

# Calgary Stampede Foundation Programs 2016–2017 Highlights

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*Calgary Stampede*  
FOUNDATION

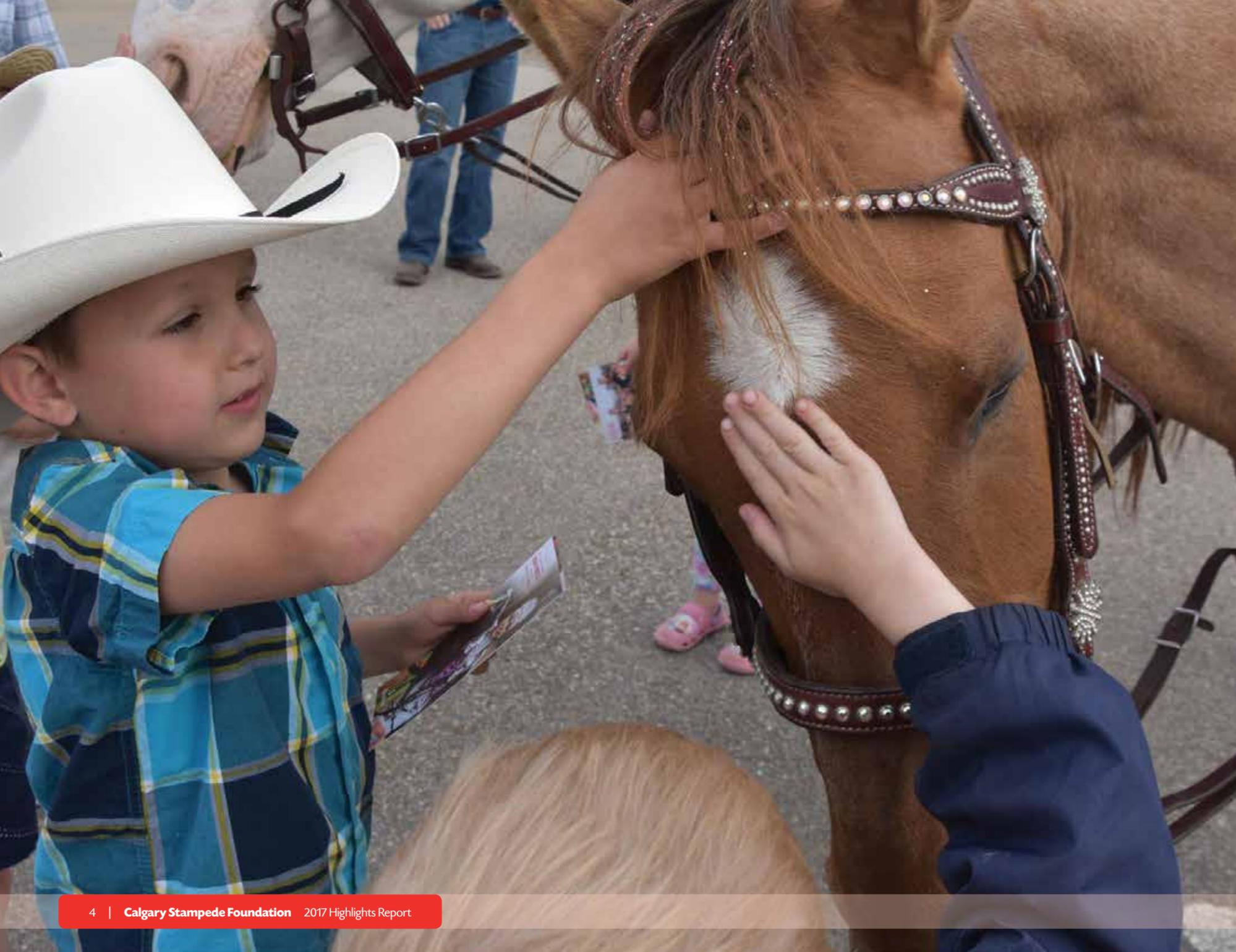




# **Strong Youth. Stronger Community.**

The Calgary Stampede Foundation creates motivated and engaged young Calgarians, empowered to do amazing things, by providing places and programs in which youth can thrive. The Foundation creates a generation of young people with the skills, confidence and strength to make us all stronger. This report provides a reflection on the past year, and a glimpse into the exceptional experiences, unique moments, and lasting memories fostered through the Calgary Stampede and Calgary Stampede Foundation's Youth Achievement Programs.

