

2018 Surrey Vaisakhi Parade Procession Guide

NEWS RELEASE
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SURREY, BC, April 20, 2018: Once again Surrey British Columbia will be host to the largest Vaisakhi Parade happening outside of India. On Saturday April 21, the 20th annual parade will be winding its way through the streets of Surrey in a colorful and entertaining procession.

In total, over 2,500 participants representing almost 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 is expected to attract in excess of 400,000 guests from across the region this year, the roadside booths give away free food and treats to onlookers.

Organizers of the event, the Gurdwara Sahib Dasmesh Darbar, along with a number of supporting agencies including Fraser Health, the Surrey RCMP, the City of Surrey (including City of Surrey Bylaws office) are reminding businesses and individuals participating in the Parade-route kiosks and stands to observe safe practices. All of these practices and other detailed information, including the parade route map, can be found outlined in detail on the parade website (surreyvaisakhiparade.com).

Your guide to the 2018 parade procession:

1. Sikh Motorcycle Club

Leading off the 2018 parade procession, members of all three Sikh motorcycle associations are participating. 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. 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.

3. Royal Canadian Navy

This entry includes a vehicle and information about the Royal Canadian Navy.

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. LIVE Production CHANNEL Punjabi

Capturing all the exciting events of the 2018 parade on camera, this year's crew will record and produce a DVD of the Vaisakhi celebrations.

6. Main Float 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 teaching of the Ten Gurus.

7. Har Jus

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

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

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. Sikh Riders

This Lower Mainland based motorcycle enthusiast club will have a number of members riding in the parade.

15. Dasmesh Punjabi School

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. Khalsa Credit Union

This entry is from the world's largest Sikh financial institution and will be providing free water to parade goers.

17. 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.

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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