



LEARN MORE

**Inside the
parade**

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At Sapucaí, the parade functions as a precise operation of time, space, and movement. The route is approximately 700 meters long, and each Special Group school must complete it within the official time, between 70 and 80 minutes. Before the start, the warm-up lasts around 10 minutes and mobilizes the lead singer, percussion section, participants, and the public.

Parading requires more than crossing the route. A participant travels along the parade avenue dancing samba, spinning, moving forward and backward, following the section, and maintaining the flow of movement. For this reason, the actual distance traveled may exceed the route's length. During a presentation, a section participant may take between 2,500 and 4,000 steps, depending on their role and the intensity of their movement.

Parade flow is among the main challenges. The school must occupy the route continuously, keep a regular pace, avoid gaps between thematic sections, and cross the parade avenue within the time limit. A well-led parade depends on harmony between singing, percussion, sections, floats, directors, and participants.

Special Group judging organizes the presentation into nine categories: Theme, Samba-Enredo, Percussion, Harmony, Parade Flow, Floats and Accessories, Costumes, Opening Commission, and Master of Ceremonies and Flag-Bearer. Each category evaluates part of the parade, and the result depends on the relationship between these areas.

The Theme category evaluates the story the school brings to the parade avenue. Samba-Enredo evaluates lyrics, melody, and the ability to sustain collective singing in dialogue with the narrative. Percussion evaluates rhythm, instrumental precision, rhythmic flourishes, breaks, and musical creativity. Harmony considers the integration of singing, percussion, lead singer, and participants. Parade Flow considers pace, fluidity, and the occupation of



the route.

Floats and Accessories category considers the conception and visual execution of the floats and scenic elements in relation to the theme. Costumes evaluates the design, execution, and suitability of the costumes to the theme and the roles they represent in the parade. The Opening Commission presents the school and introduces the public to its world and is evaluated on its presentation and execution of its concept. The Master of Ceremonies and Flag-Bearer couple carries the school's flag and is evaluated on dance, rapport, posture, and adherence to each role's distinctive characteristics.

Following the parade from within reveals all this complexity. At Sapucaí, emotion and technique advance together. Singing, rhythm, movement, physical stamina, visual creation, and collective work must function in harmony from the first to the last meter of the parade avenue.



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