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## A message from the Calgary Stampede

2017 has been a remarkable year of transformation. Together we have celebrated many things; the opening of the TransAlta Performing Arts Studios and most recently, the BMO Amphitheatre. We are so proud of these milestones achieved by the Calgary Stampede Foundation, and its continued focus on building vibrant, world class facilities and programs for our city.

By creating spaces for youth to thrive, together we are helping to create motivated and engaged young people empowered to do amazing things.

By investing in these incredible facilities, together we are investing in the future and in bright young people who will use them for years to come.

The Calgary Stampede Foundation's youth achievement programs are thriving. The many performing arts and specialized education programs provide truly unique experiences to thousands of students year round.

Thank you to the valued partners, donors, volunteers and employees of the Calgary Stampede Foundation and Calgary Stampede who have the vision and commitment to continue to change the lives of so many youth each and every year. We can't wait to see what 2018 will bring.

Sincerely,

David Sibbald  
President and Chairman of the Board,  
Calgary Stampede

Warren Connell  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Calgary Stampede

## A message from the Calgary Foundation

The Calgary Foundation is a proud shareholder and supporter of the Calgary Stampede Foundation. It's great that our organization has found an organization with similar values through which we can create a lasting partnership and help build value for our community today and into the future.

As part of our support, we were happy to donate \$1 million to build the Calgary Foundation Crossing in ENMAX Park. ENMAX Park has become a vibrant gathering space for the community and place for Indigenous culture and youth education to develop and be celebrated.

Through our work with the Calgary Stampede Foundation we are building a healthy, vibrant, giving and caring community that fosters youth achievement and education.

We are happy to support the work of the Calgary Stampede Foundation and their commitment to youth achievement. Through their performing arts and education programs, the Calgary Stampede is bridging the gaps between rural and urban youth and delivering both exceptional experiences and opportunity for youth.

We are proud to continue to work alongside the Calgary Stampede Foundation and look forward to continuing to build connections with the community and help youth achieve their dreams.

Sincerely,

Eva Friesen, President & CEO  
The Calgary Foundation



## A message from the Calgary Stampede Foundation

The 2016/2017 school year brought out the best in our students and community, as we continued to build strong youth and a stronger community with our Calgary Stampede Foundation youth achievement programs.

For more than 20 years the Calgary Stampede Foundation has provided meaningful opportunities for youth to learn about the rich heritage of western Canada, while realizing their full potential by developing their talents, character and valuable leadership capabilities.

At the core of the experiences we provide, we instill youth with a sense of belonging and support them in developing valuable life skills. We are proud that our programs make a lasting impact on the lives of young Albertans and the community around us.

We'd like to thank our generous donors who believe in our vision and who have helped build our world-class programs. Without their support we couldn't help create and nurture our community's future leaders.

We hope that you enjoy reading about the accomplishments of our programs over the last year, and that these stories inspire you.

Thank you again to all of our donors, teachers, coaches and students for a great year!

Sincerely,

Bob Thompson  
Chair,  
Calgary Stampede Foundation

Sarah Hayes  
Vice-President,  
Calgary Stampede Foundation

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Peter Valentine



# Stampede School

Stampede School is a first-class educational experience for students in grades 1 to 12 that relocates their classroom to Stampede Park. In their new setting, students and teachers experience deep and innovative learning and make connections to history, agriculture, and western heritage and values. Students are surrounded by western artifacts, unique cultures, equine classmates, and intriguing guest speakers. Stampede School, a Campus Calgary site, is inquiry-based, innovative, and focused on hands-on experiences. Each class' week-long experience is customized to fit their particular curriculum and individual needs.

## WESTERN PAINTING WITH ARTIST LARA KRUGER

This winter Stampede School hosted 28 homeschool co-operative students, grades one to nine. In order to create a shared learning opportunity across all ages, artist Lara Kruger came to teach and explore western art with the class. Lara is the niece of Western Showcase artist Malcolm MacKenzie, and portrayed a deep passion for western art to the students. The students' work included landscapes, barns, and blue skies and Lara worked with the students to fine-tune their interpretations. Each completed piece showcased unique creativity, and the students learned just as much from Kruger, as they did from one another.



## EQUINE EDUCATION WITH MUFFY KNOX

The equine safety, communication and education class, as taught by expert horse trainer, Muffy Knox, is always a student favourite and highlight of Stampede School. Students learn through interaction and observation with two of Muffy's horses, Creampuff and Dubbie, bringing the lessons to life through vivid understanding and creating lasting memories.

