

TENT HOSTING 101: CLAN ANDERSON

By Mary Ann Henry

I hosted for the first time at the 4 Day Event known as the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games 2022 in North Carolina. And I had a wonderful time. Was I nervous? Yes. Was I worried? You bet. But I was prepared because I began planning more than 6 months in advance. In retrospect I can say some things worked beautifully and others, well, I plan to make some changes as I go along. But here are my *First Time Hosts' Tips to make Tent Hosting Fun and Easy*:



Once you've determined the dates for registering for the event, the fees, and contacted the Clan Anderson Society Ltd about the dates, etc. you will need certain supplies for that day. I decided ahead of time that Anderson Modern is the most recognizable and went with that for all items for the tent, even though I prefer and wear Anderson Ancient and Anderson Hunting.

TENT BANNER (see picture above)

There are two ways to mount the banner on the tent.

- 1) Mounting PVC pipes on top of the front horizontal pole of the tent. This allows for the maximum amount of room for coming in and out of the tent.
- 2) Hanging/Zip-tying it to the horizontal pole across the front of your tent. Which will require you to place a table in front of the tent for greeting people. And, yes, many will have to duck their heads to walk into the tent.

I utilized the second method with an 18" high by 96" long vinyl tent banner. I worked with Fast Signs in the city of Charleston, SC and they did the design and creation. I checked and approved each step of the way. It cost \$120.00. I supplied a sash of the Anderson Modern tartan. They took the photo of it and used it as the background. I also supplied a Vector Image of the Clan Anderson Crest. I chose an Antique Gold color for all the text as I believe it works well with the yellow in the tartan.

Note: Next year, I plan to use the PVC pipe mounting method as the Clan Anderson Tent was extremely popular at Grandfather Mountain and I want to allow as many people as possible to come inside.



PARADE BANNER:

I made a vinyl parade banner myself. I received many compliments on it but was it as impressive as the embroidered text on wool/handwoven in Scotland parade banners? No, but it was much less expensive for this first-time Host.

I purchased a 27" x 40" Anderson Tartan Clan Flag Badge on Zazzle.com - \$62.00 but always on sale.

Cut 6 inches of the bottom of flag into the shape of a point, about 34" high.
Added gold polyester fringe. I hand sewed on. Bel Avenir brush fringe, 3½" long, \$19.99 on Amazon.
Bought wood dowel rod from Lowe's for top pole slot, placed a 1¾" wood finial on each end from Amazon.
Bought wood flagpole and brass hardware for mounting the flag from the Carolina Flag Shop in Charleston, SC for about \$15.00. I cannot tell you what those two curved brass pieces are called but the Flag Shop guy had them on hand and showed me how to mount them.

TWO-PERSON CARRY BANNER

(Optional but can also be mounted in tent before and after parade)

I like using *both* a parade banner and a two person carry banner - as the more pomp and ceremony the better! I was not wild about this end product, but it worked fine for the first year and may do well for many more.

I shamelessly asked a friend of mine to design this (I supplied the crest, a photo of the tartan and did the initial design) and then sent the link to Lushbanners.com and they printed it for \$80 dollars including shipping.



ANDERSON TARTAN FLAG

I ordered the flag from The Scottish Grocer which is located in North Carolina. They import everything and flags may take a long time to receive if they are not in stock. They are made in China but are wool and are actually very nice for the price. www.thescottishgrocer.com. I bought a telescoping aluminum flag pole from Amazon.

TABLE CLOTHS

You can buy basic blue polyester tablecloths from Amazon for 10 dollars each. Or you can spring for these Anderson Tartan cloths from Scottish Clans. www.scottishclans.co \$60.58 each.

CLAN ANDERSON STAMP

Many games have a 'treasure hunt' for children and they will stop by your table and you stamp their book for them. I ordered a Self-Inking Stamp with blue ink and it was great. Supplied a black and white image of the Crest for them and added the text 'Clan Anderson'. \$11.99 at Amazon or Office Depot.

SUPPLIES TO HAVE ON HAND

Clan Anderson Guest Sign In Sheets (Download from www.clanandersonsocietyltd.com under the resources tab.)

Information Page for Becoming Member with QR Code for signing up at that moment (download from website)

History of Clan Anderson 1 pager (download from website)

Duct Tape, Pens, Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Bottled Water, Scissors, Zip ties, Bungee cords, Screw drivers

2 blue tarps 8 x 12 ft (in case of rain can hang on sides)

Don't forget rain ponchos and boots.

HOSPITALITY SUPPLIES

This is up to you. I do not 'feed' people as I believe in supporting the many food trucks that are working the event. I do have bottled water in a cooler and yes, a bit of the Oaky, Malty, Smoky Nectar from Scotland which I bring out *judiciously*, especially to welcome new members. Be sure to be aware of any legal implications for your area. Discretion is definitely the better part of hospitality in this case. You will want to buy those tiny red solo cups or basic plastic shot glasses. You need only fill them with a thimble full. Oh, and I do bake cheddar shortbread and bring dozens of these small salty, cheesy, delicious cookies as they go so well with the above-mentioned nectar.

NOW, GO FORTH AND HOST!

Do not let the prices of the items above discourage you. You may very well find a nearby host who will share their tent supplies with you. I spent a year accumulating mine, so it was not overwhelming at all. I encourage you to take the first step and contact our President, Kenneth Anderson, at zoodonline@gmail.com if you are considering hosting a Clan Anderson tent at a Scottish Games event in your area. I hope this information helps you in organizing for your event. Please know that there are online companies that will sell you beautifully crafted banners, etc. from Scotland. The Tartan Lady is one of these companies, but they are pricey. Best of luck and be sure to post lots of photos from your event on the Clan Anderson Society LTD Facebook page.

