

Baylin's Retreat: A Shade Structure for Smirkus Camp

Anyone who has spent a warm sunny afternoon on the Smirkus Camp grounds will instantly recognize how fortunate kids are to call this place home for a week or more for it is a place where they have life-changing adventures in the circus arts. Baylin Coddington found his life's trajectory while a Smirkus camper as he mastered the disciplines of stilt walking, juggling, diablo, clowning, and aerial arts and gained valuable lessons in team-work, performance, and connections.



Today Smirkus Camp's green fields are dotted with colorful circus tents, views of mountains in the distance, a sense of silence hiding between the whoops and cries of delighted campers. But



there remains a lack of places to be outside to rest and reflect, to gather with friends, and to be protected from the summer sun. The construction of a shade structure in memory of Baylin Coddington will be a tribute to his sparkling inventiveness and creativity. The new structure will give campers of today and tomorrow a place to pause, rest quietly and watch the flags on the circus tents waving in the breeze. It will give them a place where lifelong friendships can build just as Baylin discovered during his summers at Smirkus Camp.

Help make this shade structure a reality. Continue Baylin's lovely legacy of laughter, kindness, fearlessness, and connection.

Circus Smirkus is Vermont's own award-winning international youth circus. Since 1987 we've promoted the skills, culture and traditions of the traveling circus, inspiring youth to engage in life-changing adventures in the circus arts. We do this by way of our three principal programs: Circus Smirkus Big Top Tour, Smirkus Camp, and Circus Smirkus Residencies. Smirkus is a 501(c)3 organization.

Smirkus Camp, founded in 1990, is a place for youth to learn the circus arts in a summer camp setting. In 2015 Smirkus Camp moved to a permanent home on 35 acres of hilltop pasture in beautiful Greensboro, Vermont where campers train inside our spectacular European Big Top Tents. www.smirkus.org