## STAMPEDE SCHOOL VISITS THE OH RANCH

Two classes from Forest Lawn High School's English Language Learners program experienced western culture, history, and the beauty of the historic OH Ranch. The student participants were all new Calgarians, several having recently come from Syria, Columbia, and other countries from around the world.

Here's what they had to say:

"This is beautiful! I had no idea this kind of place existed so close to my house in the city."

"Thank you for bringing me here. It is peaceful and reminds me of my home in Syria."

"I really like being able to learn about how life used to be for people who lived here."



23 CLASSES

19 GUEST SPEAKERS

497 STUDENTS

575 INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS



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# Testimonials

"The students became better observers and sketchers. They learned to take their time looking at different areas of Stampede Park and started to ask deeper questions and make more connections." - Teacher

"The experts that presented to my students were fabulous. The patience, knowledge and passion about what they presented encouraged engagement, thinking and curiosity." - Teacher



"My students don't often get to experience many things within our city because of their economic backgrounds or cultural backgrounds or even may be new to Canada. Having my students see horses and getting to brush and pet them was a unique experience for them and even meeting a real cowboy. Many have never been to the Calgary Stampede and had lots of great questions for the different presenters. Many of my students had never been in the Saddledome and were so excited to see the inside and sit in the seats. It connected with some math word problems we had worked on this year and it was exciting for them to actually see the insides!" - Teacher

"The biggest impact I have noticed is how the students relate what we are learning about Calgary's past with their experiences at Stampede School. They are confident in their understanding and share it with others. Most recently, students in my class have been teaching the other grade one students about what they learned." - Teacher

# The Young Canadians School of Performing Arts

The Young Canadians School of Performing Arts (TYC), comprised of 128 dedicated youth ages 11 to 18, is a world-class performance training program focusing on dance, voice, and acting. A talented team of faculty and specialists foster technical development, artistic creation, and performance excellence through elite classes, workshops, and one of a kind performances that inspire our community's most talented youth. The Young Canadians astound audiences each and every time they hit the stage, culminating in their ultimate performance for an international audience of more than 150,000 spectators at the annual Calgary Stampede TransAlta Grandstand Show.

## OUR OWN THING

Among the many shows that The Young Canadians perform, this year's production "Our Own Thing" at the Grand Theatre provided a unique educational opportunity for Young Canadian students. The complete package, from concept to stage, was created by TYC members. Young Canadians had the opportunity to learn multiple on and off-stage production roles and practice the life that they dream to excel in, first hand. Supported by faculty mentors, participants designed and produced performance numbers and led costume design, musical direction, stage direction, lighting and design. This full-immersion experience, into the intricate and complex

entertainment industry, created responsibility, teamwork, creative fun, imagination, and celebrated the pride of TYC!

## WORLD-CLASS PERFORMANCE TRAINING

In December 2016, the Young Canadians showcased their teamwork, dedication and passion through the creation of their very own unique music video. This one-of-a-kind project provided the opportunity to collaborate with performance arts and entertainment industry expert and TYC alumnae, Louise Hradsky. Louise has worked as Assistant Choreographer on numerous notable projects including the Disney Descendants franchise. TYC alumni, current members and mentors were inspired through art and culture to create an amazing and original performance event that was truly extraordinary.

## VEGAS TOUR 2017

The senior Young Canadians engaged in a multitude of unique and exciting international educational experiences in the entertainment capital of the world, Las Vegas. Members partook in classes, viewed shows, visited the Palms recording studios, and trained with dancers from shows such as J-Lo and Cirque Du Soleil. Students were inspired as they observed bigger than life spectacles and received first-hand behind the scenes insight and training from the stars of the shows.



**128** STUDENTS

**12** INSTRUCTORS

**10** GUEST INSTRUCTORS

**31** PERFORMANCES

**600** AVERAGE INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS/STUDENT

## Testimonials

"My favorite part of TYC was performing and making so many new close friends. Performing in front of so many people on such a big stage is incredible. The people I spent the season with were amazing and I met so many new friends. Even if we only spent a few months together we became really close. It was also really cool how we got to see behind the scenes of a big show and meet some really cool performers (like Jann Arden!!)."

