



2027 Ice Magic and Art of Ice

Banff & Lake Louise Tourism, alongside World Ice Carving Association, invites ice carvers to apply for the 2027 Ice Magic Exhibition in Lake Louise and 2027 Art of Ice: Carving Competition in Banff.

Integral elements of the 2027 SnowDays Festival, Ice Magic is a signature winter experience in Lake Louise, transforming the lakeshore into a breathtaking outdoor gallery of ice.

Art of Ice is a three-day competition that brings 12 world-class carvers to downtown Banff.

Event Overview:

The SnowDays ice program consists of two separate events:

2027 Ice Magic Exhibition at Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise

February 1 – February 3, 2027

Selected teams will create large-scale exhibition sculptures at Lake Louise using 20 blocks of ice. These sculptures are intended for public viewing and tourism promotion. Event Theme Provided by Organizers

Travel & Rest Day

February 4, 2027

Carvers also participating in Banff will travel from Lake Louise to Banff and prepare for the competition events.



2027 Art of Ice: Carving Competition in Banff

February 5 – February 7, 2027

A three-day international ice sculpture competition featuring team carving, head-to-head ice battles, and individual artistic expression.

Banff Competition Schedule

Day 1 – Team Competition

February 5, 2027

Multi-Block Team Competition

- Seven Blocks of Ice
- Eight Hours Carving Time
- Teams of Two Carvers
- Event Theme Provided by Organizers

Judging will focus on:

- Artistic Impression
- Technical Execution
- Use of Material
- Composition and Design
- Overall Presentation

Day 2 – Ice Battles

February 6, 2027

Head-to-Head Ice Battles

- Single Ice Block
- Multiple Rounds
- 60 Minutes Per Round
- Individual Competition
- Elimination Format
- Themes Announced at Event

Carvers compete directly against one another in fast-paced carving challenges designed to test creativity, technical skill, and adaptability under pressure.

Day 3 – Open Theme Competition

February 7, 2027

Double Block Open Theme Competition

- Two Ice Blocks
- 2.5 Hours Carving Time
- Individual Competition
- Open Theme

Carvers are encouraged to showcase their personal artistic style, technical ability, and creativity.



Theme:

Canada 160: Icons of Canada

Celebrating Canada's 160th anniversary through the iconic landscapes, wildlife, stories, and experiences that have shaped our country, with a focus on the natural wonders, enduring connections to the land, and moments of awe found in Banff National Park and the Canadian Rockies.

Rather than celebrating Canada through traditional national symbols, this theme invites artists to interpret the landscapes, wildlife, history, cultures, and enduring connections that have shaped Canada's identity through the lens of Banff National Park and the Canadian Rockies.

The theme recognizes that Banff National Park has been a place of cultural, spiritual, and ecological significance since time immemorial. It provides opportunities to celebrate the park's natural beauty while creating space for stories that reflect the many relationships people have with this landscape. Consistent with Banff & Lake Louise Tourism's Indigenous Tourism Strategy, any Indigenous-inspired elements would be developed collaboratively with Indigenous partners and knowledge holders to ensure authenticity, respect, and meaningful representation.

Potential areas of inspiration include:

- The Canadian Rockies and iconic mountain landscapes
- Lake Louise, Moraine Lake, and other renowned natural wonders
- Wildlife including grizzly bears, elk, bighorn sheep, wolves, mountain goats, and other native species
- The enduring relationship between people and the land, including stewardship, conservation, and our shared responsibility to protect these places
- Banff National Park as Canada's first national park and its evolving legacy
- The people, places, events, and infrastructure that have shaped Banff's history, including the Canadian Pacific Railway and its role in connecting people to the mountain west and shaping tourism
- Winter recreation, exploration, and experiences that inspire awe



- Indigenous connections to these lands, where developed collaboratively with Indigenous partners and grounded in authentic stories, teachings, and perspectives
- The diverse people, cultures, and communities whose connections to Banff and the Canadian Rockies continue to shape Canada's story

This theme allows SnowDays to participate in Canada's 160th anniversary while remaining authentic to Banff National Park and Banff & Lake Louise Tourism's brand values. It provides artists with significant creative freedom while creating opportunities for diverse perspectives and meaningful storytelling.

How to Apply:

- Teams of two carvers must complete the online application form together at <https://banfflakelouise.jotform.com/form/2027IceCarverApplication>
- With the application form, please submit each carver's resume, photographs of previous ice sculptures, if applicable, and basic design sketch of your proposed sculpture. Optional to include a top, back, and side view of the sculpture. No AI picture or computer-generated images.
- We regret that major revisions cannot be allowed once your design has been accepted for the competition.
- A maximum of 12 carving teams will be selected for each event in the 2027 SnowDays Festival
- Successful applicants will be notified no later than October 16, 2026. Late applications will only be considered if there is a need for additional artists
- If you have questions regarding your application contact Hannah Nolan at events@banfflakelouise.com

Application Timeline

- **Applications Open:** August 14, 2026
- **Applications Close:** September 20, 2026
- **Successful Applicants Notified:** October 16, 2026
- **Contracts Issued:** October 30, 2026
- **Signed Contracts Due:** November 27, 2026



Guidelines:

