



<https://gamtnscottishfestival.org/>

## Georgia Mountain Scottish Festival and Highland Games The Original Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games

Good afternoon, friends!

Happy May! Thanks for your patience as I navigate the end of the year teaching/graduation pandemonium \*AND\* organizing the Celtic Canines for only the second time. To those of you returning, I can't wait to see you and your dogs again...and to our newcomers, thank you for signing up and I'm looking forward to meeting you and your pups! This year, I'm thrilled to say we will have Dandies, Rough Collies, Westies, Scotties, Smooth Collies, Shelties, Golden Retrievers, Gordons, Scottish Deerhounds, and Skye Terriers!

As we are in the last few weeks before our big event, I wanted to share some important logistical information, a sign-up sheet so we know what our coverage is, and a map of the grounds along with photos of our display area.

### Logistics:

**1) VENUE, PARKING, AND ENTRY:** The [Georgia Mountain Scottish Festival and Highland Games](#) are held at the [Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds](#). If you have given me your tag info, then you will get free parking. Just give your tag info and say you're an exhibitor (Celtic Canines) to the attendant as you enter the lot. I'm still waiting on information about the wristbands for entry. I know they are limited, so I can provide one for the main dog handler (but will not be able to provide all in your party entry if you bring significant others). I will have a bag with wristbands - if you arrive when the event opens, then I can meet you at the entrance. If you come later in the day then I can have one brought to you. Just text me.

**2) WHAT TO BRING:** We could use 1-2 large-ish tents (10 x 10, say) to expand our footprint a bit - please let me know if you can bring one! Shade cloth would be great also. Please note that all decorations must be Scottish-themed. Scottish dress is encouraged, but not required. Bring chairs (there are a couple of benches), a hat/sunscreen, some cool water for your canine friend as it can get hot, a trolley or a crate or an x-pen, and/or a table. Last year we had a bit of rain, so towels/paper towels will come in handy. Bring info on your breed! It's easy to make free flyers with [Canva](#).

**3) WHERE WE WILL BE LOCATED:** We will be placed in the “Mountain Home” area (see attached map and photos) in the “Pioneer Village” area. It gets some shade and there are some nice benches for petting sessions. The porch of the mountain home is a bit rickety so we are not able to use it - but we can set up in every nook and cranny around it. We were a HUGE HIT last year so we got a lot of traffic.

**4) MARCHING WITH THE CLANS:** Great news - we have been approved for a “march behind the clans,” so if you’d like to participate, be sure to bring something Scottish (a sash, a kilt, or perhaps a breed or a Scottish-themed shirt) to wear as we show our crowds just how incredible and precious these Scottish breeds are. The parade of clans starts at **11:30 am on Saturday**, so you will need to be here in advance so we can be situated.

**5) EXPLORING THE GAMES:** Leashed, well-behaved dogs can indeed meander the grounds - no retractable leashes, please. It’s a great way to meet people! We have been asked not to trample flowerbeds/not to damage landscaping. We should clean up after our pets. Please remove your dog from a situation if they get overstimulated or begin to bark excessively. Also, it's suggested we keep them away from the barn animals - no “coos” for our kids.

**6) PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A TIME SLOT ASAP:** I’m attaching a link [here](#) (click on this to open it) to a Google sign-up sheet. At the bottom of the document, you will see tabs labeled for the breeds (click on yours to display it), and three “sign ups” per time slot. Ideally, we want to distribute coverage on both days so that we have some representation for our breeds over the hours and days. Let me know if you need help with this. The sooner you sign up, the sooner I have an accurate count for the wrist-bands. You can also coordinate coverage with those who have signed up, as I’ve asked that people share their phones and emails.

**7) FOR THOSE NEW TO “MEET THE BREEDS” EVENTS:** Our goal is to expose the public to our magnificent heritage breeds. The vast majority of these dogs belong to breeds whose numbers are in serious decline, if not in free-fall. Let visitors know why your breed is special. What were they bred for? What got you hooked on your breed? How are they as a pet? What is coat maintenance like? What activities do you do with your pet? Monitor your canine friend - if they’re flagging or getting overstimulated, give them a break. We want this to be pleasurable for everyone!

I want to thank each of you for considering participating in our event. The event planners requested that we take part again and were quite taken with how popular our exhibit was...and with how well-behaved our dogs were. I’m ambitious - I want our photos on the website for next year!

Should you have questions, please reach out to me. Looking forward to seeing you all there. Photos of our set-up location and a map of the fairgrounds themselves are attached.

Warmly and with gratitude,

Ana María Szolodko

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