- Student

"I loved the new experiences TYC gave me. I got opportunities that I never got in competition dance, such as shooting a music video and performing for thousands of audience members. Grandstand is something I will always remember because I made many amazing memories from it."

- Student

"The Young Canadians had not only helped me improve my singing, dancing, and overall performance, but it has shaped my social life and my identity."

- Student

"The community atmosphere allowed me to express myself through performing arts. TYC often uses the term "family" to describe the company, I believe this is truly important. The atmosphere that TYC has created allows growth and opportunity, they treat us as more than just a team, we are all very well cared for."

- Student

"This program helped me grow as a person. It allowed me to show all of myself in a place of no judgement on top of helping me realize I want to dance as my career. It helped me find who I am on and off the dance floor."

- Student



# Calgary Stampede Showriders

The Calgary Stampede Showriders is a dynamic musical ride team and mounted colorguard for Alberta youth ages 14 to 21. The Showriders program provides community youth with opportunities to learn individual and group horsemanship skills, and ride and perform in an engaging and team oriented environment.

## AGGIE DAYS - EDUCATING THE URBAN COMMUNITY

Each year the Calgary Stampede hosts Aggie Days, a weekend of agriculture activities for the community. This year, families attending Aggie Days experienced even more than expected, as Showriders provided a unique opportunity to meet and pat their equine teammates. Urban audiences were educated and entertained during informative and interactive horse demonstrations where members showcased their horsemanship and performance skills through a display of their equestrian musical ride show.

## MANE EVENT EQUINE EXPO

Spring provided an opportunity for the Showriders to take their performance 'on the trail' as they joined Western Canada's elite equine performers at the Mane Event in Red Deer, Alberta. Members had the opportunity to perform multiple times

throughout the conference, while building their own knowledge and skills through participation in many equine horsemanship clinics and seminars.

## RENDEZ-VOUS CANADA

The Showriders helped showcase our City's western hospitality to 1500 international Tourism Industry delegates as part of Rendez-vous Canada. The global conference attendees were spellbound by the 'up close and personal' encounters with the Calgary Stampede's dynamic youth mounted honor guard. Showriders and their equine partners demonstrated their horsemanship expertise through the red-carpet spectacle with camera flashes and energetic crowds.

## CALGARY STAMPEDE RODEO

For over 30 years, the Showriders have been showcasing their exceptional equestrian pageantry at rodeos and parades across southern Alberta and internationally. In 2017, for the first time in Showriders history, members were able to present their horsemanship and performance skills to 20,000 guests alongside Calgary Stampede President, Dave Sibbald, during the daily rodeo address. Members were honoured to carry our nation's flag and provide a patriotic tribute during the daily singing of "O Canada".



16 STUDENTS

8 JUNIOR AND DEVELOPMENT STUDENTS

4 INSTRUCTORS

2 GUEST TRAINERS

321 INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

60 PERFORMANCES

## Testimonials

"Being a member of the 2017 Calgary Stampede Showrider team has given me many opportunities to better my riding abilities as well as the abilities of my horse. The program has taught me independence, horsemanship, teamwork, and people skills. The foundation of the coaching staff along with the rest of the team is based off of support and helping one another which made for an amazing season."

-Student

"Showriders changed my life in such a positive way and created a person in me that is so much stronger, confident and capable than ever before. I will always look back on the wonderful lessons Showriders has taught me."

