

Turners Circus



Handbook

2024 Performance Dates:

March 15, 16, 17,

22, 23, 24

Flood Dates: TBD

Mission Statement

Turners Circus is dedicated to providing a safe and cooperative environment for families and individuals of all ages to enhance their physical and mental capabilities through guided development of skills and artistic expression with a focus on strength, grace and group involvement. Turners Circus is committed to creating a diverse environment where all are welcome without regard to race, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or age.

Circus History

In 1941, the year of the National Turnfest in Springfield, Massachusetts, Turners was in dire need of funds to send the gymnastics team into competition. Hastily and in short order, the Turners Circus was formed.

The idea of a Circus stemmed from a troupe of Circus performers who were wintering in Jeffersonville, IN and used Turners Gym for practice. With these individuals and our own adult gym members, a show was put on that surpassed expectations in every way; skill, showmanship, and the much needed revenue.

The amazement of our capabilities kept this idea of a Circus ever present in our minds, even though it had to wait to flourish again until after World War II.

In 1948, a circus committee was formed under the leadership of V.J. Vanderboom and Professor Weissmuller, and professional circus people continued to winter in Louisville, some joining Turners and continuing to use our gym for their practice. They would perform in our Circus before going back on the road in the spring. Some of our performers became professionals and ran away with other Circuses or Shows.

Since that time, the Circus has been and will continue to be an annual production which has grown to mammoth proportions. It is a great incentive for our gym members and a means of exhibiting to the public the benefits and accomplishments of this organization.

The Circus program has increased in every way, and new apparatus and equipment are continually added to meet the needs of our students as they reach the professional stage. To see these performers demonstrating their skillful acts, it is thrilling to know that these goals have been achieved in our own gym through dedicated practice, hard work, and the sheer enjoyment of the delights the circus arts have to offer.

In March of 2020, we would have celebrated our 70th Circus anniversary, but Covid forced us to cancel the 2020 and 2021 shows. We are excited to return in March of 2022, ready to continue to grow and exceed expectations.

Turners Circus is a Family affair and all ages are welcome and encouraged to participate!

2024 Circus Committee



Ali Lutch (Co-Costume Coordinator) found her way to Louisville via Central America, Africa and the Middle East. Having met her husband in Mali (it was a Peace Corps romance) and having the first of four boys in Qatar, Ali and her family relocated to Louisville. A fifth boy was born here before the family found its way to Turners. Ali's boys began performing in 2012 and Ali joined them in 2013 as a fire eater.

April Farmer (Administrative Director) and her family discovered Turners Circus in 2011 and started performing in 2012. Her daughter, Thyme, instructs and performs in a variety of acts, and April eats fire. She joined the Circus Committee as Administrative Director in 2015 and can't wait for another fun-filled season.



Cindi Wolf (Forever Director) started helping with Turners Circus in Turners' old gymnasium on Broadway, when her oldest daughter started performing in 1972. Over time she became more involved and added 6 more children to Turners Circus troupe. Her whole family started performing including her husband, not only helping on the floor crew and making Circus equipment, but hanging from the cradle. Her duties over the years include making costumes, instructing, Ring Master, Co-Directing and Directing the circus. For quite a few years she Directed a Circus group that she took on the road for shows and parades. They even performed by hanging Trapeze, Cradle, Spanish Webs and Swinging Ladders from the girders of the Second Street Bridge! Cindi was in the first Swinging Ladders Mother-Daughter act and many years later, she performed the same routine with her granddaughter! She is still instructing Tightrope, Bamboo and Fire-Eating.

Cindy Law (Artistic Director) has been with Turners Circus since 2010. She has performed in Ladders, Webs, Silks and Fire Eating. Her husband, Andy Pappano, has jumped in to help behind the scenes with production. Cindy has been involved in gymnastics since the age of 4, competing through high school. She has continued to stay close to the gym by teaching children of all ages and levels. Her 3 children, Ezra, Elliot, and Lucia Pappano, allow her to continue her passion for the arts, while the whole family runs away with the circus.



Jessi Forst (Co-Costume Coordinator) has a passion for all things in the world of performance. She is the mother of two children, Harlow and Ophelia. She currently works as an advocate for families in the Jefferson County Public School community as a diagnostician and loves her work of assessing the development of young children. She is married to Jordan

2024 Circus Committee

Forst, music engineer and production manager for Fives. In her spare time, she enjoys dancing, all things water sports related, singing, creating art, and hiking.

