






2012 Smirkus Camp Session V Application





Smirkus Camp Session V carries high expectations for campers who have a great attitude and are willing to work hard to improve their artistry in a self-directed, supervised training experience. All applicants are expected to excel in at least one, and have a basic knowledge of at least three, of the following skills: balance, acrobatics, juggling, aerials, clowning/performing, styling and smiling.





Ensemble Work is for youths, ages 12 to 18, who have the desire to improve upon their existing circus skills and to learn new ones. The 32 campers accepted into this program must possess the initiative and maturity to collaborate with their peers in creating a circus show and be capable of setting and obtaining personal and group goals. In the first week, campers will focus on their individual circus training goals during morning and afternoon classes and in the second week, will be dedicated to creating and performing a group show. While some evenings will be spent participating in open tent time, campers in this program will also enjoy afternoon and evening activities outside of the circus tents. This session will give campers challenging circus training and performing experiences as well as allow them to enjoy traditional Smirkus Camp activities.





Individual Acts is for 16 young adults, ages 14 to 18, with self-motivation and a strong desire to create and perform in the circus arts community. Chosen campers will have the opportunity to work in small groups, as well as one-on-one, with coaches in their area of concentration. The goal of this program is to help campers develop into well-rounded circus performers by creating a base of circus skills along with increased strength and flexibility. With the assistance of the coaches, campers will also develop a 2-3 minute circus act, by themselves or with a partner, which can be used for auditions and/or performances outside of camp. Mornings will be spent rotating through a variety of circus disciplines, while in the afternoons campers will train with an assigned coach to develop their act. These acts will be presented for families, friends and a few circus folks at the end of the camp session. In addition to open tent time in the evenings, extended training hours and individual attention, this session includes such Smirkus Camp staples as a camper talent show and dinner dress-ups!





Road Show is a group of up to twelve campers, ages 14 to 18, who perform for organizations around Vermont, such as nursing homes, childcare centers and outdoor festivals. Those selected for this program work closely as a group with the coaches to produce a 30-minute show. During the first week of intense training, campers will spend mornings, afternoons and evenings creating their show. In the second week campers perform 2-3 shows per day for varying audiences, working in the evenings to improve their show and occasionally enjoying open tent time. This program does not include aerial acts, so acrobatics, clowning and/or juggling skills are required. Dinner dress-ups and other fun camp activities are included!








Campers interested in these 3 programs must submit a 3-6 minute audition video of their circus skills and two references from non-family members along with their 2-page application. Videos should include examples of the camper's primary circus interests, as well as a quick montage of core strengths. They can be sent in VHS or DVD format or applicants may send us a link to their video posted on youtube or other similar websites. Returning Smirkus Campers may use any 2011 Smirkus Camp Show as their audition video. For those who have applied to the 2012 Smirkus Big Top Tour, no need to submit an additional audition video or references, please just check the correct box on the application so that we know where to look for your audition materials.



All applications and audition materials are due by January 31, 2012. Campers may apply to all three programs in Session V, but will only be selected for one if accepted. Please be sure to select your first option when registering for the session and when filling out the application. Applicants will be notified of their Smirkus Camp Session V status shortly after February 15, 2012. Applications sent after January 31 will be reviewed pending session availability.



For those not accepted into the program of their choice for this coming summer, Smirkus Camp Session IV is also packed full of fun and challenging training for campers with prior circus experience. If applicants choose not to attend another Smirkus Camp Session, deposits will be refunded less a \$50 processing fee. Please refer to page 2 of the registration form for other fees and conditions that may apply. For questions regarding the Smirkus Camp Session V Application process, please contact the camp office by phone at 802-533-7443 x23, or by e-mail at camp@smirkus.org.



2012 Smirkus Camp Session V Application

Completed Applications should be sent with references by January 31, 2012 to:
Smirkus Camp Session V, 1 Circus Road, Greensboro, VT 05841



Name _____ Age _____ Favorite Circus Trick _____

Mailing Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____

Previous Circus Experience _____

(list camps, schools, classes...) _____

*I would like to be considered for the following program(s): Ensemble Work Individual Acts Road Show
(Please circle your first choice. If accepted into the session, we will notify you by letter as to which program you have been selected to attend.)

If not accepted into any of the above programs, I would like to participate in Smirkus Camp Session IV or another session.