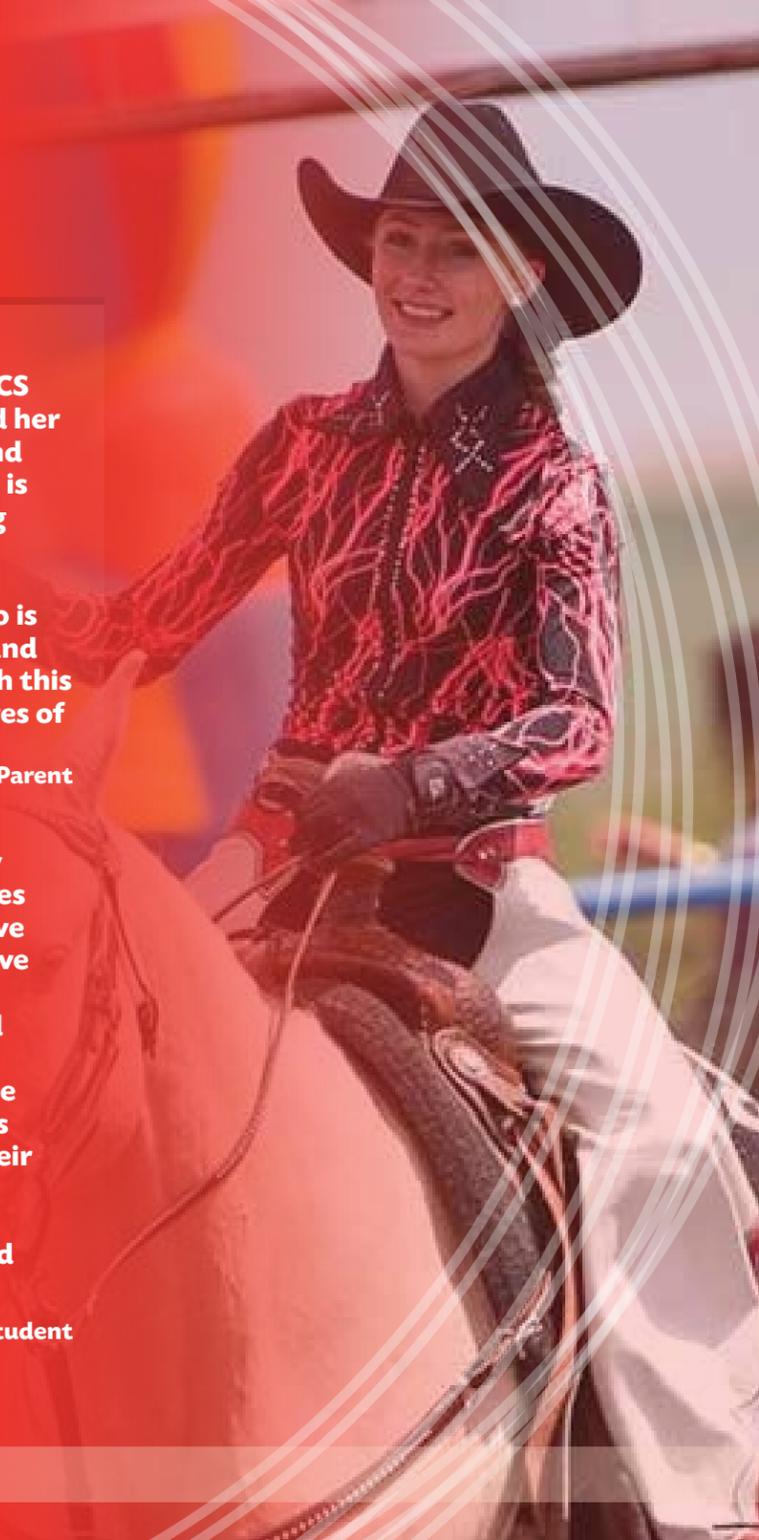
- Student

"For the past 3 years I have watched my daughter flourish thanks to the CS Showriders' program. I have watched her horsemanship drastically improve and her confidence grow. The friends she is making and the person she is turning into has all been shaped by the Showriders' program. I could not be more proud of her and everyone who is a part of the program. The director and coaches are doing a fantastic job with this program and helping to shape the lives of all the people who are a part of it."

- Parent

"The Calgary Stampede Showriders program has completely changed my life. The lifelong friends and memories I have made while in the program have been more than what I ever could have imagined. The director, coaches and committee have inspired and pushed me to be a better horsewoman and all around person and I will forever be thankful to have them as role models in my life. Everyone involved puts their heart and soul into the program and it's been an honour to represent my hometown with such a classy, fun and fantastic group! I love Showriders!"

- Student



# 4-H at the Calgary Stampede

## 4-H ON PARADE

4-H on Parade is Canada's largest gathering of 4-H clubs and members; future community and agriculture leaders. 4-H on Parade offers both rural and urban youth in the Calgary region an opportunity to show and compete with their projects at the third largest youth showcase, of its kind, in North America.

This annual event provides opportunities to network, practice presentation skills, and build self-esteem and confidence. From raising livestock to demonstrations of small engines and photography, individual projects provide an opportunity for members from different communities to experience all that 4-H has to offer and make connections with others.

This year, 4-H on Parade celebrated the 100th Anniversary of 4-H in Alberta with a circle drumming activity, speeches, awards and cake. The 4-H on Parade Committee reached out to newcomers in the Ramsay community by inviting 500 guests to the Saturday morning pancake breakfast.

