schedule available on our website competitions in traditional Scottish activities run throughout the day. These include Highland Dancing, Bagpiping & Drumming, Athletics and Scottish Harp. Children's activities including a soccer skills clinic can be found in our Family Tent.

FEATURED MUSICAL ARTISTS:

Highland Reign, Double Fiddles, Night Scotsman, Ross Sutter, Laura MacKenzie and Clairseach. In the evening we are introducing a new band formed by young native born Scotsmen now living in the Twin Cities.

PHOTO & FEATURE STORY OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND:

Contact Executive Director, Liz Michaelson to schedule interviews and receive photos.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

The MSFHG is a family friendly event appealing to all ages, toddlers to seniors. Multi-generational family groups can be seen everywhere. People of all ethnicities are encouraged to attend.

FESTIVAL FUNDING:

THE MSFHG is a 501 (C)3 not for profit organizations that is supported solely through ticket sales, participant fees & individual and corporate sponsorships.

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