***Audition Video:** Included 2011 Smirkus Camp Video 2012 Tour Audition Video Website _____

*On a separate piece of paper, please provide us with a sampling of your creative abilities.
(i.e. a drawing, poem, collage, story, mathematic equation, etc)

*From the following list of circus (and related) skills, please check all of the abilities that you currently possess:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> forward roll | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 ball juggle | <input type="checkbox"/> foot knot on rope, web or fabric | <input type="checkbox"/> style & smile after tricks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> backward roll | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 club juggle | <input type="checkbox"/> climb 20' up rope, web or fabric | <input type="checkbox"/> pantomime pulling rope |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bridge | <input type="checkbox"/> 4+ ball/club flash | <input type="checkbox"/> straddle-up on rope or fabric | <input type="checkbox"/> dead or alive clown gag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cartwheel | <input type="checkbox"/> ball or club passing | <input type="checkbox"/> flag on Chinese pole or perch | <input type="checkbox"/> star role in school play |
| <input type="checkbox"/> round-off | <input type="checkbox"/> one diabolo orbit | <input type="checkbox"/> bird's nest on trapeze | <input type="checkbox"/> play musical instrument |
| <input type="checkbox"/> back handspring | <input type="checkbox"/> 2+ diabolo orbit | <input type="checkbox"/> toe hang on trapeze | <input type="checkbox"/> play team sport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> standing back tuck | <input type="checkbox"/> walk on rolling globe | <input type="checkbox"/> base a two high | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 good push-ups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> handstand (15+ sec.) | <input type="checkbox"/> ride unicycle 50+ feet | <input type="checkbox"/> walk 15' on tight wire | <input type="checkbox"/> 3+ pull-ups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> headstand (25+ sec.) | <input type="checkbox"/> idle on unicycle | <input type="checkbox"/> lunge on tight wire | <input type="checkbox"/> run 2+ miles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> right, left or center split | <input type="checkbox"/> grass walk on stilts | <input type="checkbox"/> dance in public | <input type="checkbox"/> eat your vegetables |

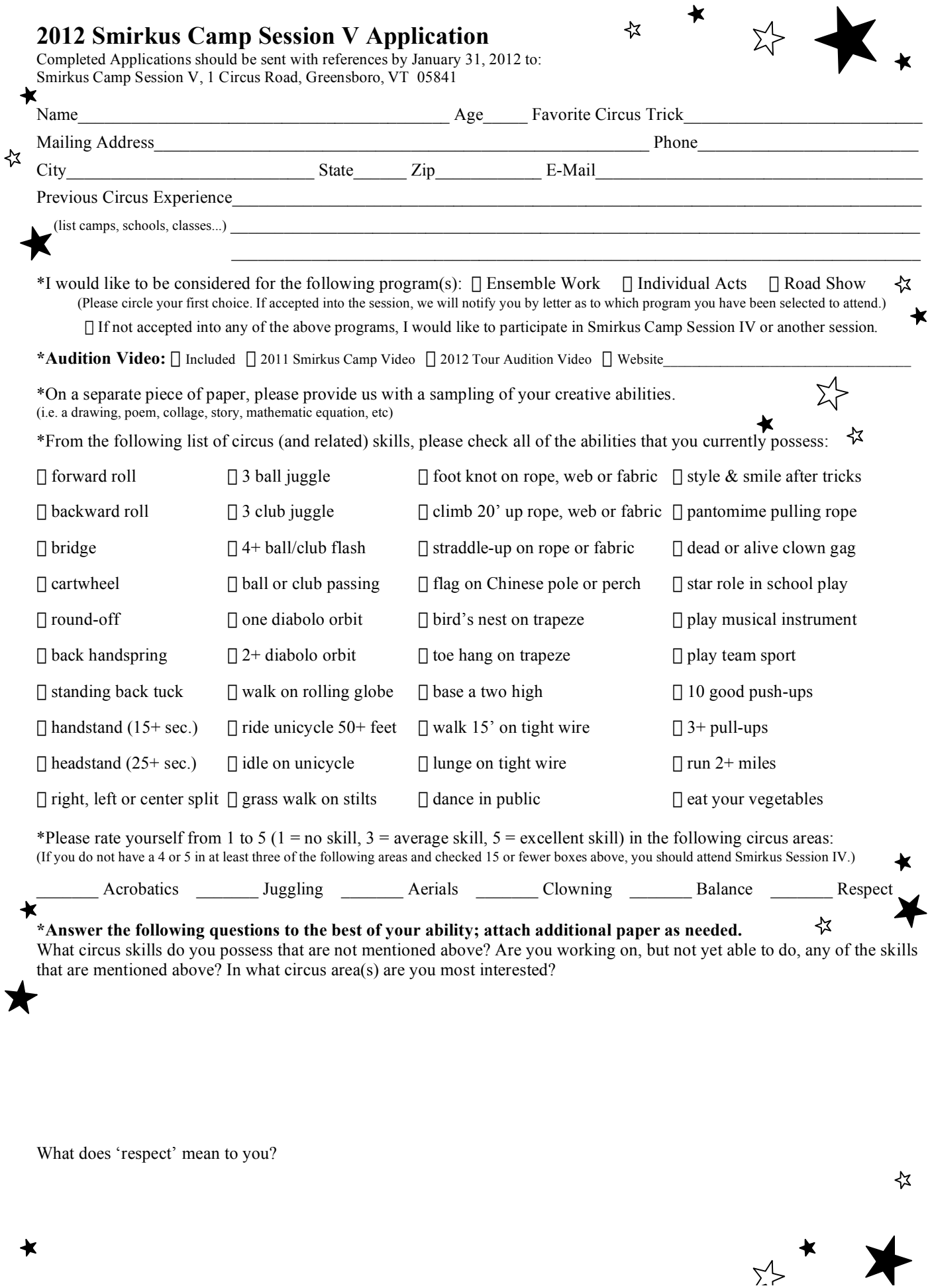
*Please rate yourself from 1 to 5 (1 = no skill, 3 = average skill, 5 = excellent skill) in the following circus areas:
(If you do not have a 4 or 5 in at least three of the following areas and checked 15 or fewer boxes above, you should attend Smirkus Session IV.)

