

CIRCUS AT SEA ~ 2023

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A LETTER FROM THE CIRCUS CITY FESTIVAL PRESIDENT

Dear Circus Family,

I am so pleased to welcome you to the 63rd year of the Peru Amateur Circus. Last year we had a very successful circus season and 11 fantastic shows! Looking forward to this year and seeing the tremendous impact that circus can have on all of us and this community. Our producers have a great show planned and we can't wait to get this season started!

This handbook is prepared by the Circus City Booster Club and CCFI Board Member Volunteers to familiarize you with the rules, regulations, and important information regarding the 2023 circus performance season. Michelle Boswell and Bob Sucharski are this year's circus producers and are available to answer any questions or concerns regarding information contained within the handbook.

The circus season could not happen without the dedication of our 500+ volunteers.

Throughout the season there will be many opportunities for adults to be involved. Speak to a trainer,

CCFI Board Member, or Booster Club Member to find out ways to be involved. This program is only successful because of our volunteers.

Please consider becoming a member of the Circus City Festival, Inc. Memberships start at \$20.00 and include discounts to our gift shop, Family Night Performance tickets, and many other specials. Circus City Festival, Inc. is a 501C3 organization and all donations are tax deductible.

The Circus City Festival, Inc. Board of Directors wish you a great circus season!

May all your days be circus days!

Kenneth Hanson
CCFI Board President
Circus City Festival, Inc.

A LETTER FROM THE CIRCUS BOOSTER CLUB PRESIDENT

Dear Circus family,

We are the Circus City Booster Club; a group of performer parents and volunteers that work throughout the year on projects that directly benefit our circus performers. There is no other sport or organization like the Peru Circus so we rely on Boosters to make things run smoothly behind the scenes. We invite you to be a part of this group.

The Booster club raises money to:

- Offer a concession stand with affordable snacks during the busiest part of the practice season. Usually ends after 2nd cuts.
- Host a Community Rummage Sale. This year it will be on Saturday, April 22nd.
- Purchase cosmetics and supplies needed for the season.
- Feed the performers during circus shows.
- Offer a lunch for performers and volunteers after the last Saturday's first show.
- Maintain the Circus Float for the annual Circus City Festival Parade.
- Throw an "After Party" at the Miami County YMCA!
- Provide **Circus Spirit Scholarship**. A \$500 college scholarship awarded to a H.S. Senior.
- And many unseen, necessary expenses.

We enlist **volunteers** in all of the back-lot/backstage areas that support the performers. Some of these areas include wardrobe, dressing rooms, hair and makeup, first-aid nurses' station and parade float.

Performer Shirts have this year's theme on the front and the back will have the names of all this year's performers, clowns, trainers and ringmasters. We will post all names on the red doors, in the back of the arena for several week before we print the shirts. Please make sure you check the spelling of your name and mark it on the sheet, if it is spelled correctly or if a change is needed. **It is your responsibility to check the spelling of your child's name.**

Keep Informed on upcoming events from our Facebook Page; **(Peru Circus Booster Club.)** Meetings are usually held, monthly, in the Circus Building Front Office. We post our meetings on our Facebook page. Please consider joining us this year!

We are really excited to get this year going strong.

Circus City Booster Club President,

April Montgomery

GUIDELINES FOR CIRCUS PERFORMERS

Parents & Performers – Please read and become familiar with these items

The following guidelines are only that – **GUIDELINES**. The trainers and producers may at any time change these guidelines at their discretion. If you have a question or concern about these guidelines, please address them to the Head Trainer, Trainers, or Producers.

CIRCUS OBJECTIVES:

1. To preserve the circus heritage for our community through the production of circus performances.
2. To entertain people with the highest quality circus performance possible.
3. To instill a feeling of accomplishment in each of us for a job well done by improving and learning new skills.
4. To give meaning to the concept of teamwork and family for each and every one of us.
5. To provide a sound, wholesome activity for the youth of Miami County.
6. To have fun.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. All act performers must be:
 - a) A resident of Miami County as of March 1, 2023
 - b) Residing with their parents or guardian
 - c) To be eligible to participate in circus, a child must be seven years old by June 1st and completing first grade. A birth certificate may be required, as proof of age.
2. No person shall practice or perform without the following documents turned in and approved by the producer prior to first practice.
 - a) Parental consent and release form
 - b) Insurance information form
3. Performers are eligible to perform in the Peru Circus through age 21, determined by June 1st.
4. No married person, divorced person, or parent is eligible to perform.

PERFORMANCE RULES:

1. All performers will be under the direct supervision of the producers and trainers.
2. Act limits for all performers shall be four acts with only three being allowed as aerials. ***Tumbling is not counted as an act.***
3. All performers will be expected to be at all performances. If a performance must be missed, it must first be cleared through the circus producers.
4. Wardrobe personnel are in charge of all questions concerning wardrobe and makeup.
Whether or not performers are allowed in the arena on bleachers during the show depends on their behavior and the size of the audience. The circus producers will make all decisions.

