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Calgary Stampede



**Colour Guard Audition Packet
2021**



2021-2022 Auditions Colour Guard

Updated: June 21, 2021

The Stampede Showband program is designed to develop youth within the performing arts and encourage each member to achieve musical, performance, and personal excellence. Our members develop athleticism, artistry and the confidence that comes from honing skills through hard work and persistence. Through more than 700 hours of rehearsal each year and with each high-energy performance, members gain valuable life skills including leadership, goal-setting, and teamwork.

For the 2021-2022 auditions the Showband will be using a two-step process:

- Step 1 – Video Submission
Deadline for submissions is September 14, 2021
- Step 2 – Live Colour Guard Auditions
Live auditions will occur September 25, 2021 and September 28, 2021 (Step 2 – Live Audition)

Step 1 - The video submission should include three components:

Rather than a single long video, we would like separate clips for each part of your audition: Introduction and Skill Demonstration. It's easier for us to review and easier for you to shoot.

Part 1 – Introduction (One video)

- Introduce and tell us about yourself, ie: grade, school, extracurricular activities
- Tell us about your music/marching/performing arts experience
- Tell us why you would like to be a member of the Calgary Stampede Showband
- Tell us why you are a good fit for the Showband

Part 2 – Skill Demonstration (One video)

- Review and learn the choreography in this standstill routine, I'll be There for You:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBRjGvAQDkuGm5hphixG4OplaOafK5w8t>
- For your video, demonstrate to the best of your abilities the choreography

Please use this audio file for your video recording:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/176uGxfPL1z_DPGT6jkbN_35NNJCjf_X4/view?usp=sharing

If you don't have access to guard equipment, please contact the band office.

Take as many takes as you need to until you feel comfortable with your submission!

Evaluation:

The audition team will be evaluating you on the following:

- We are looking for little details such as hand placement, foot choreography and timing
- Think about the performance energy you want to put behind it and show us those personalities!

Part 3 – Resume and Headshot

- Resume - Please note that a resume and a list of three references (with at least one being a music teacher or dance/movement teacher) are required. Please make the resume specific to your musical/dance/movement/marching experiences.
- Headshot - Please take headshot on white background and no hat.

Audition tips:

- Be relaxed and show your personality
- Find a quiet location
- Warm up before you start
- It's ok to be nervous, we just want to see your talent, and it's ok to make a mistake



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- The Showband staff is rooting for you. Being judged is rarely fun and always nerve-wracking, so remember that the staff wants you to be successful. If you have questions as you prepare, don't hesitate to contact the band office.

Submission tips:

For best results, place your recording device on a stationary object, such as a tripod or table. Do not tape a close-up; have your entire body (from head to toe) in the frame.

Prior to recording, test that you are in focus and well lit, and that your video is free from distracting background noise.

- We will not be influenced by the quality of the video, we want to see you
- Footage must be of clear viewing quality
- Media-enhanced, highly edited, or promotional-type videos will not be reviewed

When you are ready to submit your videos:

- Please upload your videos to <https://forms.gle/jRTaYWy4K5pitp99>
- Please have a headshot available for when you are ready to upload – please take headshot on white background and no hat.
- Email rfulbrook@calgarystampede.com to confirm your submission was received.



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Step 2 – Live Audition on September 25, 2021 and September 28, 2021

The live auditions will take place on September 25, 2021 and September 28, 2021 at Enbridge Plaza near the TransAlta Performing Arts Studios (TAPAS). 1302 6th Street SE. Candidates are asked to attend both dates.

- September 25, 2021
 - 8:30 am Check In
 - 9:00 am Auditions
 - 12:00 pm Dismissal
- September 28, 2021
 - 6:00 pm Check In
 - 6:30 pm Auditions
 - 9:30 pm Dismissal

Candidates should check-in 15-30 minutes before their scheduled time.

The week prior to the live auditions, you will receive a map and additional instructions for gathering and distancing protocols. These protocols are for your safety and the safety of others around you. If you are unable to participate in the live auditions for COVID-19 reasons, please contact the band office.

Live Skill Demonstration:

For the live Colour Guard audition, please prepare the following exercises:

- Movement Exercise
- Flag – Foot Exercise
- Pull Hit Exercises
- Flag Tossing Exercise
- Rifle Exercises

[Link to Colour Guard Audition Manual](#)

Evaluation

The audition team will be evaluating you on the following:

- Overall flag technique and timing
- Movement timing
- Performance

What to Bring

Bring what you would normally bring to a band rehearsal: your flag, rifle, a water bottle etc. If you don't have access to equipment, please let the band office know and we will provide what you need.

