



DAYTON CELTIC FESTIVAL FEATURES MUSIC, CULTURE, FOOD, MERCHANDISE

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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 24-26 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 24; 11:30 am-11 pm on Saturday, July 25; and 10 am–6 pm on Sunday, July 26.

The festival features six international headliner bands, including fan favorite Gaelic Storm, Socks in the Frying Pan, Davy Holt, The Drowsy Lads, The Elders and Bastard Bearded Irishmen. In addition, festival goers will be able to enjoy performances by several regional and local musical groups, including Dulahan, Father Son and Friends,, Miami Valley Pipes and Drums, Dogwood Road, Larry Fortson, Deborah Clark, Gem City Cloggers, Jameson's Folly, Roving Rogues and Fialla, along with dance performances by several Irish Dance groups throughout the weekend: Celtic Academy of Irish Dance, McGovern Irish Dance, and Dwyer School of Irish Dance.

Festival goers will also experience Celtic food and beverages as well as traditional festival food and drinks, authentic Celtic merchandise, a Parade of Kilts, and various cultural exhibits, many of which feature activities for children to enjoy. The RiverScape water fountains will also be available. A Gaelic Mass, always a popular festival activity, will also be held on Sunday at 10 am at the United Irish Main Stage.

The festival is open rain or shine, and the entertainment performances and cultural exhibits take place under covered seating. Box 21 Rescue is also on-site in case an emergency arises.

Parking is available near the festival site, and festival goers are encouraged to visit the festival website for the latest parking information. The parking garage on Main Street (110 N Main Street) and the Water Street Parking Garage (403 Water Street, just off East Monument Ave near Day Air Ballpark) will be open. Other parking options downtown can be found at the Downtown Dayton Partnership website (downtowndayton.org). The parking meters on the perimeter of the festival grounds will be designated as handicapped parking. Additional handicapped parking is available in the Water Street Parking Garage.

In addition, due to insurance limitations, the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) near Riverscape Metropark and the Dragons Baseball Field will NOT include the Dayton Celtic Festival footprint for the weekend of the festival. Signage will be posted instructing everyone to consume or discard any drinks in DORA cups before entering the Dayton Celtic Festival footprint.

The festival also accepts donations. Pass the hat collections will occur often at the Main Stage and periodically at all stages. Festival goers can also donate anytime during the festival at headliner merchandise sales table at the Main Stage. Festival attendees can also donate at each beverage sales station as they purchase your beverages. Beverage purchases will again be cashless this year.

For more information on the festival or volunteer opportunities, visit our Facebook page or our website at www.daytoncelticfestival.com.