RIGGING:

1. Each performer and trainer will be responsible for his/her own rigging, its maintenance, care, and storage before and during show time. This includes:
 - a) Periodic inspection
 - b) Storage after practice (not on floor)
 - c) Keeping it neat and orderly
 - d) Putting away and straightening all cables and blocks
 - e) Preparation and painting of equipment before show time
2. Misuse of equipment, including crash pads and nets, will not be tolerated. Offenders will be asked to leave or suspended from practice for that day.
3. During shows, the head rigger will have final say on equipment setup

BUILDING AND VEHICLES: The building and outside area is to be kept clean. **All trash is to be placed in the trash cans provided throughout the circus building. Eating and drinking are allowed only in the designated areas (areas will be marked).**

1. Personal belongings are to be kept out of the way of the practice area. The **circus is not accountable for lost or stolen items**. Remember to clean up after yourself and take all personal items with you.
2. **Absolutely** no motorized vehicles allowed in the alley during practice or shows except for the EMT van. **This is a fire department regulation and will be strictly enforced.**

3. Bicycles will be parked in an orderly fashion in the space provided. Bicycles are not allowed in the alley or any of the buildings during practice or shows. Storage of bicycles in the buildings is not permitted.
4. Skateboards, unicycles, skates, or other vehicles will not be in the arena at any time unless as part of a supervised practice. Safely store vehicles when not in use.

PRACTICE RULES:

1. To practice for any act, each performer must meet eligibility requirements.
2. **Attendance is not a suggestion. It is required!** The safety of your children and other performers depends on attendance!! Do not plan any vacations or trips from the first of May through circus week.
 - All missed practices must be excused in advance. No unexcused absences!
 - If the safety or quality of the act because of absences, a performer may be cut at any time.
3. Disrespect toward trainers will not be tolerated.
4. Performers are not allowed to practice acts they are not trying out for.
5. The trainer for each act is responsible for the performers practicing that act.
6. The trainer for each act will decide the proper dress apparel for practice.
7. Anyone working above a height of eight feet will be required to use safety devices designated by the trainer and approved by the equipment vice president.
8. The tack room is off limits to all performers at all times, unless given permission by equipment vice president
9. No equipment will leave the building without permission from equipment vice president.
10. The office is off limits to performers unless given permission by the trainer or producer.
11. While at the circus, all performers are to treat each other with respect. Disruption resulting from a performer's disrespect of another or another person's property will result in a reprimand. If a performer requires frequent reprimands, he/she will be dismissed from circus participation and the parents/guardian will be notified.
12. All performers are to give their best effort and attention during practice and performances. Anything less will inhibit the safety of the performers and quality of the show.
13. **During practice and show, no jewelry, earring, necklaces, rings, nothing on the body.** This is a safety issue, and these could get caught on equipment.
14. No hair coloring will be allowed.
15. All makeup to be approved by makeup &/or wardrobe.
16. No clothing worn promoting drugs, tobacco products, profanity, nudity, or liquor.
17. Children not performing will be expected to behave properly. No playing on the equipment, running around, or disturbing performers at practice. They will be asked to leave the building if these rules are not followed.
18. No candy or gum is allowed during practices or shows.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

1. All injuries must be immediately reported to the trainer in charge.
2. Trainers have 24 hours from the time of the accident to turn in an accident report to the front office. Individuals are instructed to use their family insurance plan to cover expenses in any circus related accident.
3. Any performer who suffers an injury, which keeps him/her from performing, will not be allowed to dress for the show, be part of the show, or participate in the walk-around.
4. Any performer who is taking medication or has a medical condition that requires special attention, must notify his/her trainer/trainers.
5. All precautions and safety measures must be adhered to for all acts. If an unsafe condition is noticed please notify the producers, trainers, or the equipment vice president immediately.

PREGNANCY RULE:

Adopted by the CCFI Board of Directors on 5-13-2014.

If it is suspected that a performer is pregnant, it is at the discretion of the Circus Producers to contact the parents, in the case of a minor, and the performer and require a pregnancy test administered by a health care professional. The performer may return to practice and or performances upon presentation of a health care provider's release and a negative test result. If the performer refuses, they will then be removed from practices and performance.

CCFI PERFORMER SAFETY RULE:

Promulgated by the Board November 11, 2003

"It shall be the goal of the CCFI to provide the maximum safety possible for performers, realizing that circus acts, by their nature, pose a risk to performers, as do all athletic endeavors. Risks shall be regularly assessed and made known to performers and parents of performers.

During all practices and performances, some form of safety shall be provided for all performers working at a height of eight feet or more above the arena. 'Safety' may include a mechanical device, a hand loop, suspended or hand held net, crash pads, spotters, tumbling mats, or a combination of the above, or any other form of safety precaution that will minimize the risk of injury to performers. The Head Trainer, Circus Vice President and Equipment Vice President shall make the final determination of the adequacy of safety measures.

At the annual round-up, before performers sign up for acts, information shall be provided to performers and parents which discloses the skill level required for each act, the safety precautions planned for the act and , to the extent possible, the level of risk associated with each act. All performers and parents shall be urged to attend the round-up and be apprised of these issues.

On frequent occasions there may be an exception to the above safety rules, but only if:

- A. In the opinion of the Producers and the trainer for the particular act the performer(s) involved in the act possess the skills necessary to perform the act safely in the absence of any of the above precautions;
- B. The performer(s) and the parents of the performer(s) are apprised of the variance from the above stated safety rules;
- C. The performer(s) and the parents of the performer(s) consent in writing to the deviation from the rules, waiving any liability and holding harmless CCFO and its employees and volunteers; and
- D. The Board of Directors approves the exception.

