



DAYTON CELTIC FESTIVAL FEATURES DYNAMIC CULTURAL AREA

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The United Irish of Dayton Celtic Festival, presented by the United Irish of Dayton in partnership with Five Rivers MetroParks, returns July 26-28 at RiverScape MetroPark in Downtown Dayton. The festival will take place, rain or shine. Admission is FREE, and plenty of shaded seating is available! Festival hours are 5:30-11 pm on Friday, July 26; 11:30 am-11 pm on Saturday, July 27th; and 9 am-6 pm on Sunday, July 28th.

The festival features a dynamic cultural area, with many exhibits to enhance festival goers' knowledge of Celtic history, language, music, and other cultural topics, including several activities for children. The workshops will take place at two tents with shaded seating.

One returning favorite is the Irish Wolfhounds in Legend and Lore, presented by the Cú & Craic Irish Wolfhound Club. The Irish wolfhound is the world's tallest breed of dog. Once prized as the war dog of the Celts, this canine is now known as the gentle giant. It was the dog of royalty in medieval times. During the Celtic Revival, the wolfhound became a symbol of Irish nationalism.

In addition, festival goers will be able to participate in workshops on topics such as Irish Language, Legends of St. Brigid, Clogging and Irish influence on American Appalachian Culture, as well as various workshops on Celtic music, use of Celtic musical instruments, and dancing. Participants will be informed on such topics as the difference between jigs and reels, and the names and origins of various instruments. The festival will also feature workshops on Introduction to Irish Bouzouki, Irish Uilleann Pipes, and Irish Banjo, along with a session with the Scottish Dancers.

The festival will also include a returning session on The Sport of Hurling (the National Sport of Ireland): 3000 years of tradition and passion by Greg Bebbington of Cleveland Hurling. In addition, children and families will experience workshops on Irish storytelling and making St. Brigid Crosses.

Here is the schedule of Cultural workshops throughout the weekend:

Saturday, July 27th

Workshop Tent #1

12:00 – 12:45: Intro to Irish Language

1:00 – 1:45: Irish Wolfhounds in Legend and Lore

2:00 – 2:25: Kids and Family Story Telling: Leprechauns Always Win

2:30 – 2:55: Kids and Family: Making St. Brigid Crosses

3:00 – 3:45: Celtic Song: From the Traditions of Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales

4:00 – 4:45: From Ceili House to Corner Pub: How the traditional Irish Session started & how it's changed

5:00 – 5:45: The Sport of Hurling: 3000 years of tradition and passion

Workshop Tent #2

12:30 – 1:15: Clogging and the Irish Influence on American Appalachian Culture

1:30 – 2:15: Have some Fun with the Irish Tin Whistle

2:30 – 3:15: Intro to Irish Music with Daniel McKewen (Drowsy Lads) & Shane Hayes (Socks & Frying Pan)

3:30 – 4:15: An Introduction to the Uilleann Bagpipe and Its music

4:30 – 5:15: Irish Bouzouki

Sunday, July 28th

Workshop Tent #1

12:00 – 12:25: Kids and Family: Making St. Brigid Crosses

12:30 – 12:55: Kids and Family Story Telling: Tales of Seamus McSeamus

1:00 – 1:45: Irish Wolfhounds in Legend and Lore

2:00 – 2:45: The Sport of Hurling: 3000 years of tradition and passion

3:00 – 3:45: Legends of St. Brigid

Workshop Tent #2

12:30 – 1:15: Clogging and the Irish Influence on American Appalachian Culture

1:30 – 2:15: An Introduction to the Uilleann Bagpipe and Its music

2:30 – 3:15: Highland Dancers

3:30 – 4:15: The Banjo in Irish Music

The event will also include the Gaelic Mass on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. on the Main Stage and various ethnic merchandise and food vendors who will be on site throughout the weekend.

For more information, please visit our Facebook page or our website at www.daytoncelticfestival.com.