## 4-H RODEO

In addition to the 100th anniversary of 4-H in Alberta, it was the 20th anniversary for 4-H rodeo at the Calgary Stampede. The hard working and dedicated group of volunteers put together a

fantastic weekend of education and competition with nearly 70 participants competing in eight different rodeo events and over 12 hours of clinic instruction. Youth learn about everything from roping and riding skills to head injury prevention and proper animal care techniques taught by professionals.

## 4-H BUILDS COMMUNITY

The Calgary Stampede Queens' Alumni committee, in partnership with the 4-H committee, and sponsored by Maxim Power Corp., hosted Giddy-Up Rodeo. This event provided an opportunity for special needs children to have some fun and try their skills in mock-rodeo events. Guests were welcomed to the Agrium Western Event Centre where they received official rodeo back numbers – just like the 4-H Rodeo competitors receive. The warm up arena was transformed with activities for everyone. There were cuddly farm critters waiting to be pet and a massive steer to sit on and take a photo. Perhaps the most exciting part however was the 4-H activities. Members of 4-H Rodeo pulled guests around in miniature chuckwagons, taught guests how to throw a rope, helped push and pull teeter totter bull-riding and even did slow horse walking tours where guests could sit in the saddle. It was a beautiful event, and was especially amazing to see youth helping youth.



**15** COMPETITIONS

**595** PARTICIPANTS

**100** YEARS OF HISTORY  
IN ALBERTA

## Testimonials

**"One of my favourite parts of 4-H on Parade is that I get to practice my judging skills on lambs and the more I practice the better I get. This will help me with my future career as a veterinarian. 4-H teaches us how to do better!"**

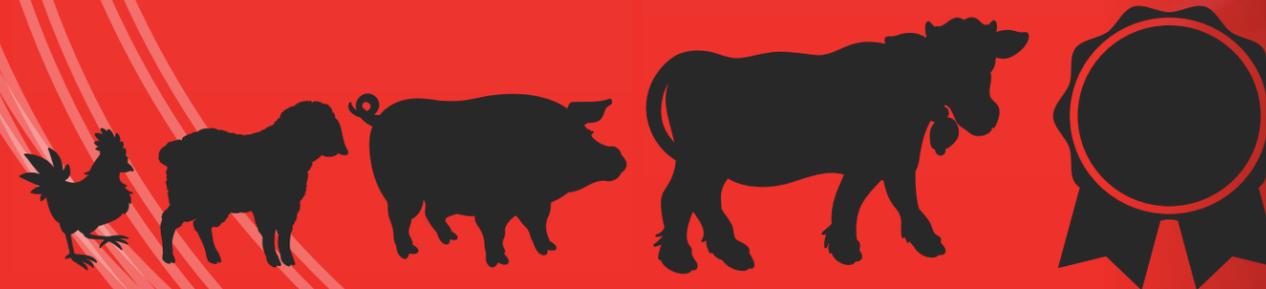
- Participant

**"I have competed at 4-H on Parade for four consecutive years showing beef animals. This year I was lucky enough to win the very prestigious award, Reserve Grand Champion Steer with my steer, Donkey Kong. I have always enjoyed showing at 4-H on Parade, it is an exciting time for everyone involved, aka, when the country kids come to the city! 4-H on Parade has elevated my game, my livestock showing skills, my judging skills and brought many lifelong friends into my life."**

- Participant

**"The 4-H Rodeo is such an awesome event. Getting to help others learn and meeting people from all over the province has been one of my favourite parts of the event. The 4-H rodeo has always been one of my favourite parts of the 4-H experiences and I love that it provides a unique and laid back experience for all 4-H members to come and learn and compete. Our horses get exposure to new and interesting challenges and it creates opportunity to improve as a rider."**

- Participant



# Scholarships

The Calgary Stampede Foundation is committed to providing the youth of Alberta opportunities to develop strong roots in their culture and heritage through programs that enhance personal growth, citizenship and education. Annual Scholarships are awarded to high achieving community youth in recognition of community engagement, spirit and academic merit.

Numerous scholarships are awarded in Agriculture, Performing Arts and Western Art. The Calgary Stampede Foundation's Scholarship program continued to grow in 2017 with the addition of the La Due Ladies Lunch Scholarships and the Clyde D'Arcy Family Scholarship.

In the past year, the Calgary Stampede Foundation awarded \$155,000 in youth scholarships in support of building strong youth and stronger communities.

