

What Is Plane Pull?

Just like the plane on the tarmac, challenges like financial hardship, isolation and barriers to opportunity can feel too heavy to carry alone. But when people pull together, even the heaviest obstacles can be moved.

Plane Pull brings teams together for an unforgettable experience at YYC Airport. Teams of 15 work side by side to pull a 200,000-pound Airbus A300 50 feet across the tarmac, showing what is possible when a community works together.

Leading up to the event, teams raise funds for United Way of Calgary and Area. On event day, they compete for three awards: Most Funds Raised, Fastest Pull and Best Team Spirit.

It is a powerful reminder that challenges like financial hardship, isolation and barriers to opportunity can feel overwhelming, but together, we can move them.

Returning in 2026 with presenting sponsor UPS, Plane Pull brings community, connection and local impact to life.

One plane. Hundreds of people. Real change across Calgary.

Team Registration

When Can I Register for Plane Pull?

Team registration for Plane Pull began on June 15 and closed on August 28. However, participants and employees can still join an existing team up until September 16.

How Can I Register a Team for Plane Pull?

- Visit the [2026 Plane Pull Team Registration Page](#)
- Assign a team captain and register your flight crew! Every team can have up to 20 members but only 15 people can pull the plane! Participants don't all have to be from your workplace; spouses and friends are encouraged to join the festivities.
- Once your team has signed up, let the fundraising begin! A fundraising toolkit with tips, ideas and promotional graphics will be shared on July 21 to help your team promote your efforts on social media (be sure to tag United Way), through email and more.
- Visit [our fundraising toolkit](#) for tips, graphics and resources.

Is there an Incentive for Early Registration?

The first 20 teams that register before July 20, 2026 will be able to choose their pull time.

What are Team Member Requirements for Sign-Up?

All team members must sign up using their full legal name. Team members must be 18 years or older and acknowledge the online waiver when registering to participate.

What If My Team Has Less Than 15 Members—Can We Still Pull?

All Plane Pull teams must have 15 members, including at least four members who identify as the opposite gender to participate. As it is important that we follow airport security rules, all members entering the tarmac must be registered prior to the event. We recommend registering more than 15 team members (maximum 20) to make sure your team has extras in case a team member is unable to attend.

How Many Teams Can My Company Register?

Each company is limited to **two teams** to allow participation amongst as many of our agencies and partners as possible.

Can Children Participate?

Plane Pull is a family-friendly event with lots of fun activities available off the tarmac, including Kids Pull! Children aged six and up can register to take part in their own mini pull. Parents or guardians must register their child in advance and remain on site throughout.

What Should Parents Know Before Their Child Participates in Kids Pull?

Kids Pull is a fun and safe experience for young participants, and a few things will help make it go smoothly. Children should wear closed toe shoes with good grip, the same footwear guidance that applies to adult participants. Kids must stay within the designated Kids Pull area and off the tarmac and any restricted zones at all times. Children are expected to follow the instructions of event staff and volunteers throughout the activity. A parent or guardian must stay with their child for the duration of Kids Pull.

If your child has additional needs that may require support or accommodation during the event, please contact us in advance at planepull@calgaryunitedway.org so we can make sure the right arrangements are in place.

Fundraising

Is There a Registration Fee to Participate?

Yes, there is a minimum fundraising amount that each team must raise to participate. This amount is not due upon registering but must be raised by September 17, 2026, to participate at the event.

How Much Does Each Team Need to Fundraise?

Teams need to raise \$2,250 to participate in Plane Pull, but the fundraising doesn't need to end there. There is no limit to the amount that can be raised and the team who raises the most will be recognized at the closing awards ceremony. Funds raised by September 17 will count toward the Most Funds Raised award.

What If My Team Does Not Raise the Minimum \$2,250?

All teams must raise a minimum \$2,250 to participate. If your team is having difficulties raising the minimum, visit [our fundraising toolkit](#) to learn how your team can meet your donation goal. If your team is having difficulties raising the necessary funds, please contact planepull@calgaryunitedway.org prior to the event.

How Do I Enter Cash Donations?

Please enter all cash donations through [your Team Page on Giveeffect](#). If your team has cash donations on the day of the event, we can collect them at the donation table. To ensure your totals are reflected on Give Effect, please let us know the total cash dollars raised and we will enter the amount onto your fundraising page! Contact planepull@calgaryunitedway.org

Where Do Plane Pull Donations Go?

When your team pulls, you're tackling urgent challenges that people face right here in Calgary. Your support helps people find stability, access mental health programs and build the connections they need to feel a sense of belonging.

Is There a 50/50 Raffle?

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Enter the [50/50 raffle](#) for a chance to win half the jackpot and help fuel local impact through United Way. The draw closes at 11:59 p.m. MST on Sunday, September 20, with the winner announced Monday, September 21.

Event Day

Where and When Is the Event?

Date: Sunday, September 20, 2026

Location: UPS Customer Centre, 22 Aero Drive NE, Calgary ([map](#))

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

When Will We Know The Time Our Team is Pulling?

Visit the [Plane Pull website](#) to see your team's scheduled pull time. Teams are encouraged to arrive early and to stay after their pull to enjoy the event. The top three fastest teams will compete for Fastest Plane Pull Time at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Event Schedule

9:00 a.m. – Registration opens

9:30 a.m. – Welcome and safety briefing

10:00 a.m. – First plane pull

11:30 a.m. – Kids plane pull

12:00 p.m. – Lunch break

12:30 p.m. – Plane pull-off for top 3 fastest teams

12:45 p.m. – Awards and closing remarks

What Is the Check-In Process?

Team captains must check in one hour before their scheduled pull time. At check-in, we will confirm that waivers are complete and provide wristbands for ramp access. Captains will receive a team welcome kit with their team roster and a \$5 food truck voucher for each team member.

Participants must check in 30 minutes before their scheduled pull time. Check-in tables are arranged alphabetically by last name. At check-in, we will confirm that waivers are complete and distribute wristbands for ramp access.

When Should I Arrive on the Day of The Event

All participants must arrive at least 30 minutes before their team's scheduled pull time. Guests are encouraged to arrive early, bring friends and family, enjoy local entertainment and experience all the excitement that Plane Pull has to offer.

What Do I Need to bring On the Day of The Event

1. Team apparel or costumes to show your team spirit! The team with the most spirit will receive the Team Spirit Award.
2. Weather-appropriate clothing: Plane Pull is an outdoor event and will happen rain-or-shine. **In the case of extreme weather, the event may be postponed and updates will be communicated.**
3. Family and friends to cheer you on!

What Safety Precautions Do I Need to Consider for Plane Pull

Safety is a priority at Plane Pull. Dress for the weather and wear closed-toe footwear with good grip. Gloves will be provided on site, or you may bring your own. Food and drinks are not allowed on the

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ramp. Costumes are welcome, but make sure all pieces are secure. All participants must follow instructions given by UPS staff while on the ramp. Don't forget to warm up and stretch before your team's pull time.

Can Pets Come to the Event

Pets are not permitted at the event.

Is There Parking Available?

Parking is available at the UPS Customer Centre, with Plane Pull parking signs and traffic directions to guide you on site.

Is There Transit to the Event?

Bus Route 32 runs along Aero Drive NE. Visit the [Calgary Transit](#) website for schedules and route details.

Fundraising Resources:

For tips, tricks and recommendations, visit [our fundraising toolkit](#). If you have questions, please contact planepull@unitedwaycalgary.org.

We see the need. Together, we can move the impossible.