Jessica Marquardt (Volunteer Director) Jessica has been a Turners member since 2014. She performed aerial silks and fire eating in her first circus in 2015, and has since performed webs, ladders, sling, double lyra, silks, fire eating, and casting. She currently coaches double lyra and is passionate about doubles and team acts, and she enjoys working with Turners youth. She served on the Turners Mother Board from 2019-2022, and joined the Circus Committee as the Volunteer Coordinator in 2023. When she's not at the gym, she enjoys reading, working in her garden, and playing D&D with her friends.



Lauren DeNicola (Lead Writer) Lauren first came to performance arts by way of dance, performing Middle Eastern and Indian dance for 14 years. She started taking aerial classes six years ago and it wasn't long before she was hooked on dancing in the air as well. Lauren has performed on silks, aerial ladders, and fire. She is the mother of two beautiful girls and teaches high school English. In her limited spare time, she enjoys cooking, a glass of wine, or watching "The Office."

Lisa Wolf (Communications) has been a circus performer since age 5. She loves performing and is active behind the scenes, working on floor crew. Circus arts have helped mold her into the person that she is today. She loves the lifelong learning and close knit community that Turner Circus provides. Lisa is blessed to be a part of the 4 generations of Wolf's that currently perform.



Michelle Standridge (Finance Director) and her family joined Turners when she was five and continue to be active members today. She grew up competing on Turners gymnastics team and performing in the annual Circus until she started college. Michelle left Louisville to start a family and returned in 2011 where she is now the coach of Merry-Go-Round and Casting. Circus has always been part of Michelle's life and is now a passion for her children, Jacey, Dylan and Ayden, as well.

Terri Kendall (Lead Instructor) mother of two daughters and recently retired from JCPS, is a professional aerial performer and NECCA-certified instructor who has trained and performed consistently for 11 years. Terri instructs regularly at Turners Circus and also travels to teach at workshops in other towns. Terri is the owner of XALT, a performance company for specialty talent.



Communication

A weekly newsletter will be distributed via email on Wednesdays. It will contain important dates, times and other needed information.

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Primary communications during Circus Season will be thru the private Facebook group 2024 Spotlight Turners Circus. Please ask to be added if you are not currently a member.

2024 Circus Instructors

Turner Instructors are all safety trained on equipment and many have current CPR and First Aid Certification.

Instructors will communicate via private Facebook groups created for each Act.

Act	Lead Instructor	Assistant Instructor (s)
Acro	Cindy Law	Terri Kendall Jacey Standridge (Group)
Aerial Sling	Abbie Donaway	Anna Fouts
Bar Hop	Ashley Kennedy	Jessi Forst
Bamboo	Cindi Wolf	
Casting	Michelle Standridge	Lisa Wolf
Cirque Pole	Anita Yussman	Tessa Conlin
Clowning	Terri Apple	Kristen Hanel
Dance	Jessi Forst	Addie Stanis
Fire	Lisa Wolf	Cindi Wolf Sandy Chesser
Flow Arts	Anita Yussman	Jaime Abel
Kids Trapeze	Alexis Thomas	Alyssa Schlimm
Ladders	Lauren DeNicola	Kristen Smotherman
Lyra	Jenn Whittier	Shelby Koerner
Lyra Duo	Jessica Marquardt	Jacey Standridge
Merry Go Round	Thyme (Maddie) Martin	Sarah Ludwig
Mini-Tramp	Alyssa Schlimm	Elliott Pappano
Perch	Sarah Ludwig	Mia Wolf Elina Sulkowski
Silks	Terri Kendall	Cindy Law Jenn Whittier
Stilts	Terri Apple	Worth DeWees
Tightrope	Ashley Roth Jaha	Cindi Wolf
Trampoline	Ezra Pappano	
Triple Trapeze	Jacey Standridge	Jessica Marquardt
Tumbletrack	Jessica Marquardt	Jackie Kozinski
Dance Trapeze	Thyme (Maddie) Martin	Anita Yussman
Unicycling	Ezra Pappano	Worth DeWees
Walking Globe	Jessica Owens	Vivienne Linville
Webs	Jordan Traylor	Terri Kendall

Act Registration Guide

The Circus consists of Open, Assessment, and Audition Acts.

Open acts are beginning level acts that begin practice in January.

Assessment acts are intermediate and advanced level acts that require a skill assessment during open house. Class attendance does not automatically assure performance placement.

Audition acts are intermediate and advanced level acts that require prior class attendance and an audition/invitation. Class attendance does not automatically assure performance placement. Costume fittings will be held during auditions for these acts so that ordering can be accomplished as soon as possible.

Practices for Open and Assessment acts are held on Sundays. Practices for Audition acts may be held on Sundays and/or weekdays. **Practice times will change the last two Sunday practices as we implement the Floor Practice Schedule.**

Age requirements are as of January 1, 2024. The Circus Committee reserves the right to make exceptions to Age Requirements based on the skill level and prior class experience of the individual performer.

There is a 4 Act Maximum for all performers. New performers are **recommended** to limit themselves to 1 -2 Audition acts.

Reasons for Policy:

- To allow space in acts for a diversity of performers.
- To limit the numbers for each act for appropriate student/teacher ratios. To guard against exhaustion and prevent injury.

Exceptions:

- If an instructor of an act is in need of a particular skill set, then an invite can be issued to a performer who already has 4 acts and a performance schedule can be created to limit exhaustion (ie, no back to back acts, not all high exertion acts at same show). Instructor must submit request to the Circus Committee for approval.

No other exceptions to this exception. No performer will be allowed to commit to more than 5 total acts, including a special invite, regardless of need, of what act it is, or because of what services they provide for the circus.

All performers receiving an exception to the 4 Act Maximum must have been approached by the Instructor, received approval from the Circus Committee and must be in good standing with Turners Circus.

Practice Procedure

Parents/guardians must walk performers into the gym and check for changes/announcements on the board at the front table. Parents/guardians should plan to remain on property during practice if their performer is 12 or younger.

Proper attire must be worn – fitted clothing and bare feet, hair pulled back, no jewelry of any kind.

Anyone not practicing or instructing must stay off the floor. Tables and chairs will be available behind the stanchions and in the concession area.

Basic gym rules still apply. See signs posted around gym.

Costumes

Each act has its own costume fee. We try to keep cost down as much as possible by purchasing materials and making what we can. This takes lots of volunteers! Please read carefully when considering act participation:

\$40 costumes: Bamboo, Clowning, Dance, Flow, Kids Trapeze, Merry Go Round, Perch, Tight Rope, Tumbletrack, and Walking Globe

\$55 costumes: Fire, Mini-Tramp, Trampoline, Unicycling, Male Acro

\$80 costumes: Aerial Sling, Female Acro, Bar Hop, Casting, Cirque Pole, Dance Trapeze, Ladders, Lyra, Silks, Stilt Walking, Triple Trapeze, and Webs.

Some acts may have additional costs for props (hoops, fire, juggling, poi, etc.), other acts may need to purchase tights, earrings, and/or proper undergarments.

****\$40 costumes are worn over a base costume, which is typically a biketard for the girls and tank/leggings for the boys. The base cost is approximately \$25.****

*****Floor Crew, Ladder Pullers, Bamboo Beaters, and Webs Spinners may be required to wear all black or black bottoms and a purchased Circus 2024 shirt.*****

Act Descriptions

Open Acts (May Have Age Requirements)

Bamboo (6 and up All Levels) - Parent volunteer beaters work in conjunction with barefoot performers hopping in and out of two bamboo poles to skillfully demonstrate intricate footwork patterns. Each bamboo performer needs a committed volunteer beater.

Clowning (8 and up - All Levels) - Designed to entertain and enhance the storyline, this act involves theatrics, gag building and character performance. Skills may include tumbling, working the crowd and exaggerated expression and body movement. Be prepared for pratfalls, comedy beats and working as a duo or in small groups. Both standard clown gags and development of new ones will be explored.

Dance (6 and up All levels) - Our Dance Act is designed to help introduce participants to basic dance steps and choreography as well as to help boost their confidence as performers. A high energy act that is fun for all. Dance is a great place to get active and have fun!