RULES OF CONDUCT OTHER THAN MENTIONED:

1. No person shall possess or bring onto the Circus City Festival, Inc. premises any intoxicating beverages, drugs, controlled substances, or any derivative thereof.
2. No person shall be permitted to attend practice, performances, or other circus functions after consuming intoxicating beverages, drugs, or controlled substances.
3. No person shall violate any criminal or juvenile law of the State of Indiana. Any arrest or accusation of a violation shall subject a performer to be expelled and excluded from any circus activity. Disciplinary decisions of the Board of Directors are final.
4. Violations of the above rules may subject a performer to immediate expulsion or suspension at any time. The enforcement of these rules is specifically delegated to the trainers and producers. Those found in violation may be prosecuted. The decision of the trainers and producers shall be final until such time as appealed to the Board of Directors.
5. All rules included in the handbook are subject to changes by the CCFI Board of Directors action. Any changes will be posted in the Circus Building.

APPEAL:

Decisions of the trainers and producers in the enforcement of these rules may be appealed in writing to the Board of Directors at the Circus Office, stating reasons for appeal, within ten (10) days of the expulsion or suspension. The decision of the Board of Directors is final.

WARDROBE

Items required for performers

GIRLS:

All girls will be responsible for wearing the appropriate under garments with their costumes for the show.

Everyone should wear beige, or flesh colored underwear, absolutely no printed designs. If a costume is assigned with a low back, you will need to purchase a special bra so that the straps do not show. If your costume has high cut legs, you must make sure your underpants are also high cut.

If a girl gets dressed for the show and the dressing room attendant sees inappropriate undergarments, she will be given three choices, if she has visible underpants, she will be asked to put on a camisole from wardrobe, be given underwear from wardrobe, or be asked to remove her underwear and wear only her tights.

If the girl has visible bra straps, she will either be given a bra from wardrobe, or be asked to wear a camisole from wardrobe.

GIRLS TUMBLING LEO: All girls in tumbling will purchase their leotard. It will then be theirs to keep after circus week.

HAIR: Performers hair must be up and secured out of the performers face. **NO HAIR GLITTER.**

NO HAIR PRODUCTS OR MAKEUP ALLOWED IN THE BACK LOT. Makeup Ladies will apply and touch up all makeup.

Makeup is provided by the circus.

LIPSTICK: If parents do not want circus lipstick used, girls may bring their own lipstick in a Zip lock bag labeled with their name.

BOYS:

COMPRESSION SHORTS: Available at Dunham's, or any sports store

FOOTWEAR & WRIST TAPES: See "General Wardrobe Requirements"

GENERAL WARDROBE REQUIREMENTS:

FOOTWEAR: The type of footwear will depend on the act. Trainers will notify performers as to what footwear is needed.

Sizing dates are Scheduled for April 25-29.

All footwear should be paid for at the time of sizing.

All footwear should be turned in by April 25-29. It must be clean, in good condition and approved by wardrobe.

Boots and Leather pumps will be fitted and ordered by wardrobe.

Wardrobe may alter (painting or dying ect...) to make costumes uniform.

TATTOOS: All tattoos that are visible in circus costumes will need to be covered during all circus performances. Performers will need to get approval from wardrobe director on how they plan to cover their tattoos.

FACIAL HAIR: There is to be no facial hair during shows.

JEWELRY: During practices and shows there is to be **NO JEWELRY, EARRINGS, NECKLACES, RINGS-NOTHING ON THE BODY.** This is a safety issue and could get caught on equipment. **No Spray on hair dye.**

WRIST TAPES: The need for wrist tapes will depend on the act. Trainers will notify performers if wrist tapes are required. All wrist tapes must be newly purchased, not used. Circus City Festival Office sells the one-inch twill tape needed for wrist tapes. Wrist Tapes will not be available in wardrobe.

PLEASE NOTE: All costume items provided by the CIRCUS belong to the CIRCUS, including headpieces, armbands, etc. **DO NOT TAKE ANYTHING HOME BETWEEN SHOWS.** After the final show, only take home what you have purchased.

LIST OF 2022 CIRCUS ACTS – BY TRAINER

The following act guidelines and descriptions are designed to give parents and performers some idea about the act and what the trainer's BASIC intentions are for the particular act. Changes in the acts could be made due to safety, personnel needs, equipment, or unexpected situations. A performer may be used in more than the allowed acts specified in the guidelines. The trainer will discuss any needed changes with the producers prior to implementation. Adjustments are made for the good of the circus.

Because of the limitations in space, equipment, and act safety, cuts must be made during the circus season. Trainers make the decision on who is cut by looking at the following.

1. Safe execution of the tricks selected by the trainer.
2. Attitude and cooperation
3. Willingness to learn
4. Attendance
5. Skill level reached
6. Possibility of progression beyond entry level tricks
7. Strength
8. Size
9. Willingness to help

If you are not sure of the reason your child was cut from an act, talk with the trainer for that act.

TRAINER: CARMEN BICKEL

TRAINER NOTES:

Dress appropriately for all practices. You must wear a leotard or tank under your shirt. No shirts with the sides cut out with a sports bra underneath. You will be upside down a lot of the time, so you need to be dressed for that. Tights or leggings will be worn under shorts. Leggings alone are acceptable as well. Boots, or long socks until you get boots, are to be worn. If you do not dress properly, you will not be able to practice and it will be considered an unexcused absence. Your safety depends on you learning the tricks required for this act. You must respect your fellow performers and everyone you will be working with during practices and performances. I have a zero-tolerance policy concerning bullying. ATTENDANCE AND RESPECT IS A MUST! SEE TRAINER FOR ANY QUESTIONS.

