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Calgary Stampede

SHOWBAND

— 5 0 Y E A R S —

**Colour Guard Audition Packet
2020**

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.

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.

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.

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>