Fire Arts (18 and up) - For the over 18 circus enthusiast, you can learn a new skill with our Fire Eating Act. Adults will be taught the secrets of how to safely eat fire! PRE-REQ: Fire Safety Training (will be provided Week 1).

Flow Arts (8 and up – Beginner through Advanced) – Act includes Hooping, Juggling, Poi, Diablo, Devil Sticks, Levi Wand, Etc.

Tight Rope (5 and under) - We save the most death defying act for the youngest members of our circus family. These darling tight rope walkers are fearless as they show their talents walking across...tape. Yes, tape, but please don't tell them! This is a great way to get the siblings involved who may be too young or too little for other beginner acts.

Trapeze (6-12 Beginner through Intermediate) - Trapeze 1 is a static trapeze where beginning performers "learn the ropes" of climbing, hanging and posing on the bars. Younger acrobats demonstrate their budding skills on the lower bars while more experienced performers execute their skills at higher elevations.

Tumble Track (all ages) - Truly an all ages welcomed act, performers of all talents and abilities who attend the Tumble Track practices enjoy jumping, bouncing, hopping, skipping, leaping and flipping their way down this runway style trampoline

Act Descriptions

Assessment Acts (May Have Age Requirements)

Acro-Balancing (6 and up - Intermediate through Advanced) - A captivating floor act that highlights group gymnastic and balancing abilities featuring moves in static poses which demand partner trust and body awareness. PRE-REQ: Assessment at Open House

Merry Go Round (6 and up Beginner through Advanced) - This act, unique to Turners, is exactly as it sounds; a circular revolving double trapeze on which performers climb, stand, hang and pose. Sometimes it may be performed in the dark with glow lights. PRE-REQ: Assessment at Open House

Mini Tramp (6 and up - Intermediate through Advanced) - Our accomplished gymnasts execute a variety of springs, dives, vaults, and summersaults from the small platform of this trampoline over props and through hoops in this spectacular display of acrobatic prowess. PRE-REQ: Assessment at Open House

Perch (8 to 13 – Beginner through Intermediate) - Building on skills acquired in Trapeze 1, Perch is a pogo stick like Trapeze which can emphasize partner stunts and hand to hand holds. Performers experience hanging from their wrists and ankles in preparation for more advanced aerial work. PRE-REQ: Trapeze 1 and Assessment at Open House (**Perch performers do not participate in Trapeze any longer**)

Stilt Walking (12 and up - Intermediate-Advanced) - Strapping feet onto poles 2-4' off the ground, this act allows performers to reach new heights in their circus training. Each 6" increment which a walker achieves comfortable locomotion is a real accomplishment in this elevated discipline. PRE-REQ: Assessment at Open House

Unicycling (12 and up - Intermediate-Advanced) - Whizzing back and forth across the floor, performers demonstrate their ability to balance on this pedal- driven one-wheeled contraption. PRE-REQ: Prior experience on unicycle and a successful Assessment of Skills at Open House (skill list posted in gym)

Walking Globe (6 and up) - Walking globe is a large heavy sphere where a performer balances on top of it. It comes in different sizes and can be combined with acrobatics or juggling. PRE-REQ: Prior experience on walking globe and a successful Assessment of Skills at Open House

Act Descriptions

Audition Acts (May Have Age Requirements)

Aerial Sling (13 and up – Intermediate through Advanced) - A fabric or tissue act that involves a single aerial silk that is used by performer to spin, dance, wrap, drop, and suspend themselves in the air. Performers may choose Silks or Sling but not both. PRE-REQ: Consistent Participation in Turners Aerial Classes/Seasoned Performer and a successful audition.

Bar Hop (Intermediate through Advanced) – This apparatus involves two high bars connected together and performers will learn coordinated tricks, swings, and transfers between. PRE-REQ: Consistent Participation in Turners Aerial Classes/Seasoned Performer and participation in a Bar Hop Workshop.

Casting (Advanced) – Casting is performed high up in the air as performers “fly” from one catcher to another, while flipping and gliding gracefully through the air. This act is a variation of a flying trapeze. PRE-REQ: Consistent Participation in Turners Aerial Classes/Seasoned Performer and participation in a Casting Workshop.

Cirque Pole (13 and up – Beginner through Advanced) - A spinner pole covered with silicon that the student/performer climbs, spins, inverts, poses, dances on or around in an artistic or acrobatic nature. PRE-REQ: Consistent Participation in Turners Aerial Classes/Seasoned Performer and a successful audition.