What to Wear

Be sure to wear clothes that are comfortable and shoes you are able to move in. If possible, members should wear tight fitting dance clothes and dance shoes.

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. We are very excited to hear you play and we wish you the best of luck. 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!



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For more information or if you are having troubles with your submission, please contact:
Robin Fulbrook, Youth Development Coordinator
rfulbrook@calgarystampede.com
403.261.0277 (Band office)



Colour Guard Exercise List

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.

Movement Exercise: Please reference video

We will work through this on the day of auditions, but from the video you can learn the basics and try and follow along on the sequence! Below are some tips on what we are looking for:

Working through Parallel position knees over toes and working through spinal twist, keeping hips to the front through each movement. Arm reaches and extensions should be full out- reaching through the tips of the fingers and energy through each set.

Take all the counts, don't rush through each set! Use of breath- inhale on the collapse and exhale on the reaches through stretches on second set, stretch through the backs of the legs. In the lunge, find 90 degrees, and in the standing stretch, hips and Feet parallel to the side.

Focus and performance! Movement is about expression, making it your own and breathing life into every movement you do. Have fun with it!

Flag – Foot exercise

Basic drop spin exercises with a simple movement exercise underneath.

Stretch through the feet and tendue to the side. Feet should remain turned out on each cross on 2 and 4. Hips stay flat to the front- use the turn out from the hips, thighs and knees- drive knees over toes Hand position on flag- keep this in the spin spot. Rotation through the wrist and flat on the double time spins. Initiation, subdivide and squeeze! Hitting each count where they need to be- either straight up and down or flat on the double time. Core, shoulders down, long necks, eyes up. Nice strong stop! Squeeze the flag and lift up

Pull Hit Exercises – Please reference video

Pull hit routine for an understanding of release and energy under the flag and application to pull and squeeze on the catch. Below are some things we will be looking for:

An understanding of release point in space for " release hand " Application of strong core, standing up straight, ribs closed, long necks and not releasing the lower back through each set.

Strong catches! 2 handed catch, not lifting up and down when you release but energy outward and inward through release and squeeze. Different applications of Straight catch, angle and flat

Strong releases under single tosses – Straight arm on the release, lifting up under the catch towards top knob.



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Flag – Tossing exercise – Please reference video

Basic sequence of tosses adding the difficulty of the 45 Degree toss from different rotations and releases. Below are some things we will be looking for:

- A basic understanding of a 45 toss
- An understanding of the release point
- An understanding of change of speed and release
- To be able to accomplish this on both hands would be a bonus!

Rifle spin Exercise, with feet – Please reference video

Basic spin exercises with a simple movement exercise underneath. Please see both videos to learn the feet first and adding the flag second. Below are some tips on what we are looking for:

Stretch through the feet and tendue to the side. Feet should remain turned out on each cross on 2 and 4.

Hips stay flat to the front- use the turn out from the hips, thighs and knees- drive knees over toes
Hand position on flag- keep this in the spin spot. Rotation through the wrist and flat on the double time spins.

Initiation, subdivide and squeeze! Hitting each count where they need to be- either straight up and down or flat on the double time.

Core, shoulders down, long necks, eyes up
Nice strong stop! Squeeze the flag and lift up

Rifle Quick hands – Please reference video

Stops exercise on rifle is used for an understanding of release and energy under the equipment and application to pull and squeeze on the catch. Below are some things we will be looking for:

- Right hand down on the release- last moment it lifts to catch equipment
- Strong catches- squeeze! No movement underneath
- Watching the height of the release and catch
- Hand placement on the catch
- Squeeze through entirety of the exercise, including the hand switch. Small movement

Rifle Tosses- Please reference video

During the audition you will be asked to toss a 3, 4 and 5 on rifle. Below are some things we will be looking for:

- Strong initiation, hit strong on 7 squeeze 8 before the release. Application of the sub divide on the preparation
- Understanding of height of release hand
- Understanding of the rotation through the wrist to achieve different rotation and heights
- Strong catches!

Videos are located here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-nIDOB8GvDGxsktAjQW6V9jjDYOBKgv5>



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 2 to 3 weeks following the auditions.

What if I missed the audition dates?

Call the band office at 403.261.0277 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.