



1 Circus Road  
Greensboro, VT 05841  
802-533-7443  
tour@smirkus.org

## TITLE: TOUR HEAD RIGGER

Department: Tour	Staffing Classification: Seasonal
Reports To: Production Manager	FLSA Status: Exempt
Date Approved: 4/29/25	Pay: \$1100-\$1200/wk

### JOB SUMMARY:

Responsible for the safe and efficient installation of all artistic rigging needs, the planning and execution of rigging changes during performances and the supervision of troupers performing rigging duties during performances, rehearsals, and load-in.

### ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

**(Majority of duties, but not meant to be all-inclusive nor prevent other duties from being assigned as necessary.)**

- Develop procedures for the safe and efficient operation of performance rigging.
- Assist Rigging Designer in design, build and execution of rigging plot and rigging apparatus before and during the training period per the needs of the show, in collaboration and consultation with the Show Directors and coaches.
- During Training period, change over aerial apparatus and any other rigging needs before and after each act rehearsal rotation.
- Set-up and tear-down performance rigging equipment at each site.
- Prepare rigging equipment for each performance. Assure that any equipment pre-sets are in place one hour before show-time.
- Plan, supervise, and participate in rigging changes during performances.
- Perform safety evaluations on all rigging equipment on a weekly basis.
- Inventory and catalog all rigging equipment at the beginning and end of tour. Provide Production Manager with any equipment/rigging material needs/requests and give recommendations for replacements/upgrades to rigging materials (lines, pulleys, carabiners, etc.).
- See to the proper care and storage of all rigging equipment while on tour and at the end of the season.
- Assist in the loading of technical equipment truck during load-out.
- Ability to work at heights, suspended by a harness, with access through climbing truss, rope ladder and rope.
- Must be able to lift at least 50 pounds.
- Assist in the set-up and tear down of back lot at the discretion of the Tour General Manager. Duties may include but are not limited to: Setting and leveling bunkhouses, running hoses and electrical cords, setting up dishwashing station, setting up picnic tables and dining tent.
- Drive company vehicle.
- Other jobs as needed.



## **KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE**

### *Experience:*

- Minimum 3–5 years of professional rigging experience, preferably in circus, aerial, theater, or event production settings
- Experience rigging for human loads, dynamic performances, and unconventional venues (e.g., tents, outdoor sites)
- Strong background in rope handling, knots, load distribution, and rigging inspections
- Prior experience supervising a rigging team and coordinating with performers, coaches, and technical staff

### *Certifications (preferred but not always required):*

- ETCP Certified Rigger (Theater or Arena)
- SPRAT Level 1 or higher (Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians)
- IRATA Certification (Industrial Rope Access Trade Association)
- OSHA 10 or 30 Hour Safety Certification (or equivalent)

### *Skills & Knowledge:*

- Proficient in load calculations (static and dynamic)
- Expertise in rigging equipment selection, maintenance, and inspection (carabiners, swivels, slings, harnesses, etc.)
- Ability to create and implement safety plans, including emergency rescue procedures
- Comfortable working at height and managing rope access systems
- Strong problem-solving skills in high-pressure, time-sensitive situations
- Familiarity with regulations and safety standards applicable to aerial arts and live performance rigging

## **WORKING CONDITIONS:**

**(Typical working conditions associated with this type of work and environmental hazards, if any, that may be encountered in performing the duties of this position.)**

- Internal: Work is normally conducted in an office environment.
- External: Work requires travel throughout Vermont and surrounding states in preparation for and while on summer tour.

## **PHYSICAL DEMANDS:**

**(The physical effort generally associated with this position.)**

Work involves standing, walking, bending, kneeling, reaching, stooping, and other physical activities consistent with setting up heavy equipment. Work may include lifting, carrying, or moving objects and equipment weighing over 50 pounds.

## **SUPERVISION:**

Supervision is received from the Production Manager. Additional guidance is received from the Rigging Designer/Tour General Manager.

**PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT:**

This is an approximately three-month seasonal position, June 1- August 19, 2025.

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To be considered for this position, please contact [jobs@smirkus.org](mailto:jobs@smirkus.org).

Interested parties please include:

- In the subject line, put "TOUR" in all caps and the job title that you are applying for
- Cover letter
- Resumé

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*Circus Smirkus celebrates all types of peoples, cultures, and skills to showcase the multifaceted triumph of human abilities, particularly among our youth population. Joining Circus Smirkus – as a participant, an employee, a volunteer, or an audience member – means you belong. And to all who join, Smirkus asks for you to embrace our values and to help us create joy and magic for everyone who encounters a Smirkus program. We commit to providing everyone equal opportunity to shine— both in and out of the ring.*