



PSA NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Week of 6 April 2013

CHECK MARKS THE SCOT

In 2008, the President of the United States officially proclaimed April 6th each year to be National Tartan Day. The day celebrates the spirit and character of Scottish Americans and recognizes their many contributions to American culture. The April 6th date also serves to commemorate the day on which the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish “declaration of independence,” was signed in 1320.

“We are encouraging those of Scottish descent, and those who appreciate the contributions of Scottish Americans to wear their family tartans to, school, work, or play this Friday to celebrate “National Tartan Day,” said Belinda Goody, Executive Director of the Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games. “We like to think of it as *Wear Your Kilt to Work Day!*”

The Scots are credited with countless inventions, yet many people do not know the Scots boast the most inventions per capita than any other nation. Scottish inventions include roadways, tires, busses, telephones, television, light bulbs, fax machines, adhesive stamps, and ATMs with PIN technology. The list is seemingly endless.

Famous Scots, such as actors Gerard Butler, Sir Sean Connery, Brian Cox (New York’s 2012 National Tartan Day Grand Marshall), Craig Ferguson, and Ewin MacGregor grace the silver screen, while musicians like Del Amitri, Susan Boyle, Donovan, Sheena Easton, Annie Lennox, and rock bands like Simple Minds and Snow Patrol bring Scottish music to our culture.

Half of all U.S. presidents (22 of 44) have claimed Scottish heritage, and in 2006 over 6 million Americans also declared they were of Scottish descent. Scottish-Americans now outnumber the population of Scotland, where over 4 million people identify themselves as ethnic Scots*.

*according to a 2001 Scottish census.

National Tartan Day

In the United States, Oregon ranks fifth among states with Scottish-American residents - 3.2% of Oregonians say they are of Scottish descent, and another 2.3% claimed a mix of Scots-Irish-American heritage. In 2002, Oregon adopted its own official State Tartan. Colors in the Oregon tartan are: Blue, representing Oregon's rivers and ocean; gold for the state's various agricultural regions; white is for the snow-capped mountains; taupe (light brown) depicts the high desert and grasslands; azure for streams, creeks, wetlands, shallow lakes and the wide sweep of Oregon skies; and black represents the state's obsidian buttes (hills of volcanic glass). Even Oregon State University has its own official tartan, and U.S. military, fire and police forces have their own tartans as well.

"Tartan" is a woven pattern consisting of criss-crossed horizontal and vertical bands in multiple colors. Scottish weavers originally made these fabrics from wool dyed in colors made from natural materials in the area in which they were produced with resulting variations termed: *modern*, *ancient*, and *muted* referring to their color. In the mid-nineteenth century, specific tartans became associated with Scottish clans or families and most are familiar with this fabric as used in the kilt. Scots everywhere cringe when tartan is erroneously referred to as "plaid" which (in Scotland) is actually a tartan cloth slung over the shoulder. Finding a family's traditional tartan is not difficult with many online research sites available; including scotclans.com, which provides a historical snapshot of Scottish Clans, their origins, mottos, and symbols, including their tartans.

For the latest details on all events, dates and more visit newportcelticfestival.com, or call 541-574-9366. Interested persons can also join the Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games' "Fan Clan" on Facebook, or follow the Festival & Games on Twitter.

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PHOTOS (Below)

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

1.) CHA Historian, Robert MacGregor, stands at the ready during the annual Loyalty Days Parade sporting the State of Oregon tartan, which he helped to design. (Photo Courtesy: B. Goody)



2.) Newport Rotary President Claire and her husband Ray Little chat with fellow ex-pat, Duncan Brodie (wearing Scotland's National Tartan) at the 2nd Annual Robert Burns Supper held in January 2013. (Photo Courtesy B. Goody)



3.) A Highland Games athlete prepares to throw in the Weight for Distance competition. Kilts are mandatory as a part of these traditional Scottish athletic events. (Stock Photo)



Oregon Tartans

Ref: <http://www.scotweb.co.uk/tartan/Oregon/59785>

Reference: 10131

Designer: Lorenson, Krisja

Tartan date: 01/08/2005

Registration date: 19 January 2010

Category: Corporate

Restrictions: Yes.

Only licensed vendors of Oregon State University are allowed to produce/weave this tartan.



Registration notes: The tartan originated out of an Oregon State University tartan design competition run through the College of Health and Human Sciences. The competition provided students with an opportunity to apply their skills to a real-life project. 24 entries were narrowed down to 3 finalists which were posted to the University's web site. Alumni, students, faculty, and fans voted online for the winning design.

Information notes: To view woven sample, please request NAS6/O6/Object.

Woven Sample: A woven sample of this tartan has been received by the Scottish Register of Tartans for permanent preservation in the National Records of Scotland.

Registrant details: Mr Carson Dunlap, Carson Dunlap 102 Adams Hall, Corvallis, Oregon, United States, 97331
carson.dunlap@oregonstate.edu

STATE OF OREGON TARTAN

STA ref: 5743

STWR ref: none

Designer: Harding, Robert

Tartan date: 01/12/2002

Registration date: This tartan was recorded prior to the launch of The Scottish Register of Tartans.

Category: District

Restrictions:

Registration notes: The official State of Oregon tartan. Designed in 2002 by Robert Harding of Oregon Highland Services Llc. Tartan adopted at the 72nd Oregon Legislative Assembly, Senate Joint Resolution 31 plus letter from State Governor Theodore R Kulongoski dated April 12th 2003. Sample in Scottish Tartans Authority's Collection. Blue is from the Oregon flag and its rivers and ocean. Gold is also from the flag and represents the various agricultural regions. White is for the snow-capped mountains. Taupe (light brown) is for the high desert and grasslands. Azure is for the streams, creeks, wetlands, shallow lakes and the wide sweep of the oregon skies. Black represents the obsidian buttes (hills of volcanic glass).



2008 PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION

On April 4th, 2008 a Presidential Proclamation was signed making April 6th National Tartan Day!

The Proclamation:

Americans of Scottish descent have made enduring contributions to our Nation with their hard work, faith, and values. On National Tartan Day, we celebrate the spirit and character of Scottish Americans and recognize their many contributions to our culture and our way of life.

Scotland and the United States have long shared ties of family and friendship, and many of our country's most cherished customs and ideals first grew to maturity on Scotland's soil. The Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence signed in 1320, embodied the Scots' strong dedication to liberty, and the Scots brought that tradition of freedom with them to the New World. Sons and daughters of many Scottish clans were among the first immigrants to settle in America, and their determination and optimism helped build our Nation's character. Several of our Founding Fathers were of Scottish descent, as have been many Presidents and Justices of the United States Supreme Court. Many Scottish Americans, such as Andrew Carnegie, were great philanthropists, founding and supporting numerous scientific, educational, and civic institutions. From the evocative sounds of the bagpipes to the great sport of golf, the Scots have also left an indelible mark on American culture.

National Tartan Day is an opportunity to celebrate all Americans who claim Scottish ancestry, and we are especially grateful for the service in our Armed Forces of Scottish Americans who have answered the call to protect our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 6, 2008, as National Tartan Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day by celebrating the continued friendship between the people of Scotland and the United States and by recognizing the contributions of Scottish Americans to our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH