

SURREY KHALSA DAY PARADE

Parade Procession Guide

The 19th annual Surrey Khalsa Day Parade is the largest outside of India. This colorful and entertaining procession will be winding its way through the streets of Surrey on Saturday, April 22nd. In total, over 2,500 participants representing approximately 20 community organizations will participate in this celebratory event, with thousands more celebrating this memorable day in roadside booths along the parade route. As part of the spirit of this community celebration, which draws more than 300,000 guests from across the region, the roadside booths give away free food and treats to onlookers.

Your guide to the 2017 parade procession:

1. Sikh Motorcycles

Leading off the 2017 parade procession, members of all three Sikh motorcycle associations are participating. The only one of its kind in Canada, the club was established in 2002 and today has over 90 members. In BC, Sikhs are legally allowed to ride motorcycles while wearing a turban according to the Provincial Motorcycle Act.

2. Sikh Band

The Sikh marching band has 60 members and plays classic instruments from the Punjab.

3. Canadian Armed Forces

This float has six members of the Canadian Forces as well as two Humvees. The Canadian Forces and the Sikh community have a longstanding relationship that dates back over 100 years, and this year's parade entry is a salute to the Sikh community during this day of celebration.

4. Parshaad (Sikh Food Offering)

Parshaad is a traditional Sikh dried sweet that is used as a religious offering. Volunteers from the Gurdwara Dasmesh Darbar Temple will be handing out these sweets to the crowd.

5. Movie Production- Channel Punjabi

Capturing all the exciting events of the 2017 parade on camera, this year's crew will record and produce a DVD of the Vaisakhi celebrations.

6. Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji

The most important float in the procession, this float carries the Guru Granth Sahib, the 11th Guru of the Sikhs. The Guru Granth Sahib is the holy scripture of the Sikhs, regarded as the teaching of the Ten Gurus.

7. Har Jus Kirtan

With more than 100 members, participants in this parade entry will perform traditional Sikh hymns. These hymns, many of which are hundreds of years old, unite the crowd in celebration.

8. Khalsa School - Newton

The Khalsa School in Newton will have 500 participants, aged kindergarten to grade 12, in this year's entry. The Khalsa Schools are private Sikh schools dedicated to teaching the whole child through academic, Sikh religion and cultural classes. The participants from the Newton Khalsa School will perform hymns and traditional dances throughout the parade procession.

9. Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara – Surrey/ Delta

This is operated by the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara Society and provides Sikh religious programs as well as social, sports and youth programs including Punjabi School, Kirtan, and Gatka (Sikh Martial Arts). There are regular Sikh Youth Seminars and Workshops.

10. Gatka

Gatka is a traditional South Asian form of Sikh martial arts.

11. Revolution Records

Revolution Records was born out of the desire to see more music that reflects and contributes towards social change. The music produced by Revolution Records, will not be without meaning, instead it will be full of purpose, ideas, awareness, and of course easy on your ears.

12. TransLink

The first of two vehicles provided courtesy of TransLink, Greater Vancouver's public transportation authority.

13. Guru Angad Dev ji (G.A.D.) Elementary School

Students from kindergarten to grade seven will represent the new, Surrey-based private elementary school, Guru Angad Dev ji Elementary, in this float. Following the schools vision statement to "learn, lead, serve", their entry will encourage a message of love for mankind, humanity and feelings of universal brotherhood.

14. Dasmesh Darbar Float – Environmental/ Waters

Since its formation in 1998 to help combat the growing issues affecting the Sikh community both locally and globally, Gurdwara Sahib has continuously held programs to benefit and promote the Sikh way of life. Aside from the regular Gurdwara Darbar program, classes for children to learn Punjabi/Gurmukhi, Sikh History and Gurbani are held on an evening classes

basis. The Gurdwara Sahib has always actively supported local Sikh Youth groups and has a strong youth presence amongst its Directors, Committee and Membership.

15. Dasmesh Punjabi School – Abbotsford, BC

Dasmesh Punjabi School located in Abbotsford has built a very impressive school on the foundation of the Sikh faith and the Punjabi language and culture. As a vibrant K – 12 school with more than 700 students, they pride themselves on the individual attention that each student receives here. Learning flourishes in a safe and caring environment.

16. KidsPlay

KidsPlay is organization, which aims to provide our youth with sports initiatives and educational awareness of key issues affecting them. This is accomplished by collaborating with key stakeholders in the community, to reduce the number of youth entering a lifestyle of drugs, gangs and crime.

17. Sikh Academy

The Sikh Academy in Surrey, established in 2008, is a private elementary school from kindergarten to grade seven. Three hundred and thirty children are expected as part of this entry, representing their school and its motto of, “imagine, innovate, inspire”.

18. TransLink

The second of two vehicles provided courtesy of TransLink, Greater Vancouver’s public transportation authority.

19. Mamta Foundation

The Mamta Foundation of Canada aims to help children around the world through moral, social, cultural and economic support. Its first project is to help raise funds for the construction of a new building site for abandoned and orphan girls in Jalandhar City, India.

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