WEB - (ADVANCED)- AERIAL

Web is an advanced act. You will be climbing a rope and hanging from a loop which is 25 feet in the air. You will hang by one hand and one foot while turning. While hanging by one foot you will be upside down turning. The finale for this act is a fast, one hand spin. This act requires strength. You must be at least 11 years old.

SILKS - (ADVANCED)- AERIAL

This is an ADVANCED aerial act. It involves doing tricks by wrapping silks around you and it includes drops. It also requires strength and form. You must be 11 years old to try out for this act.

Ropes –(ADVANCED) - AERIAL

This is an ADVANCED act. You will be high in the air. You must be at least 11 years old to try out for this act. It requires strength and flexibility. You will be doing tricks moving between three ropes and will do a bale out at the end of the act. This act will also be swinging during the performance. Attendance is a must.

NETS – (ADVANCED) - AERIAL

You must be at least 11 years old to try out for this act. It requires strength and flexibility. You will be doing tricks both inside and outside of the net while being pulled into the air while swinging and spinning. There will also be drops during this act.

TRAINER: SHANNON MC GUIRE-CARR

HIGH WIRE – (ADVANCED) - AERIAL

Performers must have NO FEAR OF HEIGHTS and be able to balance well. Performers will be expected to walk, stand, sit and jump on a 5/8 in. steel cable 22 feet in the air. You must be at least 10 to try out for this act.

TRAINER: JON COLE

HIGH CASTING – (ADVANCED) - AERIAL

This act consists of 2 catchers and 4 small flyers performing approximately 20-25 feet above the ground. A net is set up (similar to Flying Trapeze and High Wire) for performer safety if a trick is missed. The 4 flyers take turns performing flipping, twisting or other acrobatic tricks while being tossed back and forth between the catchers. Flyers will need great body control and a willingness to trust their catchers. Catchers will need a strong core, strong legs, and reliable grip strength. If you are scared of heights, this probably isn't the best act for you!

TEETERBOARD – (ADVANCED) - GROUND

This is an advanced act that requires two types of people: 1. Strong and reliable bases for jumping/catching/spotting. 2. Agile/skilled flyers who will utilize their body control to be catapulted into the air from the teeterboard performing flips and twisting tricks before landing on the mat or in the arms of their catchers. Practice attendance is a priority for this act as performers will be relying on the others in the act to learn, practice, and perform their skills safely.

TRAINER: KERRI GAUMER

SINGLE CRADLE – (ADVANCED) - AERIAL

This is a partner act with a base in the cradle and a flyer performing tricks from the hands of the base. This act is all about strength and grace. It is an advanced act, not for beginning performers. There will be 4 “couples” for shows, performing high in the air, with a crash mat below. Trust is a must! **Appropriate practice clothing is required for guys and girls. Wrist tapes will also be needed. ATTENDANCE IS A MUST!** If you miss more than 2 unexcused absences, you will be cut from the act. I am looking for performers who are dedicated to making this a spectacular act. The act will be choreographed to the music.

SWINGING CATCH CRADLE – (ADVANCED) - AERIAL

This is a partner act with one performer in the catch cradle, and one aerial performer completing dismounts from the cradle to the catcher's hands. It is a long version of the catch cradle for flying trapeze. Trust between the two performers is a must! **Appropriate practice clothing is required for guys and girls. Wrist tapes will also be needed. ATTENDANCE IS A MUST!** If you miss more than 2 unexcused absences, you will be cut from the act. I am looking for performers who are dedicated to making this a spectacular act. The act will be choreographed to the music.

FLYING TRAPEZE – (ADVANCED) - AERIAL

Flying trapeze will consist of 2 catchers and 4-6 flyers. Performers will be working on two levels of the rigging. Flyers will be required to do somersaults, twists, and transition tricks between levels of the catchers. This is a much more difficult version of the standard flying trapeze. It will take much determination and practice to achieve the high degree of artistic quality that we set as a standard. Attitudes, attendance, and willingness to learn and work will be determining factors in

making this act. You must be 12 years old or older to try out. Previous experience in low casting or flying trapeze will benefit the performer but does not guarantee a spot in the final act. More than two unexcused absences will result in being cut from the act, this includes before and after final cuts. First cuts are final cuts for this act, once performers have been chosen; their commitment to working together is a requirement. Trainer holds the right to make whatever changes necessary for the safety of the performers.

TRAINER: REBEKAH HANSON

LOW CASTING – (ADVANCED) - AERIAL

This is a miniature version of flying trapeze. Performers will take turns performing tricks on the trapeze and then let go and fly across into the hands of the catcher who is hanging upside down from the catcher perch. This act takes strength and body control and the ability to listen and follow instruction. Prioritizing practice, working hard, and focusing during practice is a must to keep everyone safe. Flyers must be short enough to not touch the mats when hanging from the trapeze. (8-10 girl and boy flyers plus 2 catchers)

SIDE-BY-SIDE – (BEGINNING TO INTERMEDIATE) - AERIAL

This act is for young performers willing to listen to instruction and work hard to learn the choreographed routine with a partner. The apparatus is a trapeze bar divided into two sides that hang from the track around the perimeter of the arena. The trapeze is stationary but will bounce and move with the performer's movement on the apparatus. Performers will need to master basic skills, memorize the routine, and follow instruction to make the act.

TRAMPOLINE- (INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED) -GROUND

Performers must exhibit great control, form, and teamwork. We will be synchronizing routines and partner routines. THIS IS NOT AN ACT FOR BEGINNERS. Please see trainer for questions about skill level before you sign up. All performers must dress appropriately for practice. **NO JEANS** will be worn or the performer will be asked to sit out of practice. Long hair must be pulled back away from the face.

TRAINER: HEATHER LEAVITT

SWINGING LADDERS – (INTERMEDIATE) - AERIAL

This is an intermediate skill level act (typically for girls, but boys are welcome to try out). This act involves working on a metal ladder that swings out over the audience. You might be working individually on a single ladder (taller performers) or with a partner on a double ladder. The routine will involve hanging by your hand and foot in a loop while swinging. Grace, poise, and working together are musts for this act. The entire arena must be doing the same thing at the same time! This act is typically a stepping stone between Side-by-Side and Anchors/Hoops. If you are afraid of heights, swinging, or being over the crowd then this act is not for you. Attitude, attendance, and skill level will all be considered when deciding on performers for this act. Practice attire: hair pulled back, leotard under clothing, something covering the legs (tights, leggings, etc), and socks or boots. NO pumps as they get caught in the loop! Approximately 17-22 performers.

STRATOSPHERE (INTERMEDIATE-ADVANCED) - AERIAL

This is an advanced skill level aerial act. Performers need to be strong, graceful, and flexible. The equipment will be hoops connected together to make a sphere. A willingness to work hard and try new things is a must! In addition to the qualities already listed, performers must not be afraid of heights and be able to spin. Tricks could include hanging by hand or foot from a loop and a neck spin. Attitude, attendance, and skill level will all be taken into account when deciding on performers for this act. Practice attire: hair pulled back, leotard under clothing, something covering the legs (tights, leggings, etc.) 2-3 performers. The act will be performed in a different style than last year's act.

LADDER TRAPEZE – (ADVANCED) - AERIAL

This is an advanced skill level aerial act. The rigging looks like two single traps stacked one on top of the other. The middle bar connecting the two rotates around to allow for the finale trick. Performers must have strength and grace to perform tricks with a high level of difficulty and not be afraid of heights. Performers must also be able tall enough to safely transition from one section of the equipment to the other. The ladder may also be used as part of the act. A willingness to work hard and try new things is a must! Attitude, attendance, and skill level will all be taken into account when deciding on performers for this act. Practice attire: hair pulled back, leotard under clothing, something covering the legs (tights, leggings, etc.) Approximately 4 performers.

TRAINER: LORI SMITH

INTERMEDIATE TUMBLING-INTERMEDIATE-GROUND

This year we will be working on partner skills, mini-trampoline, and more advanced tumbling skills. Be prepared to try new things. Please understand that circus should be fun for everyone involved. That is why I have to ask you to treat others the way you would like to be treated. Also, please leave any toys or expensive items at home. Those things can come up missing. Just don't bring them to save yourself heartache and disappointment. Please come dressed appropriately for practice. Shorts, T-shirts, and a bodysuit are preferable. I know people become ill and things come up. If you cannot make it to practice, please call the circus office and leave me a message. The number is 765.472.3918. Thank you and I hope we have a wonderful year together!

TRAINER: AUNA TONKS

TRAINER NOTES: Dress appropriately for all practices. No midriffs showing or visible undergarments. Legs must be covered. Hair must be pulled up and out of the face. Attendance is imperative! Cuts will be based on skill level AS WELL AS attitude, attendance, and behavior during practices. No cell phones at practice.

ROMAN LADDERS – (BEGINNING) – GROUND

There will be 2 standing ladders held upright by performers in the middle of the ladders, with performers on the outside of the ladders holding poses and styles. Girls must wear leggings or tights under shorts, as well as leotards or a tank top that can be tucked in beneath a t-shirt. Long hair must be up. No jewelry. No cell phones during practice. No visible undergarments. Cuts will be based on skill, attitude, behavior, and attendance.

ANCHORS – (INTERMEDIATE-ADVANCED) – AERIAL

There will be 1 girl per aerial anchor. Anchors will swing over the audience while performers do various tricks from a hand or foot loop. Girls must wear leggings or tights under shorts, as well as leotards or a tank top that can be tucked in beneath a t-shirt. Long hair must be up. No jewelry. No cell phones during practice. No visible undergarments. Cuts will be based on skill, attitude, behavior, and attendance. Height must be taken into consideration. See the trainer with any questions.

TRAINER: QUENTIN WATSON

JUGGLING-BEGINNING TO ADVANCED-GROUND

Rings, knives, clubs, and fire...anything is possible with juggling. This act is for all age ranges. Having eye hand coordination is key to learning and developing juggling skills. New jugglers will start with juggling balls and move up to rings and clubs when they are ready. Your success in this act greatly depends on INDIVIDUAL practice and motivation to always be improving. You will probably not succeed in this act if you only practice during scheduled juggling practice.

TRAINER: KARI WHANN

DOUBLE FOUR LANE CRADLE – (ADVANCED) - AERIAL

Performers will be working on a metal apparatus divided into four sections. Two of these will be attached together to make eight sections. You will be designated a position by the trainer. If you are afraid of heights, do not like crawling on or touching others who may be sweaty, or hanging upside down, this act is not for you. We will work on correctly mounting and dismounting human bases, various tricks, pyramids and poise all while working as a unit and team. To make this act, you need to master the basic skills with confidence of self, others, and the trainer. You must attend practices and follow the expectations put forth by the trainer. GIRLS ARE EXPECTED TO WEAR A LEOTARD. I do not want to see undergarments while hanging upside down! Any practices missed once summer practice begins without PRIOR discussion with the trainer will result in a missed performance.

BEGINNING TUMBLING – (BEGINNING) - GROUND

Performers will learn basic tumbling skills, as well as useful skills to help them with body control and flexibility. Performers MUST be able to complete a successful forward roll, backward roll, cartwheel and roundoff to move up to intermediate tumbling. Please make sure performers wear flexible clothing, NO JEANS. ALL LONG HAIR NEEDS PUT IN THE A PONYTAIL! It is hard to roll around with hair getting in the way.

ROLLA BOLLA – (BEGINNING THROUGH ADVANCED) - GROUND

Performers will be using a board and bolla (pvc pipe) to maintain balance without the aid of others. Performers must be able to balance on their own for first cuts. By second cuts, performers must be able to perform 2-3 different tricks on their own while maintaining their balance. Attendance and attitude are key with this act to maintain cuts. Performers ARE NOT required to provide their own boards and pipes; however, it will prove useful to be able to practice outside of practice times. For shows, performers will be conducting various tricks throughout the show that may include solo and partner stunts while balancing.

TRAINER: MISTY WILCOX

UNICYCLE-INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED-GROUND

This is an Intermediate to advanced ground act for boys and girls. You must be able to ride a unicycle by first cuts and rock (idle) in order to make second cuts. These are essential skills for the performance. Must wear closed toe shoes.

ADVANCED TUMBLING-ADVANCED-GROUND

Somersaulting and twisting skills will be used. You must be able to do a round off back handspring or back tuck by second cuts. If you cannot do these or the required skills for this act safely you will be moved to intermediate tumbling.

BOUNDING BARS – (ADVANCED) – GROUND

This is an act that combines the gymnastics skills of balance as well as the ability to flip and twist while balancing on flexible bars being held by other performers. The bars are held parallel to the floor. The act needs strong guys/girls to hold the bars as well as performers on top of the bars performing feats.

ROADSHOWS

The roadshow crew performs small shows outside of Peru. We perform outside and inside. We also interact with the audience, teaching and answering questions. Looking for performers who are able to perform multiple acts and are willing to be available to travel outside of town and on weekends. This requires extra time in addition to trying out for regular acts. We need different ages and sizes.

CLOWNS

Clowning is a very important part of the circus. Clowns provide laughter and entertainment throughout the show. Clowns may not perform in any other circus acts. The Peru Amateur Circus has three groups of performing clowns.

KIDDIE CLOWNS: Melanie Slonaker & Angela Cunningham (MUST BE 5-6 YEARS OLD BY JUNE 1ST OF THIS YEAR)

This is a beginning clown act and a great way for younger, shy children to become accustomed to performing. Kiddie Clowns are required to supply their own costumes. Costumes must be approved by the Kiddie Clown producers.

>First parent meeting will be March 9th at 5:30 upstairs in the Kiddie clown room.

>First Kiddie Clown Practice will be April 13th at 5:30 upstairs. These practices are very important for the children to attend in order for them to learn their dance. Parents and guardians must fill out registration. If you have any questions, please contact the circus office at 765-472-3918

JUNIOR CLOWNS: Producer: Shanna Stoll

This act is for those performers who like to make people laugh. This act does not require acrobatic skills, just a sense of humor. Juniors will be working close to adult clowns. Junior Clowns will be responsible for their own costumes, wigs, accessories, and make-up. Help and guidance will be available. Juniors are required to attend scheduled meetings and practices. Junior clowns have been incorporated with the adult clowns.

BIG TOP CLOWNS: Producer: Shanna Stoll

We are looking for adults who have a desire to entertain and are dedicated to be a productive and active participant. Attendance and meetings are required. You can obtain an application from the clown producers or the circus office. Applicants will be reviewed by the circus producers and contacted based on space availability. Big Top Clowns will be responsible for their own costumes, wigs, accessories, and materials.

CIRCUS CITY FESTIVAL BAND OFFICERS

Directors - Jarrod Ellis, Diane Haley, Mike Keller, and Scott Thompson.

President.....Diane Haley

Vice President.....Roger Einselen

Secretary/Treasurer.....Barbie McKamey

The band directors meet with the trainers and circus producers to select the music for each act. A great deal of thought goes into choosing the music, pulling it from existing libraries, ordering new when necessary, and even arranging it themselves. The variety is tremendous – from traditional circus music to contemporary movie soundtracks. There is something for everyone.

Each circus performance usually finds 64 seats in the arena's brightly lit band loft filled to capacity with musicians. These dedicated, talented people include outstanding local student musicians to professionals from across Indiana. Circus band members rehearse year-round, performing for nursing homes in the winter and presenting free concerts in the summer on the courthouse lawn, at the Peru Depot, and in the park. They can also be found playing on the bandwagon in the Circus Parade. Band members didn't always have it so good.

From 1960-1966, they played in the large, sometimes leaky, rented tent in the city's east end. Bare light bulbs hung above the musicians, who also balanced their music stand on the floorboards of the bleachers. When it rained, water rolled down the electric wiring and dripped on anything or anyone below. The number of musicians in the "tent" years ago was considerably smaller than today.

In 1967, the show was in the roofless Circus Building at Seventh and Broadway. Barely a drop of rain fell and the next season saw the steel roof in place. The first band loft in the Circus Arena was behind center ring and later moved to the west end.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Circus Band, contact one of the Circus Band officers or a member of the Band Board of Directors by calling the Circus City Festival office at 472-3918.