_____ Acrobatics _____ Juggling _____ Aerials _____ Clowning _____ Balance _____ Respect

*Answer the following questions to the best of your ability; attach additional paper as needed.

What circus skills do you possess that are not mentioned above? Are you working on, but not yet able to do, any of the skills that are mentioned above? In what circus area(s) are you most interested?

What does 'respect' mean to you?



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Name _____ Age _____ Pet's Name _____

Please rate yourself from 1 to 5 (1 = poor, 3 = good, 5 = excellent) in the following traits:

☆ _____ Sense of Humor _____ Maturity _____ Initiative _____ Follows Directions _____ Team Work _____ Leadership

★ **Answer the following questions to the best of your ability; attach additional paper as needed.**

Which program would you prefer to participate in – Ensemble Work, Individual Acts or Road Show? Why? ★

If selected for the above-mentioned program, what do you hope to gain from the experience AND what do you hope others in the program will gain from your participation?

☆

☆

In what area(s) would you like to concentrate on while at Smirkus Camp and why?
(if interested in participating in the Individual Acts program, let us know your top three choices for an act you'd like to work)

★

What has been your greatest accomplishment as an individual? What has been your greatest accomplishment as part of a group?

What is your greatest strength? What is your greatest weakness?

If you could invite anyone (living or dead, famous or not) to have dinner with you: who would you invite and why?

2012 Smirkus Camp Session V Reference Form

References should be submitted with other application materials by January 31, 2012 to:
Smirkus Camp Session V, 1 Circus Road, Greensboro, VT 05841

Applicant's Name _____

Your Name & Title _____

Phone _____ Best time to call _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please rate the following traits as they pertain to the applicant (1 = poor, 4 = good, 7 = excellent):

Respect for Others	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sense of Humor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maturity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Takes Initiative	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Follows Directions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Works With Others	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?

How has this person demonstrated the ability to set goals and work toward them?
How much adult encouragement is needed in this area?

Do you feel this person has the skills necessary to be an active member of a peer-driven collaborative group? How has he/she demonstrated these skills?

Additional comments or stories related to Applicant:

2012 Smirkus Camp Session V Reference Form

★ References should be submitted with application and audition video by January 31, 2012 to:
Smirkus Camp Session V, 1 Circus Road, Greensboro, VT 05841

☆ Applicant's Name _____

Your Name & Title _____ ☆

Phone _____ Best time to call _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please rate the following traits as they pertain to the applicant (1 = poor, 4 = good, 7 = excellent):

★	Respect for Others	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	☆
☆	Sense of Humor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	☆
☆	Maturity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	☆
☆	Takes Initiative	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	☆
☆	Follows Directions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	☆
☆	Works With Others	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	☆
☆	Self-Motivation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	☆

★ How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?

How has this person demonstrated the ability to set goals and work toward them?
How much adult encouragement is needed in this area?

☆ Do you feel this person has the skills necessary to work as a self-motivated and independent performer? How has he/she demonstrated these skills?

★ Additional comments or stories related to Applicant:

☆
☆

★
☆