

**I had a wonderful time** at Scottish Weekend. I had never been to such a big gathering of Scottish Country Dancers, and it was great to see everyone so enthusiastic about dance. I learned a lot in the classes, and had a ball dancing to the amazing music. But it wasn't only the dance and music that made it a great weekend. There really is something about Scottish Country Dancers that allows new people to come in and in a short time to feel like part of a big family. The friendliness and fun and welcoming attitude warmed my heart. I see that this gathering is something that people look forward to all year. It was a special time out of time, and I hope I can make it a yearly event in my life. Thank you for making this possible!

If you come alone to an event with over a hundred people but within minutes you feel like part of the family...you might be a Scottish Country Dancer!

**This year's Scottish Weekend was definitely one of my best weekends** of the whole year and I am very thankful that I was able to attend. The dance classes were great fun and very helpful to me. The teachers were enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and innovative in their approaches to teaching. My dancing will certainly benefit in the future from their help. I also attended one music class, and for it I have a better understanding of how a group is to work together to create danceable music. New ideas were discussed in a light that I'd never thought of them and I'm very appreciative for this new knowledge.

Not only were the classes informative and fun, and the Friday and Saturday night dances exquisitely enjoyable to both watch and participate in, but I also made some great friends. Scottish Weekend is not just about the dancing and music; it's about the companionship. The Scottish Weekend experience is invaluable and I am eternally grateful that I was able to attend this year and in all previous years. This year it was entirely to the thanks of our scholarship donors, and to them, I assert that Scottish Weekend is a life-changing experience that is priceless and I thank them all deeply.

**I enjoyed the Scottish Weekend tremendously.** The people I met, both fellow student attendees and instructional staff, were invariably helpful and kind, as well as fun to be around and inspiringly enthusiastic about SCD. I learned more than I thought I would be able to learn. In addition to the prevailing positive attitude and encouragement, I was most impressed by the teaching staff. Antoine Rousseau was a keenly observant instructor, whose directions, advice and example were consummately brilliant in all respects. I also found Janet Walker's guidance particularly valuable and encouraging. I was lucky enough to have a free afternoon period when I could sit in on Jim Lindsay's music session, and I gained many valuable insights into Scottish dance music from his teaching. More impressive still, I witnessed the musicians working under his guidance respond to his suggestions on the spot and improve their playing together and enhance their musical feel for the tunes they were performing. The musicians who played for each dance learning class were fantastic. They contributed a large measure to making the learning of dancing such fun. The setting at Timber Ridge was beautiful and the weather could not have been more perfect. The meals were good, the menu choices diverse, and the dining hall atmosphere comfortable.

**I liked the place where the Scottish Weekend was held** because it's peaceful and the buildings were all conveniently close to one another. The people were all friendly and not intimidating.

There was no "elitism" in choosing dance partners such that the best dancers would only choose equals to dance with them. I felt I was welcomed as a dance partner by beginners and experts alike. The food was good. The instructors were excellent and I was amazed at how much I was able to learn from them.

**This was my first Scottish Weekend and I had a memorable time meeting people**, dancing with live music. It was humbling to see that people had traveled great distances for the weekend, to see how much they cared.

The teachers were amazing and had so much energy that transfused into the students during classes; they helped us with great effort in perfecting our techniques. It was so gratifying to see everyone having a good time, smiling, having fun, which amplified my happiness factor million times more. I loved the march before the ball on Saturday night. I hadn't experienced it live and being in the march; had never experienced anything like this before; the whole thing was surreal at times. The hall was packed at the ceilidh, it was amazing to see everyone's energy even when it was so late in the night. The performances were enriching and made everyone come together in the spirit of sharing love for being a "Scottish Country Dancer".

While we were dancing, someone said, "anyone who can't enjoy Scottish Dancing, can't be happy in heaven." I totally agreed with this statement. There is something special about communal dances—the energy. Thanks to all the organizers and everyone who contributed.

**I had a blast at Scottish Weekend this year.** It was amazing from start to finish. I loved the experience I gained from learning from various teachers and loved the great music throughout the whole weekend. The weekend as a whole was fun and enjoyable. Tiring but quite fun. The last night was amazing with the dances and then there were people who STILL danced despite dancing the whole program! It's truly astounding when people have the energy to dance and then perform in the ceilidh. I loved the music by the very talented musicians and I have to say that Dave with the music class really shows his talent with music. The ceilidh was amazingly fun to participate in and to enjoy. From the piping to dance performances and musical acts. It was my first and certainly not last ceilidh to experience and it was an unforgettable experience that hopefully I will be able to enjoy and partake in future years to come. That being said I appreciate the great food cooked by the staff there and the wonderful company I was able to be around during the whole weekend. The classes were extremely helpful and I'll remember their feedback as I continue dancing in years to come. Thinking of the Weekend puts a smile on my face. Thank you for all you've done for Scottish Weekend! And thanks again to you and the scholarship committee for allowing me the opportunity to come learn and meet great dancers from around the area and world. This was my first Scottish weekend and I look forward to attending next year and seeing the same great faces there and meeting new ones.

**As a graduate student living in New York City**, I don't have the funds to travel and provide the registration fee to attend Scottish weekend. Without the aid, I could not afford to attend the weekend. I spent the weekend meeting new people, and focusing on learning more figures. Next year I hope to focus more on my technique! I had tons of fun at the dance and ball, as well as the ceilidh. Can't wait till next year!

**Yes, Scottish Weekend was amazing!** I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to participate this year thanks to the generous support of the contributors to the scholarship fund!

I had the best time this year both on the dance floor and off... Making new friends and refreshing old acquaintances made for a thoroughly enjoyable event.

I look forward, each year, to refining my skills as a dancer but was especially touched this year by the incredibly welcoming and warm atmosphere created by all the participants and wonderful guest instructors.

Thank you again to all those who made financial aid available to dancers like myself who would be unable to attend without their generous support.