THE CALGARY STAMPEDE PARADE QUICK GUIDE FOR ENTRANTS

The Calgary Stampede Parade Committee is in the Show Business.

The iconic Calgary Stampede Parade is the kickoff to The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth!

We are in show business! As a world-class parade our mission is to provide maximum entertainment for our spectators and a great Stampede experience for our participants.

These guidelines are an overview of how we carry out that mission while ensuring adherence to the very highest safety standards for both humans and animals.

What Types of Entries are in The Parade?

A successful entry should contain either a Float or Equine component. Other than marching bands, entries primarily made up of walking or dancing individuals are not typically a good fit for the main parade, but may be ideal for the Parade Prelude.

All entries should reflect the Calgary Stampede's core values of western hospitality, integrity, pride of place and commitment to the community.

Parade Prelude

While spectators line the streets in anticipation of the big show, Parade Prelude provides the entertainment in the form of static performances at four to seven different locations along the parade route. Prelude performers include teams of dancers, stage bands, acrobats, mascots and trick ropers etc.

Floats

A great float entry is one which immediately captures the eyes of the audience. It tells a story or conveys a message and should portray a consistent theme in all aspects including decorations and costumes of participants.

Floats must be 100% decorated; no part of a vehicle, towing unit or float chassis should be visible. No flat deck trucks or lowboy units are allowed. Pick-up trucks or automobiles may only be utilized if not recognizable in their basic form. Tarps/Blankets/Decals etc. as vehicle coverings are not acceptable.

Equine Entries

Horses have always been a hallmark of the Stampede Parade. A typical parade will have more than 500 horses in entries which include: Horses and riders, Mounted colour parties, Heavy horse hitches, Horse-drawn wagons and carriages.

Not all horses are parade-worthy. Before considering an equine entry, it is critical to determine if your horses are truly suited for the parade.

All horses (including tack) will be inspected by the Parade Horse Safety Team prior to entering the Parade Route. Hitches and Wagons will also be inspected at this time as well.

The Calgary Stampede and the Stampede Parade have a Zero Tolerance Policy to animal abuse. The Calgary Stampede Animal Care Code of Practice **corporate.calgarystampede.com/about-us/animal-care**, and all other applicable rules and guidelines apply on Calgary Stampede property and the parade route, as well as all parade staging areas including Fort Calgary.

All Entries

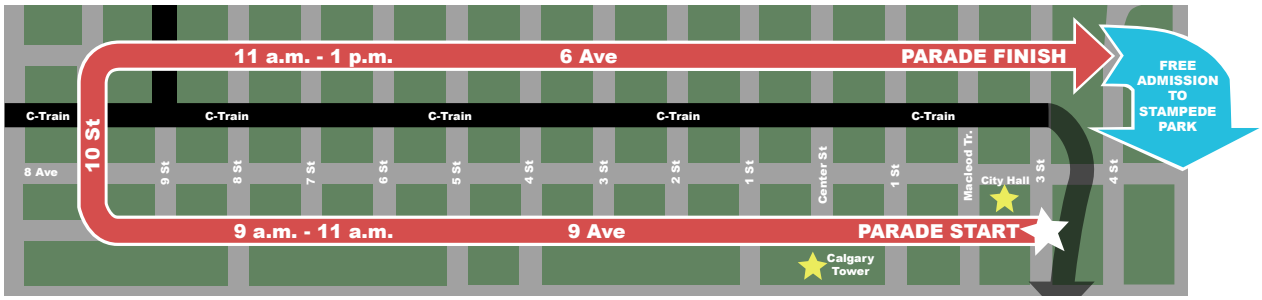
Audience engagement can enhance any entry, however the safety of all participants and spectators must be considered. The distribution of any material from a float, wagon, or any participant is prohibited. Entries from the business community are encouraged, provided the overall theme of the float is not dominated by a commercial message. Corporate entries partnering with community and charitable organizations can be the foundation for a great entry.

Safety, Insurance and Etiquette

The safety of all two and four-legged participants and spectators the top priority of the Stampede Parade Committee. Entries must comply with CS Parade Guidelines and Best Practices and the Calgary Stampede Animal Care Code of Practice, as well as comply with all government regulations, safety codes, and similar standards. The ultimate responsibility for safety lies with each individual entry!

All entries will be inspected by parade officials prior to entering the parade route. Safety checklists for both float and equine entries will be provided in advance and our volunteers can provide developmental consultations and initial safety checks in the weeks leading up to the big show.

All Entries, (including Marching Bands), must be willing and sufficiently physically fit to maintain both the parade Pace (3.8kph=210ft/min) and spacing. The parade route is 5km in length and the air temperature can change several degrees from the beginning of the parade until the end. All entries must provide their own insurance which meets the requirements of the Calgary Stampede.



Are you ready to become part of the parade?

Visit www.calgarystampede.com/stampede/parade for more information

Applications close on February 15, 2026