

Parade Procession Guide

The annual Surrey Khalsa Day Parade is the largest outside of India, a colourful and entertaining procession winding its way through the streets of Surrey on Saturday, April 19th. In total, over 2500 participants representing over 20 community organizations will participate in this celebratory event, with thousands more celebrating the spirit of Vaisakhi in roadside booths along the parade route. As part of the spirit of this community celebration, which draws close to 200,000 guests from across the region, the roadside booths give away free food and treats to onlookers. Your guide to the 2014 parade procession:

1. Sikh Motorcycle Club

Leading off the 2014 parade procession, members of the Sikh Motorcycle Club 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. Nagara (Sikh Drum)

The ceremonial Nagara drum is beat to signal onlookers that the procession is happening and is played on festive occasions. The Nagara is similar to a kettle drum and comes in two different sizes.

3. Sikh Band

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

4. 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.

5. Parshad (Sikh Food Offering)

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

6. Asian Television Network

Broadcasting Surrey Khalsa Day Parade across Canada and around the world from 8am – 6pm PST.

7. Guru Granth Sahib*

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 teachings of the Ten Gurus.

8. 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.

9. Sarbat Khalsa

This float tells the history of the Sarbat Khalsa, a biannual mass meeting of the Khalsa people held at Amritsar in the Punjab during the 19th century. Sarbat Khalsa is translated as “entire Sikh community”.

10. Gatka Dal

Gatka is an ancient martial art that has existed in India for many thousands of years. Wooden sticks are used to simulate swords in sparring matches. It is considered to be a spiritual as well as a physical exercise.

11. Khalsa School Gatka

Khalsa School students perform the ancient martial art Gatka.

12. Khalsa School Band

The Khalsa School Band is a marching band with 60 members. The band will play up-tempo marching band music.

13. Khalsa School Kirtan

Kirtan practice involves chanting hymns to the accompaniment of instruments such as the harmonium, tablas, the two-headed *mrdanga* or *pakhawaj* drum and hand cymbals (*karatalas*).

14. 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”.

15. 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 school’s vision statement to “learn, lead, serve”, their entry will encourage a message of love for mankind, humanity and feelings of universal brotherhood.

16. Victoria Sikh School

This entry will include members of the 100-member student body of the Victoria Sikh School performing traditional Sikh hymns and dance.

17. Sikh Organization for Prisoner Welfare (SOPW)

SOPW is the only charity in the world whose mandate is solely to ensure the civil rights of Sikh Political Prisoners are ensured in India.

18. Guru Tegh Bahadur Welfare Society

Guru Tegh Bahadur Welfare Society is a local Sikh Temple located in Cloverdale, BC.

19. World Sikh Organization

The World Sikh Organization of Canada (WSO) is a non-profit organization with a mandate to promote and protect the interests of Canadian Sikhs as well as to promote and advocate for the protection of human rights for all individuals, irrespective of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, and social and economic status.

20. 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.

21. Translink Bus**22. Dasmesh Punjabi School**

Surrey based Punjabi language school run by the Khalsa Day Parade host Gurdwara Sahib Dasmesh Darbar Temple.

For assistance please contact:

Laura Ballance
Media Relations
604.637.6646 (direct)
604.771.5176 (mobile)
Laura@LBMG.ca

Rebecca Peters
Media Relations
604.637.6649 (direct)
604.762.2098 (mobile)
Rebecca@LBMG.ca