



Stone Mountain Highland Games, Inc

June 2, 2020

Friends,

It is with great personal sadness that I must inform you that the 2020 Stone Mountain Highland Games will NOT be taking place. Out of an abundance of caution and concern for the safety and welfare of our extended games family (volunteers and attendees alike), the Board of Directors of the Stone Mountain Highland Games has unanimously decided that we must cancel our annual event.

With this said, I am compelled to explain a bit of what has gone into this decision. Our committee of volunteers has been busy planning, and adjusting planning, to hold the events that make up our Games. As of mid-May, all of the key components (Clans, Entertainers, Competitors and Vendors) had been contacted and were reported to be ready, should we be able to proceed.

With our focus on safety as well as government mandates and advice of medical authorities including our own CDC in Atlanta, we made adjustments and readjustments to our plans in light of the current and ever changing circumstances to add separation in the clan, vendor and other areas as well as with respect to Opening and other ceremonies and massed band performances and Parade of Tartans.

Our planning had to be coordinated with our partners at Stone Mountain Park and our host hotel. The hotel is presently closed with plans to reopen originally in June, now sometime in August. Under current rules the group facility capacities could be reduced by as much as 2/3rds. Discussions with our Park partners indicated serious issues with respect to group events in general, food services, restroom facilities, shuttle services, and other service-related items. We are not able to achieve solutions with either the Park or hotel that would adequately provide workable and safe environments for the Games.

For more than 47 years we have referred to our volunteers and event attendees as our "Games Family". As we considered the options, the decision became easier although no more palatable. We MUST keep our GAMES FAMILY safe and healthy.

For those few that have registered for competitions, paid clan registrations, or trophy donations this money will be refunded. You may expect to see refunds in the next few weeks.

Finally, from my wife, myself, our Board of Directors, and all our volunteers, we pray that you and your family will stay safe and healthy. It is our sincere hope that 2021 will see our lives return to a more normal routine and we will be able to welcome all our extended family back to the meadow at Stone Mountain Park, October 16-17. Until then please stay safe.

Yours Aye,

Norman P. Livermore
President, Stone Mountain Highland Games Inc.