



## 2023 Surrey Vaisakhi Parade Procession Guide

**Surrey, BC:** The Surrey Vaisakhi Day Parade is the largest in the world and features a colourful and entertaining procession will be winding its way through the streets of Surrey on Saturday, April 22nd. In total, over 2500 participants representing over 20 community organizations will participate in this celebratory event, with hundreds of thousands more celebrating this memorable day in roadside booths along the parade route. As part of the spirit of this community celebration, which draws in excess of 500,000 guests from across the region, 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](http://surreyvaisakhiparade.com)).

### Your guide to the 2023 Parade Procession:

#### 1 - Sikh Riders

Members of the Sikh Riders, a Lower Mainland based motorcycle enthusiast club will have a number of members riding in the opening procession for the Parade. In BC, Sikhs are legally allowed to ride motorcycles while wearing a turban according to the Provincial Motorcycle Act.

#### 2 - Gatka Demonstration

Gatka is a traditional form of Sikh martial arts. Children will be demonstrating the traditional art form.

### **3 - Parshaad (Sikh food offering float)**

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 offerings to the crowd.

### **4 – Water Spray Tractor**

Street cleaning in advance of the Guru Granth Sahib float's arrival.

### **5 - Channel Punjabi Broadcasting**

Capturing all the exciting events of the 2023 Parade on camera, Channel Punjabi will be broadcasting live to a global television audience from the Parade route.

### **6 - Guru Granth Sahib (The main float in the Parade)**

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

### **7 - Sanjha TV**

Sanjha TV live broadcast production from the Parade Route.

### **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 - 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.

### **10 - TransLink (1)**

One of two buses provided courtesy of Translink, Greater Vancouver's public transportation authority for transportation along the route for community elders.

## **11 - Revolution Records**

Revolution Records was born out of the desire to see more music that reflects and contributes towards social change.

## **12 – Surrey Police Service Vehicle**

The Surrey Police Service (SPS) will celebrate the important day with the community with an SPS vehicle and accompanying SPS officers participating in the parade procession.

## **13 - Sikh Academy**

The independent school in Surrey teaches students from kindergarten to Grade 7. Its goal is to provide an affordable school that offers great teaching, an exciting and nurturing atmosphere, and a place where we all strive to produce exceptional citizens of the future.

## **14 - 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.

## **15 - Dasmesh Punjabi School Abbotsford**

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 – Gurmat Academy**

Dasmesh **Gurmat Academy** is a gurmat based educational institution in Surrey, created to teach, mentor, and empower young gursikhs and the youth of our community.

## **17 - TransLink (2)**

One of two buses provided courtesy of Translink, Greater Vancouver’s public transportation authority for transportation along the route for community elders.

## **18 - Surrey Food Bank**

The non-profit organization, the Surrey Food Bank, will be collecting donations of non-perishable food along the Parade Route.

## **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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