



Tour de Frank 2023 Information

The **2023 Tour de Frank Bouldering Festival** will take place **Saturday, Sept. 9!** It is a fantastic chance to visit Alberta's greatest bouldering area for a day, climb with friends (both new and old), and bring awareness to the access issues facing 'The Slide'!

Location. This year the Tour de Frank will be staged out of the area directly in front of the **Frank Slide Interpretive Center** at the west end of the Slide.

This year's Tour de Frank will take place in the **Frictionary, House, Heart of Frank, Healing, Albatross, Riverside, Gunwales, and Snakebite Sectors**. Some brand-new problems will be showing up on the scorecard this year, so be prepared! Many of the problems on the scorecard will be more easily accessed by driving (after the Orientation Session) rather than parking at the Interpretive Center and walking (more on that below).

To get to the staging area at the Interpretive Center (if approaching the Slide from the east, i.e. from Calgary or Lethbridge) drive westward across the Slide, and make a right turn (up the hill) approximately 300m after you've crossed the Slide. Drive about 1.6 km up the road to the Interpretive Center.

Come and find us! At 10:00, the registration table will be at the Staging Area in front of the Frank Slide Interpretive Center. Come and fill out your registration slip / draw prize ticket while you grab some free coffee.

When you sign in, you'll get a score sheet with the list of boulder problems on it, with climbs that range from "*easy beginner*" (V0-) to "*as hard as you can handle*" (up to V12)! We'll have locals (volunteer guides), as well as a list of online resources available to help you find the problems listed. **We'll start event orientation at 10:40, and the event will kick off at 11:00!**

At 11:00, a volunteer will point out the areas of the Slide where the event will take place! If you're walking into the Slide from the Interpretive Center, be aware that we're taking a new route into the Slide this year.

Wear sturdy footwear – hiking in the Slide is never easy!

You'll have **six hours** to climb as many problems as you like! A horn will go off at 4:30 warning you that you have 30 minutes left to send your last problem and get ready to head back to the Staging Area, and a long blast of the horn will go off at 5:00 to end the event. Bring your sheets back to the Staging Area, hang out with your friends, and we'll get the draw for prizes started shortly thereafter, followed by an announcement of the winners of each category!

If it begins to rain, and the event has to be cut short, we'll **blow the horn** so people can make their way back to the staging area.

Parking. This year, the Tour de Frank is going to tour more of the Slide! The TdF will start the day in the Interpretive Center, but after the Orientation Session climbers will disperse throughout the Slide to find projects for the day.

If you are planning on leaving your car in the **Interpretive Center parking lot** for the day (for example, if you're planning on walking into the areas of the Slide that aren't too far from the Center), park your vehicle at the far end of the parking lot (as far from the walkway to the Center as possible). This will ensure that visitors to the Interpretive Center – some of whom may have limited mobility – will be able to park in a convenient location.

If you are planning on parking in the **House Area parking lot** after you leave the Orientation Session (to climb in the House or Frictionary Sectors for all or part of the day), please angle-park (instead of parallel parking), and park toward the east end of the parking lot first (not the end closest to Frank). This will give visiting tourists a place to park as well.

If you wind up on the **gravel road** (to climb in the Albatross, Riverside, Healing, etc. sectors) please be considerate to other visitors to the Slide, and park along the road only where there is space. The east end of the gravel road tends to be wider (and thus has better parking opportunities), but there are decent pull-offs all along the road. I would suggest that you do NOT try to park on the gravel track that parallels the gravel road, as you might get blocked in.

Due to parking constraints (and to be environmentally sensitive), please **try to carpool!** With 2-4 climbers per car, there should be lots of parking space for everyone.

Waivers. Participants in the TdF will have to sign **BOTH (1) a TdF waiver**, and **(2) A GoA / Historic Sites waiver**. Both waivers are available online at the TdF Facebook event page, as well as the Southern Alberta / Rockies Bouldering Facebook page. If possible, print out and complete both waivers before coming to the TdF.