## 2017 SCHOLARSHIPS

**The Joe & Sara Brager Scholarship**

**Bill Collins Youth Excellence Scholarships**

**D'Arcy Family Scholarship**

**Dr. Margaret (Marmie) Hess Scholarships**

**International Youth Livestock Scholarships**

**Junior Steer Classic Scholarships**

**La Due Ladies Lunch Scholarships**

**Robson Scholarships**

**Western Showcase Grade 12 Art Scholarships**

**135 TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

**\$155,000 AWARDED**



# Testimonials

**"Receiving the Robson Scholarship provided me with the support I needed to complete my internship at BC Children's Hospital. Not only did it help me financially, but I have no doubt that my participation in youth programming at the Calgary Stampede helped me become the Music Therapist I am today - and for that, I am very grateful!"**

- Colleen Kehler,  
BMT, MTA

**"My experience with the Calgary Stampede Art Scholarship has been monumentally beneficial for my drive and passion in the world of fine arts. Since winning second place in the Western Showcase, I started University in pursuit of a Fine Arts degree, where I have learned numerous skills that I hope to put towards creating more western themed art in the future. This experience has improved my awareness of current trends in art in Calgary and I look forward to continue creating art well into the future."**

- Catherine Rankin,  
Grade 12, Western Art



# OH Ranch Education

The OH Ranch Education program explores Alberta's history, heritage, ecosystems, sustainability, herd management and more at the Calgary Stampede Foundation's OH Ranch. With the OH Ranch being one of Alberta's most historic properties and an authentic working cattle ranch, students are provided exceptional cultural experiences and an appreciation for building community. The program provides direct connections to the Alberta Education Social Studies and Science curriculum for grade 4, 5, and 6 classes delivered through unique and authentic learning experiences.

## CELEBRATING TRUE COWGIRL SPIRIT

Students from one lucky class were treated to a day celebrating Flores La Due and gaining insight into wonderful early day cowgirls. Flores was a talented athlete, top rodeo performer, pioneer woman, and rancher, with a brave and determined spirit. Flores made rodeo history by roping running horses while lying down on the arena floor. In addition to the exciting daily learning activities, students were welcomed by members of the La Due Ladies Lunch Society, heard stories about Flores, and were entertained by an incredible trick roper. Students were inspired by the pioneering and tenacious spirit of Flores and this exploration of the role of women in ranching.



## GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION

This spring students at the OH Ranch were challenged to participate in successful and sustainable ranch operations through water conservation efforts. Throughout their day-visits students learned about specific and practical ways to reduce their water usage and took ownership of the efforts. Together, students reduced the water consumption at the OH Ranch Cookhouse in half, from previous years, allowing students to understand the direct impact of their actions on the world around them. In this way, the OH Ranch educational program serves as a window to the working ranch; building character and helping students become great community citizens.

## INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

Students now have the chance to experience the new OH Ranch Interpretive Centre, which explores the historic ranch from open range ranching and the North West Mounted Police's arrival to the nature conservancy of the present day. Significant figures in the history of the ranch are highlighted, from Orville Hawkins Smith to Bill Siebens. The centre offers visitors a chance to explore changes in ranching over time, the ability to view authentic historical artifacts, and even to dress up!



**27** CLASSES

**5** GUEST SPEAKERS

**135** INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

**699** STUDENTS

# Testimonials

**"My students were able to make connections between what they've read in the text to what they experienced at the ranch, making the learning more meaningful and forming lasting connections."**

- Teacher

**"Kathleen! She was amazing with the students and really gave us the 5 star treatment. She was upfront about the rules and safety things. She engaged the students! She related everything to the curriculum."**

- Teacher

**"Students were excited leading up to the trip, and haven't stopped talking about it on the return."**

- Teacher

**"It's great to see such great educators and such an enriching program so close to home."**

- Teacher



# Calgary Stampede Showband

The Calgary Stampede Showband is a premiere performance ensemble with 148 members, ages 16 to 21, from Calgary and the surrounding area. With over 200 annual performances, the program offers diverse opportunities to develop performance, musicianship, interpersonal, and leadership skills.

## EUROPEAN TOUR TO WORLD MUSIC CONTEST

Less than 24 hours after the 2017 Stampede concluded, the Showband transported the Calgary Stampede's western spirit abroad to compete in the World Music Contest. Members also gained unique cultural experiences including visits to Vimy Ridge, Essex Farm, and Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium. The final performance of their production, *Mosaic*, was introduced via video by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The 20,000 spectators gave a standing ovation for the inspirational performance. The Showband earned a Gold Medal with Distinction and a score of 90.04.

