

Parade Procession Guide

The 12th annual Surrey Vaisakhi Parade is the largest outside of India, a colourful and entertaining procession winding its way through the streets of Surrey on Saturday, April 21st. 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 in excess of 100,000 guests from across the region, the roadside booths give away free food and treats to onlookers. Your guide to the 2012 parade procession:

1. Sikh Motorcycle Club

Leading off the 2012 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. Canadian 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. 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.

4. 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.

5. Movie Production

Capturing all the exciting events of the 2012 parade on camera, this year's crew will record and produce a DVD of the Vaisakhi celebrations.

6. 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.

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. 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”.

9. Joy TV Recording

Serving spiritually and culturally diverse audiences throughout Surrey & the Fraser Valley, Vancouver and Victoria, Joy TV offers inspirational, multi-faith, and family-friendly programming. Catch your favourite TV personalities on this float as they grab live footage of the event and hand out foam microphones to kids.

10. Khalsa School Band

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

11. 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.

12. Khalsa School - Surrey

This year the Khalsa School in Surrey will have 500 young participants, aged kindergarten to grade 12 representing their school.

13. Khalsa School - Vancouver

Vancouver's Khalsa School will have 300 students from kindergarten to grade 10 representing their school in this year's event.

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

15. Chardi Kala (In High Spirits)

This float tells the story of oppression inflicted on the people of Punjab. Their stories will adorn the float with the hope of positive influence and change in their future by having their stories told all over the world, especially in democratic and human rights abiding countries in the West. It carries with it the central theme of the “Khalsa” which is to uphold the values of equality, human rights and the right to determine your destiny for every individual regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, etc.

16. Awaz-E-Punjab

Awaz-E-Punjab is AM 1470's newest type of talk radio, offering the Indian community of the Lower Mainland a chance to come together and express their opinions on current events affecting India and the Punjab region.

17. I Pledge Orange

This float entry will feature the messages of peace, equality and justice. Celebrating the core values of the Sikh faith, the I Pledge Orange float was developed by young people from the Surrey Sikh community.

18. Khalsa Aid

Established in 1998, Khalsa Aid is an international not-for-profit aid and relief organization founded on principles of selfless service and universal love. Based in the UK, Khalsa Aid raises both funds and awareness for countries in need, most recently, Japan, India and Haiti.

19. Sher-E-Punjab

Sher-E-Punjab is the South Asian Community's first ever news / talk radio station. Broadcast throughout many parts of BC as AM1550, and carried by stations across Canada and a few in the US, Sher-E-Punjab prides itself on giving its audience a chance to voice its opinions on issues that are important to the local community.

20. 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.

21. Translink

The first of two Translink buses provided courtesy of Translink, Greater Vancouver's public transportation authority to carry Sikh elders during the event.

22. Darpan Anti-Drug Float

Bringing a strong anti-drug message, this float encourages young people to be a positive role model to their peers.

23. Red FM

Live radio cruiser. See some of your favourite personalities from Red FM, the voice of the South Asian community on local radio airwaves. Listen to the top songs from Punjab and Bollywood charts as this vehicle passes by.

24. 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.

25. Pingalwara Society

This is a volunteer-run organization started nearly 100 years ago by Bhagat Puran Singh Ji. The Society helps the poor, sick and mentally ill in India. This float intends to raise awareness for one of the charity's endeavors, the Amritsar Orphanage in India.

26. Lost & Found

This ride ensures any lost children are safely returned to their parents.

27. Translink

The second of two vehicles provided courtesy of Translink, Greater Vancouver's public transportation authority.

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