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Calgary Stampede

SHOWBAND

**Colour Guard Audition Packet
2016**



What to Expect at Auditions for the Calgary Stampede Showband

What should I bring?

Bring what you would normally bring to a band rehearsal: your instrument, music, a water bottle etc. You also need to bring the audition material which is provided online at www.stampedeshowband.com. Prospective guard members should bring a flag or rifle if they have access to equipment. If not, we can supply you with a flag to use for the evening. Percussionists should bring sticks or mallets appropriate for their audition instrument. If adequate sticks are not available, they will be provided for the evening. Instruments for drumline and pit will also be provided so that recruits do not need to bring their own.

What should I wear?

Be sure to wear clothes that are comfortable and shoes you are able to march in. Colour Guard members should wear tight fitting dance clothes and dance shoes if possible.

Do I need to prepare anything?

Please review the Audition Materials section of www.stampedeshowband.com. Each section has its own individual audition material to prepare. Please note this material does not need to be memorized.

What will I be doing at auditions?

When you arrive, you will be asked to check in at a table for your section. You will be given a number. Try to arrive early, as check-in can be hectic. You will be split into sections, and evaluated by current Showband staff and some guest evaluators. You will also be doing some marching fundamental basics. You do not need to prepare anything for this section of the evaluation. There will also be a short interview so our staff can get to know you and see if you are prepared to take on the Stampede Showband.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for individuals who adapt well to new situations, learn quickly, and have a positive, friendly personality. Have fun at the audition and be yourself. Try not to be nervous! The audition is also an opportunity for you to see if Showband is really right for you.

Who will be watching me?

You will be auditioned by the sectional staff of the current Stampede Showband and some special guests. These people are not judging you; they are just trying to find out if you would be a good fit in next year's band.

When will I find out if I'm in?

All auditioning members will be notified of their audition results by email before July 18, 2016.

What if I missed the audition dates?

Call the band office at 403.261.9318 and we may try to arrange an individual audition. However, every effort should be made to come to the group audition.

Additional note for field percussion

All field percussionists will audition for a spot in the drumline, but not for a specific instrument (i.e. snare, tenor, and bass drum). All drummers must be prepared to audition on *at least* two drumline instruments. You may request a specific instrument by speaking to the instructors present on the night of auditions, but there are no guarantees.



2016 Colour Guard Audition Package Guide

Thank you for choosing to audition for the Calgary Stampede Showband. Just by taking that step and challenging yourself, you have already chosen to be a better performer! The Showband is looking for individuals that want to be the best at what they do. Have fun with the audition. Please click on the Join The Band link at www.stampedeshowband.com to find all information pertaining to the audition. If you have any questions at any time, please don't hesitate to contact the band office at 403.261.9318.

Colour Guard

There are three components to the audition process:

- 1) Résumé
- 2) An interview
- 3) Movement and equipment exercises

Please note that a résumé and a list of three references (with at least one being a music teacher or dance/movement teacher) are required when you come the night of the audition. Please make the résumé specific to your musical/dance/movement/marching experiences.

Please prepare the video exercises that are provided, but most importantly, relax and be yourself!

The following is a list of exercises and skills that we would like to see you perform during your audition on flag and rifle. Remember, technique is important in order to be successful, but so are trying your best and recovering well. The goal here is to be familiar with the exercises. The better you know them the more confident you will be and therefore more successful in the audition. An expectation in the Stampede Showband Colourguard is to spend time working through exercises and choreography independently. Feel free to talk with members of the Stampede guard or contact the staff with any questions. Don't fret, these do NOT need to be perfect, just familiar.

1) FLAG

- **Drop Spins, double time and Peggy Spins:** Must be able to demonstrate these basic activities with proper technique of wrist rotating, elbows remaining still and a strong core. Must be able to keep tempo and use eyes as a visual aide to remain in sync with others around you. 100 drop spins into 100 double time into 100 Peggy Spins, back into 100 Drop Spins. No stopping, no tempo change.
- **Stops:** Using video provided, tossing a double rotation at the end. *Video Correction: At the end, toss from the bottom third (A) and the tab (Centre) as is shown, not stated.
- **Tosses:** J Tosses, singles and doubles
Simple angle tosses on left and right
- **Cones:** Using video provided.
- **Flag Choreography:** This will be taught during the audition

2) RIFLE

- **Spins:** You must demonstrate 100 rifle spins in each hand. The focus is on keeping the elbow glued against the side and the only motion is of the wrist. Maintain a 90 degree level, not letting the forearm move up and down. The finish is most important: maintain tempo. Opposition squeeze, hand to the end of the barrel. Maintain tempo provided, slow tempos or quick tempos.
- **Tosses:** 3's, 4's and 5's using the video provided
- **Back Hands:** Using video provided
- **Choreography:** There will be a small workshop of material to learn and perform.

3) MOVEMENT

- There will be a movement technique portion
- Across the Floors
- Choreography: Workshopped movement material.

All movement will be taught during the audition.

We are very excited to see how each of you moves and performs and we wish you the best of luck. Regardless of the skill level you are at, we would love to see you; remember that we are rooting for you to perform your best!!! No matter what the results, we hope we can make this a positive learning experience for you. Practice hard and have fun!

Calgary Stampede Showband

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