

MISSION VIEJO HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BOOSTERS
CALGARY STAMPEDE TOUR - 2008

The MVHS Marching Band and Color Guard will travel to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, July 2 to July 10, 2008, to participate in the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede. The opportunities in Calgary, pending confirmation by the Calgary Committee, include the Stampede Parade, performances downtown and at various other entertainment areas, and the competition in the Saddledome. This will be our band's seventh appearance in Calgary. In 1987 and 1995, MVHS was the winning band and we brought home several thousand dollars in prize money, as well as lots of wonderful memories of the hospitality of the hosts and the fun of the trips. Our tour will include a side trip to Banff and Lake Louise.

Group airline reservations have been made with Alaska Air for the students and chaperones. Chaperones will be staying at the school with the students and sleeping on the gym floor with the students. The students will be on a meal plan at the host school. Costs are not firm at this time, however, we anticipate that the tour will cost approximately \$1,250 per student. The payment schedule will be based on this amount and adjustments will be made as more information becomes available. We will have one or two Parent Meetings as well as keep current information out on the website at www.mvhsmusic.com and send updates to your e-mail address.

Although many details of the trip remain to be worked out, it is essential that students and their parents make an early commitment for the tour, in particular, for our airline reservations. We have been able to lock in some decent rates, but we need to hold the reservations with a deposit. We will need a non-refundable (unless the trip is cancelled) deposit of \$200.00 per person by October 15, 2007. If your student plans on going, a deposit and reservation is needed right away.

There will be a need of adult chaperones, both male and female. We have had several people interested in being chaperones - thank you! In addition to volunteers for chaperones, we are asking for those who may be interested in driving the truck either to or from Calgary, coordinating forms, ordering the trip t-shirts, luggage tags, coordinators on travel days, and other tasks. Please let us know if you can help!

Payment for each participant must be made according to the payment schedule. Parents may authorize payments from the student's trip account, or may pay by check by the established due dates. The Boosters will provide opportunities for the students to raise money for the tour; however, the student is responsible for raising the money for his/her account. Please contact financialsec@mvhsmusic.com for information on your student's trip account.

Valid passports are required for ALL travelers. If you do not have a passport, it is of the utmost importance that you apply for one immediately. Please see the enclosed sheet for information on applying for or renewing a passport. If you already have a passport, please make sure that it will be valid for the entire length of the trip! Check the expiration date!

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Participation in the tour will be under the rules of the Saddleback Valley Unified School District, Mission Viejo High School, and the MVHS Instrumental Music Department Code of Conduct. Infraction of the rules will be grounds for dismissal from the tour at the student's expense.

Booster families are encouraged to attend and we welcome your support! As we are planning this so early and we don't yet have a firm number on students and chaperones attending, we are not able to open up the group airline seats to families, but may be able to at a later date. Please don't hesitate to research your own arrangements for airfare and hotels. You are welcome to purchase the meal plan, t-shirts, and the side trip. Again, the prices for these items are not yet available, but we will keep you posted throughout the coming months.

Websites you may wish to visit:

www.mvhsmusic.com - for updates on the trip

www.csmarchingbands.com - for information about the Parade and Saddledome Competition

www.calgarystampede.com - for information about the Stampede, including tickets

www.tourismcalgary.com, or www.calgary.ca - for general travel and tourism information about Calgary

School address where students and chaperones will be staying:

Crescent Heights High School

1019 1st Street NW

Calgary, Alberta T2M 2S2

If you have any questions, please contact the Calgary Tour Committee at calgary2008@mvhsmusic.com