

## **Sebastian Chamber of Commerce Questions**

Aug 26, 2025

- 1) Can you share a brief history of the Scottish Society of the Treasure Coast and how it came to be?

The Scottish Society was founded and incorporated in 1995 after 3 local people, Joyce Smith (Salter), Mac Grady and Remson Paul organized a Kirkin' Of The Tartans in February and an Organizational Luncheon in Vero in order to gauge interest in the project. There were 70 attendees at the Luncheon in March and shortly thereafter our wonderful Society was born!

We are a Florida registered Charitable Organization governed by a Board of Directors who are all unpaid volunteers.

- 2) What is the Society's mission, and how does it connect with our local community?

The purposes for which the corporation was formed are to promote and encourage the study and public recognition of the art, history, literature, folklore, cuisine, traditions and contributions of Scotland and the Scottish people

The Scottish Society's mission connects with our local community by offering scholarships, grants and traditional functions, as well as educational opportunities through the Brevard Scottish Country Dancers. We also offer ancestry research through our Genealogy Special Interest Group at the Main Library in Vero Beach, engaging in Downtown Friday events in Vero Beach and look forward to engaging with the Sebastian Chamber of Commerce at Riverview Park. The Scottish Society also holds Pub Nights regularly. Our last two were held at Marsh Landing in Fellsmere and our next one will be in September at Woodies BBQ in Sebastian.

- 3) What draws people to Scottish heritage and culture here in Florida?

People are drawn to the Scottish Society for many diverse reasons: our many events and programs, ancestry, Scottish country dancing,

attending VB polo matches, and of course the sound of the bagpipes!

#### Events & Tourism Appeal

4) What major events or festivals does the Society host that visitors should know about?

Our major events include a celebration of the Patron Saint of Scotland, St. Andrew; Burns Supper, celebrating poet Robert Burns; Scottish Afternoon Tea, and the Kirkin O' the Tartans. All of these events are open to the general public where attendees will enjoy colorful speeches, musical presentations, including Highland Dancers and the iconic dress of Scotland. We also recommend that tourists consider attending the Central Florida Highland Games in Winter Springs near Orlando, where we will have a booth.

5) Are there opportunities for tourists or seasonal residents to attend your gatherings or celebrations?

All of the events are open to the general public.

6) How do your events showcase Scottish traditions—music, dance, food, or Highland games?

At our events, those attending are encouraged to wear traditional highland dress. Generally, there will be pipe and drum music and the Highland games at Winter Springs near Orlando is a 'do not miss event' in January each year.

7) Which upcoming events should visitors mark on their calendars?

St. Andrew's Celebration--Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 5:00 pm.  
at Pointe West Country Club, Vero Beach

Central Florida Scottish Highland Games—January 17-18, 2026, in  
Central Winds Park, Winter Springs, FL

Burns Supper—Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 5:00 pm. at Pointe West  
Country Club, Vero Beach

Afternoon Tea—Sunday, March 22, 2026, 2 to 4 pm. at Pointe West Country Club, Vero Beach

### Cultural Impact & Community Involvement

8) How does the Scottish Society partner with other local organizations, businesses, or tourism efforts?

The Scottish Society works with the Sebastian Chamber of Commerce and the Vero Beach Chamber of commerce to contribute and be present at many of the local events. We also purchase advertising for our events with several local publications. The Scottish Society puts out numerous flyers, membership applications and other information at both the Vero and Sebastian Chamber of Commerce offices where tourists can use this information to join in our many events.

9) What unique Scottish traditions do you highlight that people might not expect to find on the Treasure Coast?

At our Burns Supper we have the full Vero Beach Pipes and Drums Band performing several sets of traditional Scottish music; we also showcase traditional Highland Dancing by the Center for Dance and the Performing Arts.

10) How do you engage younger generations or new members in keeping the heritage alive?

We encourage young people to apply to our scholarship fund so they can pursue their studies in Scottish music and/or dance. We provided five (5) scholarships this year.

### Visitor Experience

11) If someone is visiting Indian River County or the Treasure Coast, what's the best way for them to experience what your Society offers?

The best way to experience what our Society offers is to go to our website: [www.scottishsocietyofthetreasurecoast.com](http://www.scottishsocietyofthetreasurecoast.com), where all of our events and current information is available.

12) Do you offer public demonstrations, performances, or cultural programs that visitors can attend?

All of our events and programs are open to the public.

13) How can someone with no Scottish background get involved or enjoy your events?

Contact us by using our email account:  
[tcscotsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:tcscotsmembership@gmail.com) or visit our website.

14) What are your goals for the Society in the next few years regarding tourism and cultural outreach?

The Society would like to expand its events and encourage tourists to attend.

15) If you could tell visitors one thing about the Scottish influence on the Treasure Coast, what would it be?

The Scottish Society has offered a unique cultural experience for visitors to the Treasure Coast through its many events.

### Fun Extras (great for social media!)

- If your Society had an official tartan for the Treasure Coast, what colors would it feature and why?
  - Our Tartan would be blue (for our waters), green (for our diverse vegetation), orange (for our beautiful sunsets) and white (for our striking cloud formations).

Which Scottish food or drink should every visitor try at least once—even if it's just for bragging rights?

We recommend Shepherd's pie (made with lamb) accompanied with a dram of single malt Scotch

- If a visitor tried their hand at Highland dancing, what's the funniest or most common beginner mistake you, see?
- - Turning the wrong way when changing partners.
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  - However, we'd like to add just one remarkable and unusual fact about Scotland – most countries have a National Animal or Bird but Scotland has a UNICORN! This was added by Robert the Bruce in response to the English King Richard who had used the Lion as their National Animal and legend has it that the only animal who could defeat a lion was a unicorn!

File: Answers to Sebastian Chamber