

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 more than a challenge. 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?

Registration for Plane Pull begins on June 15th and closes on August 28th.

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!

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 Giveffect](#). 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.

Event Day

Where and When Is the Event?

Date: Sunday, September 20, 2026

Location: 22 Aero Drive NE, Calgary AB

Time: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. approximately

When Will We Know The Time Our Team is Pulling?

Teams will receive the pulling schedule one week prior to the event and it will also be posted on the [Plane Pull Website](#) under *Team Resources*.

Event Schedule

A detailed schedule will be posted in July. Stay tuned!

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. Please wear closed toe shoes with good grip and clothing you can easily move in. Gloves will be available on site, or you may bring your own. To pull a 200,000-pound plane, you also need to get your muscles warmed up; please make sure 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 near the event site. A map and more detailed information will be released closer to the event.

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.