CIRCUS CITY BOOSTER CLUB OFFICERS

President ~ April Montgomery

Treasurer ~ Cassie Korba

Secretary ~ Kristen Jones

CIRCUS BOOSTER ACTIVITIES

Contact a CCBC officer if you are interested in helping with any of the following events.

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE A BACKGROUND CHECK TURNED IN TO THE OFFICE

YMCA PARTY:

This is an after-show party for everyone involved in the circus and their families. Average attendance is around 250-300 people. This is a special "pat on the back" for all the hard work done during the circus season, and a great time to "wind down" and have fun after the last show. Families bring your swimsuits; towels and whatever food items you signed up to bring. A DJ will be playing for dancing. The pool will be open for swimming, and we will order Pizzas!!!

PARADE FLOAT:

CCBC has one float. Information such as where and when to meet will be given after one of the last shows or posted on the bulletin boards. Performers are also needed to carry banners in the parade

PERFORMER MEALS:

CCBC prepares a meal for all performers and volunteers each Saturday between both shows.

TRAINER MEAL is provided for all trainers on the first Saturday between both shows.

CIRCUS WEEK VOLUNTEERS: ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE BACKGROUND CHECK ON FILE

There are numerous places volunteers are needed circus week. Talk to any Booster Club Officer to see where you can help.

CIRCUS CITY BOOSTER CLUB (CCBC) SPECIAL PROJECTS

The following projects are the fundraiser for the CCBC. Funds raised by these projects are used to provide special activities for the performers and their families. It is also used to help low-income families so that their children are able to participate in the circus and to supplement the cost of costumes, back-lot snacks and other miscellaneous items upon request and approval by the CCBC. All monetary requests must be submitted in writing to the CCBC or a request can be made in person at a CCBC meeting. Approval will depend on the amount of funds in the treasury and the importance of the request. Activities and performers' needs come first. For more information contact one of the CCBC officers. We rely on the Boosters to help make things run smoothly behind the scenes. There are multiple jobs and activities that are performed by Boosters. Contact an Officer to help out.

PERFORMERS SHIRTS:

Orders for these shirts will be taken from May 1st until June 5th. Please make sure your order is turned in by the deadline. **We will only place one order this year and the shirts must be paid for at the time the order is placed.** The shirts will have a design and the theme on the front and the back will have the names of all this year's performers, clowns, trainers, and ringmasters. We will post all names on the red doors, in the back of the arena for several weeks, before we print on the back of the shirts. Please make sure you check the spelling of your name and mark it on the sheet if it is spelled correctly or if a change is needed. We will send this list to the printers.

It is your responsibility to check the spelling of your name.

EMBROIDERED SWEATSHIRTS:

We will be taking orders for embroidered sweatshirts. Contact any CCBC officer to order sweatshirts.

FAMILY MEMBER SHIRTS

We will be taking orders for family member shirts. We offer a choice of colors and names (Mom, Dad, Grandma, and Grandpa) on them.

ADDITIONAL FUND RAISERS:

We are currently looking for other fund-raising ideas. If you have any suggestions, feel free to contact one of the CCBC officers or attend one of our meetings. We meet monthly. We post our meetings on our Facebook page (Peru Circus Booster Club).

PRACTICE MEALS AND CONCESSIONS

The Booster Club opens the concession stand during practices to help provide a place for performers to purchase something to eat so they do not have to leave the building to get what they need.

GENERAL CIRCUS INFORMATION

BULLETIN BOARD:

CCFI, CCBC, the trainers and wardrobe to communicate with parents and performers use Team Snap, and the back door of the arena to hang signs and notices. Please check the door each time you come into the arena. Special announcements, schedule changes and upcoming event are only some of the things you'll find posted there.

CIRCUS KING & QUEEN:

Election of the performance King & Queen will be voted by the performers at the "First Half Circus Run Through." Winners will be announced when the votes have been counted.

STYLE & SMILE:

Each year one boy and one girl between the ages of 7 – 12 and one boy and one girl between the ages of 13 – 21 are chosen by the CCFI trainers for this special award.

MISS CIRCUS CITY PAGEANT:

Official entry blank, rules and regulations of the pageant are available in the Circus Office. The pageant is held in June. See Hope Turcheck and Kerri Gaumer.

CIRCUS PHOTOS:

Group and individual photos for purchase will be taken. Watch for the schedule.

We will have a list of times for each act closer to picture day. Please make sure you have hair and makeup done before arriving for pictures that day and arrive 30 min. before your scheduled time so you have enough time to get into your costumes. Also please remember your circus shoes. Picture day is very important! This will be the last time to try on your costume before shows. If there are any needed alterations, please see wardrobe director that day to get it taken care of. If a costume needs alterations and it is not brought to the wardrobe on or before picture day you risk the chance of the costume not getting fixed.

FAMILY NIGHT CIRCUS TICKETS:

Tickets are \$5 each, general admission. No free tickets.

CIRCUS PARTICIPANT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Our Circus City Festival, Inc., Circus Activities and Success are very dependent upon willing young persons to perform on a volunteer basis. It is the intent of this scholarship program to aid our circus participants, when requested, in preparing themselves in further education after the completion of high school for their future life's endeavors. This further education will take place at accredited institutions of learning such as universities, colleges, trade schools, vocations schools, and other institutions of high learning.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Resident of Miami County.
2. Graduate of Miami County High Schools, including Oak Hill High School.
3. Be a circus participant (see definition) 3 of 4 high school years, including performance after graduation.
4. Applicants must apply for this scholarship award during their senior year.
5. Applications for succeeding years must be submitted on a yearly basis to continue eligibility.

