




INTRODUCTION



Welcome. You are now in possession of the “Handbook” for the basic Altar & Throne set up for San Francisco’s Vaisnava Festival of Chariots Parade, known as the “Ratha Yatra” (Ratha: cart. Yatra: journey), a traditional event of 50 plus years, re-established in the 1960’s by the “Hare Krishna’s” at the heart of the Haight Ashbury district in the City by the Bay. Now it is performed every year in Golden Gate Park (GGP). This 2.0 version was necessary for recent upgraded procedures, the best results are important.

Times have changed, though the event is still the same. Originally the Ratha Yatra was started in Orissa, India over 5,000 years ago. We are catching up, so please keep our standards of our service high. A “Roadie” is a set-up Sudhra (servant) at best, we work at the lowest scale, yet Brahmanical qualities are important, it is necessary for the foundations of successful events. Have no qualms about your position, it will bring great satisfaction when done. Remember not everyone can do this work, so carry on with dignity and humility, no matter what the circumstances are.

This is an important job, it’s not recommended for the nonchalant. Most of work is physical and mechanical, entailing uses of hand tools and fasteners. Though, the old, “strong back & weak minds” work ethic only goes so far. Our mind needs be interacting with the event and strength is needed both physically and mentally. Certain actions must remain the same; some may be adjusted for time, place and circumstance. Learn the difference and it will be smooth sailing, for this officially recognized tradition takes our heart and soul to new levels each time it is performed. This is a REAL and BLESSED Job, don’t take it for granted!

Our natural service capacities should always be used; while working, with devotee interactions, Temple management, actual resources, tools, paraphernalia, and the general public. We should always reflect respect, enthusiasm and keep in the spirit of comradery; after all, this entire event is for everyone’s benefit; Lord Jagannatha, Lord Baladeva, Lady Subhadra, and you!

Not to overtly lecture here, we’re just setting precedents for potential lifetimes of service. There will be more insights to accommodate in our event handbook. Above all, remember you volunteered for this and it is appreciated at so many levels. You will have some fun and a great time, no matter how crazy it may seem, as said, this job is the foundation of a successful event, and personal integrity.

All Glories to Your Service!

X