If you are a junior climber (17 and under) you must have a parent or guardian sign a waiver (bring signed waivers with you, if your guardian is not coming with you).

Have Fun! The emphasis of the Tour de Frank is on having fun climbing with your friends! Fun means different things to different people, so we have problems of all grades ready to challenge you. There will be ten categories for the event, so when you register, choose one: **Youth** (male/female, 11 and under), **Junior** (male/female, 12-17), **Adult** (male/female, 18-39), **Masters** (male/female, 40+). Be as competitive or non-competitive as you like!

If you simply want to show up and learn about bouldering at Frank Slide, and not compete, that's fine. **We ask that you register at the table even if you're simply coming to spectate or learn about climbing** – you'll be eligible for a great draw prize!

How Much Does It Cost? The TdF remains a no-charge, volunteer-run event. However, it does take money to run the TdF, and to conduct access work on behalf of

the climbing community! As such, **donations (large or small) are greatly appreciated**. We also encourage participants to buy a SABA membership if they can – just \$10.00 buys you a lifetime membership in Southern Alberta's climbing access society.

Need Help? There will be volunteers to help you find problems you will enjoy; simply look for the people (some of the most dedicated locals) in yellow shirts. Want to find a specific boulder problem (route) in the Frank Slide? There are now several ways you can do that.

- Ask one the **Tour de Frank Locals** (the folks in yellow shirts)
- Consult one of the **free paper guides of the area** we'll have available
- Look online – many of the problems in the Slide are on the **website 27crags** (thanks primarily to Josh Bylsma and Dan Anhorn), simply google "*27crags Frank Slide*" and the name of the problem (route), and you should be able to find it. Once at the site, you can look through the problems in the area.

If you need to use the washroom, head up into the Interpretive Center and use the facilities there. There is an absolutely **zero-trash policy** in the Slide (discard **nothing** in the Slide, not even apple cores or fruit peels, and pick up what trash you do see!), so plan on using the washroom before you head into the Slide for the day. Hiking in the Slide is slow, so leave lots of time to get around.

There are also reasonably **good washroom facilities** in the FasGas gas station / A&W at the western edge of the Slide.

See you there! Check out the Facebook event page for more details, and visit the Southern Alberta Bouldering Association (SABA) website for lots of information about bouldering at the Slide.

Support for the TdF by the Frank Slide Interpretive Center has been phenomenal, and we'd like to thank them! They are further supporting us by offering a **30% off discount for entry into the museum and theatre for all TdF participants on Saturday and Sunday**; simply tell the desk staff that you're there for the TdF and you'll be given the discount. Enjoy!

Sponsors. We'd love to thank our many sponsors, whose support makes the TdF that much more fun! These companies are phenomenal supporters of the climbing community of Alberta and southeast BC, so make a point of mentioning how much you appreciate them, and throw support back their way when you get the chance!

Onsight Care (Nelson, BC) Providing skincare products for adventurers of all types.

Trailhead Climbing and Fitness (Red Deer, AB) Fantastic gym in central Alberta.

Bolder Climbing Community (Calgary, AB) Great full-service bouldering facility.

Rock Jungle Fitness (Factory Climbing and Boulders in Edmonton, AB) Great facilities!

Blocs (Edmonton, AB) Huge bouldering gym in Alberta's capital, check it out!

SoCal Bouldering (open in South Calgary, AB) New bouldering S. Calgary.

Awesome Adventures (Lethbridge, AB) Full service outdoor and climbing shop.

Object Climbing (Lethbridge, AB) Providing climbing products and routesetting services.

Calgary Climbing Centre (Calgary, AB) Several great gym locations across Calgary.

Spry (Crowsnest, AB) The best source for trail-running and climbing gear in the CNP.

Coulee Climbing (Lethbridge, AB) Best bouldering gym in Alberta's south.

Flashed (Calgary, AB) One of the TdF's greatest supporters, Flashed provides goods and services of all kinds to climbers and climbing gyms across North America.

