



2011 Circus Smirkus Big Top Tour Application Process



If you are between the ages of 10 and 18 next summer, are interested in circus, and have good stage presence, you should apply.

Here are the steps to follow:

- *1. Fill out the Application and Personal Questionnaire.
- *2. Prepare an audition video in a digital format. The video needs to be a maximum of **3 minutes**. Please contact sara@smirkus.org for the upload link or visit <http://www.smirkus.org/htm/tour/auditions.html> for the link to save your video to. NOTE: Feel free to also send in a DVD as a back-up in case the download is not successful. Your video should start with a 1 minute personal introduction. Let us know who you are, what you could add to our Smirkus family, and what you hope to get out of this unique experience. Followed by a 2 minute display of your talents (i.e. aerials, gymnastic routine, clowning, wire walking, juggling . . .) Show off your circus skills and your personality. We are looking for individuals who can work closely with our coaches and other Troupers and who can also achieve a warm rapport with the audience. Your ability to get along with others and your willingness to work are just as important as your circus skills.
- *3. Include a recent photograph of your smiling face and the \$50 application fee.
- *4. Include two recommendations from coaches, teachers etc. (forms enclosed).
- *5. Put all of the above items in a package and mail to Circus Smirkus. It will need to arrive to us by **November 8, 2010**. Send to Circus Smirkus, Tour Auditions, 1 Circus Road, Greensboro, Vermont 05841.

After November 8th, the videotapes and personal questionnaires will be reviewed. Letters telling if you have been invited to audition in person will be sent out on November 22nd.

Live auditions will be held the weekend of January 22nd & 23rd, 2011 at the Robert E Miller Expo Centre at the Champlain Valley Fair Exposition Grounds in Essex, Vermont (www.cvexpo.org). Keep in mind you'll need to prepare a brief act if invited to audition in person.

Training will begin approximately June 11, 2011. The tour will run until approximately August 20, 2011. (More specific dates can not be given at this time as the tour is not yet booked for the 2011

season.) Expect that once you arrive, this is where your home is for the summer. Your commitment to Smirkus begins the first day you arrive. Training is only three weeks and the coaches need every bit of valuable time they can get from you. Unnecessary leaves of absence from the training or tour period is unacceptable; it disrupts the flow and your training time.

Tuition for the 2010 tour was \$5,000.00. (Fees for the 2011 Tour have not been determined at the time of print.) Tuition will cover the cost of your training, housing, food, uniform, and transportation costs for the tour period. Smirkus is committed to ensuring that everyone applying has the right to run away and join our circus so scholarship request forms are available and can be applied for after you have been accepted as a Trouper. Your Smirkus Trouper uniform will consist of two Smirkus T-shirts which will be used when the troupe performs at special event venues. The option to purchase a Smirkus embroidered jacket will be made available, but is not required.

Even if you plan to apply for the Tour, we recommend that you also apply to Smirkus Camp. Many of our Troupers have attended camp. The 2011 camp registration forms can be available as a download via our website, www.smirkus.org starting in October. Smirkus Camp tends to fill quickly; we recommend you apply early. If you become a Trouper, we'll transfer your camp deposit to your tour tuition.

For more information about the Circus Smirkus tour and camp, please see our website, www.smirkus.org.