Mail to: Circus City Festival, Inc., 154 North Broadway, Peru, IN 46970

DEFINITION OF A PARTICIPANT: PERFORMERS IN THE ARENA, INCLUDING CLOWNS

GENERAL RULES:

1. Scholarship payments are made directly to the recipient. The granted funds can be sent directly to the institution of higher learning upon request. Proof of school registration must be submitted prior to payment by CCFI Treasurer.
2. The intent of this scholarship and granting of funds from year to year shall be based on continuous schooling each year as the school offers curriculums.
3. Any person discontinuing school after receiving scholarship funds must return any unused funds to the CCFI Scholarship program.
4. These scholarship awards will continue for four school years depending on yearly participation and availability of funds.
5. The scholarship applicant shall attach a current billfold size photograph of the applicant to the initial scholarship application only to aid the publicity program.

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

- 1) The income realized from the performances on the first Saturday should be scholarship funds inclusively. These shows shall be known as "Circus City Festival Scholarship Performances".
- 2) Publicity on the scholarship program is recommended to encourage donation. This activity must be performed on a yearly basis. Donations to the CCFI Scholarship Fund are tax deductible under Internal Revenue Code #501(c) 3.
- 3) Scholarship award dollar limits:
 - a. 1st year student: \$350 maximum when adequately funded = \$100 minimum
 - b. 2nd year through 4th years: shall be dependent upon funds available - \$250 maximum when adequately funded - \$100 minimum
 - c. Continued participation in circus/show activities may qualify to remain at \$350 per year
- 4) The continuity of this scholarship program is entirely dependent upon the continuing success of the circus activities
- 5) A CCFI Scholarship committee of up to five members shall be appointed and maintained by the CCFI President.
- 6) If there is eligibility exception deemed plausible; this will be considered on an individual basis upon request to the CCFI Scholarship Committee. Final approval must be by a majority vote of the total CCFI Board of Directors.

RECORD KEEPING:

The scholarship committee shall establish and maintain a complete card file on every performer during their school years and succeeding scholarship grant years.

Revised April 2001 KH

10/82/b

****In addition to the Circus Participant Scholarship, there are also the Bud Chalkley, CCFI Band, Psi Iota Xi, Lynn Gebhart Memorial, Circus City Booster Club, Embrey Family, and Meeker scholarships, among others. These winners will be announced prior to each performance on Scholarship Saturday and in the program book.**

2023 CIRCUS CITY FESTIVAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CIRCUS CITY FESTIVAL, INC.

154 North Broadway, Peru, Indiana 46970

Office: 765-472-3918 Fax: 765-472-2826

President ~ Kenny Hanson

Executive Vice President ~ Jenny Cole

Treasurer ~ Ryan Sipe

Circus Producer Vice President ~ Michelle Boswell

Circus Producer Co-Vice President ~ Bob Sucharski

Building Vice President ~ Aaron Logsdon

Building Co-Vice President ~ Matt Barnett

Equipment Vice President ~ Brad Nord

Parade Vice President ~ Matthew Chilcutt

Parade Co-Vice President ~ Zach Whann

Publicity Vice President ~ John Kirk

Publicity Co-Vice President ~ Staci Makowski

Museum & Exhibits Vice Present ~ Tim Bessignano
Ticket Vice President ~ Megan Black
Tickets Co-Vice President ~ Morgan Gold

Festivities Vice President ~ David Weeks
Festivities Co-Vice President ~ Eric Huneryager
Road Show Vice President ~ Diana Yoo

PHONE LISTINGS

Producers

Michelle Boswell: 765.469.2077 Bob Sucharski: 765.469.7461

Circus Executive Secretary – Kathi Greene - Circus Office 765-472-3918

TRAINERS

Carmen Bickel: 765-469-2846
Shannon McGuire-Carr: 765-469-1334
Jon Cole: 765-244-2521
Kerri Gaumer: 765-469-1343
Rebekah Hanson: 765-244-7930
Heather Leavitt: 765-461-7591
Lori Smith: 812-517-4115
Auna Tonks: 765-244-7784
Quentin Watson: 765-431-0952
Kari Whann: 765-470-1534
Misty Wilcox: 765-480-9675

CLOWNS

Jr and adult clowns - Shanna Stoll: 765-470-1336
Kiddie clowns – Melanie Slonaker: 765-726-0181

WARDROBE- Cindy Gillespie – 765-469-5157
LIGHTING DIRECTORS – Anginette and Jeff *Coleman*

Head USHER - Diana Yoo
FIRST AID- Tanya Oaks - 765-470-3933

CIRCUS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Round-up – Feb. 26 (Sunday)

First Practice – March 6 (Monday)

First cuts – March 24 (Friday)

Final cuts – April 7 (Friday)

May 30 – Summer schedule begins (Tuesday)

June (date to be determined) – Group photos

July 8 – Clean-up 9 a.m. (Saturday)

July 11 – First half of show run-through (Tuesday)

July 12 – Second half of show run-through (Wednesday)

July 14 – First show - Family night (Friday)

July 15 – 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. shows (Saturday)

July 16 – 3 p.m. show (Sunday)

July 17 – 7 p.m. show (Monday)

July 18 – 7 p.m. show (Tuesday)

July 19 – 7 p.m. show (Wednesday)

July 20 – 7 p.m. show (Thursday)

July 21 – 7 p.m. show (Friday)

July 22 – 10 a.m. parade. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. shows (Saturday)

July 23 – Clean-up 9 a.m. (Sunday)