## LISTENING TO OUR CITY

On April 21, 2017, the Calgary Stampede Foundation hosted Listening to Our City at the Jack Singer Concert Hall, connecting youth performers and the community in celebration of the incredible talent this city has to offer. The event included the Calgary Stampede Showband, the Young Canadians of the Calgary Stampede, students from the Calgary Board of

Education and the Calgary Separate School District, and feature performances by violin virtuoso, Isabella Perron, singer-songwriter, Kate Stevens, and nine-year-old flamenco guitar phenomenon, Harry Knight.

## MOSAIC

The Calgary Stampede Showband's 2017 Production, *Mosaic*, featured Indigenous youth drummers, singers and dancers sharing a message of hope for diversity and inclusion. The show was designed in collaboration with the Indian Events committee, local historians, and First Nations leaders and artists. Throughout the year, Showband students learned First Nations history and traditions, including taking part in a smudging ceremony. Showband students worked together with Indigenous youth performers, and at various milestones throughout the year celebrated with a Round Dance together.

## ARTS IN MOTION

On March 11, 2017, the Showband expanded their annual Arts in Motion event to include and engage the wider music communities of Alberta, partnering with the Canadian Drumline Association and the Alberta Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society. The event included explorations of world and marching percussion styles, along with a showcase of nearly 500 youth performers and 30 performance ensembles from across Alberta.



**148** STUDENTS

**30** INSTRUCTORS

**9** GUEST INSTRUCTORS

**877** AVERAGE INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS/STUDENT

**215** PERFORMANCES

## Testimonials

**"Playing in the Stampede Showband has made huge contributions to my life. It's made me more disciplined, hard-working, mature, responsible, and has taught me how to be professional and work with others in a team environment. The Stampede Showband did more than just teach me amazing musical and marching abilities, but I took so many lessons and applied them to my university, work and volunteer life. Showband gave me a family when I really needed one and gave me a supporting place I could go every week and weekend and have fun and work hard."**

- Student

**"I would have to say Stampede week is my favourite experience. Performing steps shows brings so much joy to my heart and truly brings out my love and passion for this band, and reminds me why I spend hours and hours and hours rehearsing."**

- Student

**"Mosaic is an example of what can be created when we come together."**

- Student

**"Stampede Showband has taught me how kindness, teamwork and excellence can let you surpass obstacles you otherwise couldn't."**

- Student

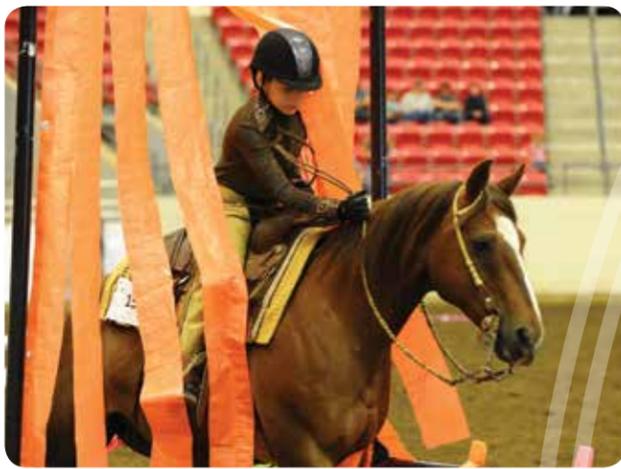
**"If I were to choose one out-of-this-world experience that the Showband provides it would be the supportive community and diversity of personalities I got to meet this year. The Showband community makes you feel like you belong."**

- Student

**"The level of instruction given from the Showband staff members has allowed me to excel much faster both technically in my music and also on a fundamental, personal level."**

- Student





The Calgary Stampede Foundation is proud to provide our city's next generation with the tools they need to realize their potential and improve our city for centuries to come. We are building Calgary's future, together.

**50**  
SCHOOL GROUPS

**49**  
INSTRUCTORS

**45**  
GUEST SPEAKERS

**321**  
PERFORMANCES

**2508**  
INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

**2091**  
STUDENTS

**Strong Youth.  
Stronger Community.**



**For further information on our Youth Achievement Programs, please contact:**

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