- Teams and / or Carvers must submit and work from original designs only. The original design must not have been produced in ice at any other event.
- Be required to comply fully with applicable Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) regulations.
- Be expected to have appropriate training and experience in using equipment such as ladders, scaffolding and power tools safely, effectively and correctly.
- Artists competing must supply their own sculpting tools.
- You are responsible for the safety and security of all your carving tools and equipment while in use.
- Each team will be provided:
 - Three Electrical power outlets (North American standard 120V, 60 Hertz) - one for each carver and one for lights
 - Two LED work lights
 - Two extension cords
 - One set of scaffolding
 - One table
 - Two, five-gallon buckets
- The only materials allowed are ice and water. Natural ice and water may be used as a bonding agent only. No props, decoration, or coloring of the ice sculpture is allowed.
- All designs must be appropriate for audiences of all ages and suitable for display in public spaces visited by families and children.
 - Banff & Lake Louise Tourism reserve the right to reject any concept that contains:
 - Explicit content/nudity
 - Graphic violence
 - Hate speech or discriminatory content
 - Political propaganda
 - Offensive or inappropriate imagery



Remuneration:

- Lake Louise Exhibition: Each carver will receive an honorarium of \$2,000 to complete a 20-block carving at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise (FCLL).
- Banff Carving Competition: Each carver will receive an honorarium of \$1,000 for participation in the three-day carving competition in Banff.
- Travel Stipend: Each carver will receive a \$500 travel stipend.
- Accommodation will be provided in Lake Louise from Sunday, January 31 to Thursday, February 4. Each carver will be provided with their own hotel room.
- A meal allowance of \$110 per day will be provided during the Lake Louise portion of the event. This allowance will be applied as a credit to the hotel room provided by BLLT. Any charges exceeding the daily meal allowance are the responsibility of the carver and must be paid directly to the hotel.
- Accommodation will be provided in Banff from Thursday, February 4 to Monday, February 8. Each carver will be provided with their own hotel room.
- A meal allowance of \$85 per day will be provided during the Banff portion of the event. Carvers are responsible for applying the applicable daily meal allowance for the Banff site to their invoice upon completion of services.
- Parking: Parking is included with the accommodation provided in both Lake Louise and Banff.
- Transportation can be arranged for carvers travelling by air, including transfers between Calgary International Airport, Lake Louise, and Banff, as required.
- Personal expenses, including room service, minibar purchases, alcoholic beverages, long-distance charges, and any other incidental costs, are the responsibility of the carver. A credit card may be required at hotel check-in to cover any personal charges.



Prize Amounts for Banff Competition

Friday – Seven blocks, Eight hours, Two carvers

- First Place: \$700 per carver
- Second Place: \$500 per carver
- Third Place: \$200 per carver

Saturday – Ice Battles - Four rounds

- Winner of each qualifying round receives local gift basket
- Winner of final round: \$500

Sunday – Two blocks, Two hours, One carver – Two rounds

- First Place: \$400 for each round
- Second Place: \$200 for each round
- Third Place: \$100 for each round

Payment

The Contractor will provide one itemized invoice upon completion of the Services. Carvers will be notified if they have placed in any of the competitions, and this information must be included on the invoice.

Terms of payment will be Net 30 Days from invoice submission.

BLLT's preferred payment method is Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). For payment by EFT, the Contractor will be required to provide banking information by completing a form and submitting documentation specified by BLLT.

BLLT's alternative payment method is cheque. BLLT will not provide payment by cash.

Non-residents Withholding Tax

Non-resident tax withholding applies to any vendors who are residents of countries other than Canada for tax purposes – and are doing services in Canada for which they will receive payment.



Payments to these vendors are **subject to the withholding tax of 15%**. They invoice us for the full amount they are owed, we reduce the payment by 15%, and remit that amount to the CRA. The vendors need to complete a Canadian tax return in order to find out if they are eligible for a refund from the Canadian Government.

****We cannot assist these vendors with any tax questions, advice, or assistance. They must consult their own tax professional.**

Non-residents can apply for a waiver of this withholding tax. But we must receive the waiver in hand before the services take place. And they need to start the application process well before the services (at least 30 days per the CRA guidelines) in order to have a waiver on time. Again, this is not something we can help with. The vendors need to do this independently. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/payroll/payroll-deductions-contributions/non-resident-deductions/applying-a-waiver-a-reduction-withholding.html>

Eligibility

Any carvers may apply to be considered for the 2027 Ice Magic Exhibition at Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise and/or 2027 Art of Ice: Carving Competition in Banff. Preference will be given to those carvers with ice sculpture carving experience.

Insurance

Carvers selected to participate will be required to provide proof of insurance prior to the event. At a minimum, contractors must carry Commercial General Liability insurance with a minimum limit of \$2,000,000 per occurrence. Banff Lake Louise Tourism (BLLT) must be named as an Additional Insured on the policy, and applicants will be required to submit a certificate of insurance confirming coverage before the event begins.



Safety

Carvers must:

- Be responsible for the working area. Except for FCLL/BLLT staff, registered helpers and competition judges, carvers must not allow anyone in their carving area (including media, family, general public).
- Wear adequate personal protective equipment. It is highly recommended to wear safety boots, pants or chaps with ballistic nylon inserts, chainsaw gloves, hearing and eye protection.
- Take extreme care and use safe practices when lifting, holding and carving the ice.
- Leave a radius around the sculpture for safe cleaning and staff circulation.

Ownership

All sculptures become the property of Banff & Lake Louise Tourism when completed. Banff & Lake Louise Tourism retains exclusive rights to the sculpture and may use any photographs, videos, or reproductions in any commercial application. Others interested in the use of ice sculptures must receive written permission from Banff & Lake Louise Tourism.

Contracts & Waivers

Participants will be required to sign the appropriate waiver included in their package before competing in the ice sculpture event. Proof of medical insurance is required for each of the participating sculptors.