Dance Trapeze (13 and up - Intermediate through Advanced) - An act where advancing trapezists perform synchronized maneuvers on a single trapeze. Attention to choreography and musicality showcase their blossoming skills of strength and grace. PRE-REQ: Consistent Participation in Turners Aerial Classes/Seasoned Performer and a successful audition.

Ladders (13 and up – Intermediate through Advanced) - This custom built aerial ladder supports partners swinging in synchronized choreography as they are smoothly pulled back and forth while passing through and hanging from the ladder’s rungs. Performers will hang from wrist and ankle during this act. Each Ladder needs a committed volunteer puller. PRE-REQ: Consistent Participation in Turners Aerial Classes/Seasoned Performer and a successful audition.

Lyra (13 and up – Intermediate through Advanced) - Also known as Aerial hoop, Aerial ring or Cerceau. Lyra is a static or spinning circular steel hoop suspended from the ceiling, on which aerial artists expertly execute graceful acrobatics. PRE-REQ: Consistent Participation in Turners Aerial Classes/Seasoned Performer and a successful audition.

Act Descriptions

Audition Acts (May Have Age Requirements)

Silks (13 and up – Intermediate through Advanced) - Also known as Aerial Fabrics, Tissues, or Aerial Ribbons, performers deftly climb colorful, ceiling height fabrics on which they daringly wrap, suspend, fall, swing, drop and spiral their bodies into and out of various spine tingling poses. Performers may choose Silks or Sling but not both. PRE-REQ: Consistent Participation in Turners Aerial Classes/Seasoned Performer and a successful audition.

Trampoline (10 and up Advanced) - An act of balancing choreographed timing and skills to coordinate trampoline moves, flips, double-bouncing, and wow. Self-discipline, understanding of counts, and skills is required for participation in this act. PRE-REQ: Successful audition.

Triple Trapeze (10 and up – Intermediate through Advanced) – An act where advanced trapezists perform synchronized maneuvers on a single or triple side by side trapeze. Attention to choreography and musicality showcase skills of strength and grace. PRE-REQ: Consistent Participation in Turners Aerial Classes/Seasoned Performer and a successful audition.

Webs (13 and up – Advanced) - Also known as Corde Lisse or Aerial Rope, this is an awe inspiring high-climbing act where the rope performer and his or her spinner weave together a dazzling display of wraps, wrist and ankle hangs, drops and spins in a vortex of dramatic speed and a display of the most advanced strength and flexibility. PRE-REQ: Consistent Participation in Turners Aerial Classes/Seasoned Performer and a successful audition.

The Circus Committee reserves the right to make exceptions to Act Requirements based on the skill level and prior class experience of the individual performer.

Audition Policy

All performers who wish to perform in an Audition Act must attend the audition. The audition date is set by the Circus Committee and adjudicated by a panel. Audition Registration forms and fees must be completed and turned in by the deadline in order to attend the audition. Late fees will be assessed for anyone missing the deadline.

Performers who cannot attend the September 9th audition must make arrangements with Terri Kendall immediately in order to audition before August 26th.

Video submissions will NOT be permitted.

All results will be returned before Registration opens.

Reason for Policy:

- To assess the skill level of performers.
- To assess the conditioning level of performers.
- To encourage participation in classes and fitness training.
- To limit the number of performers per act for appropriate teacher/student ratios To create consistency in the adjudication process.

Exceptions:

- Call-backs at instructors' discretion.
 - Due to extenuating circumstances, those performers who are not able to attend the regularly scheduled audition must contact Cindy Law prior to the audition registration deadline in order to discuss alternate audition arrangements prior to the 10th.
- Exceptions not granted to "No Shows"

Performer Responsibilities

This contract is an agreement between Turners Circus and undersigned Circus Performer, whereas the performer agrees to uphold the highest ethical and moral standards at all times whenever associated with the circus. In signing this agreement, the performer is committing to always presenting the best image possible of our program and the community we represent.

Additionally, the performer's signature on this agreement signifies they have also read, understood and agreed to the Turners Circus handbook and rules listed below to become an official 2024 Turners Circus Performer.

As a performer, I will:

1. Attend All Performer meetings and use Facebook and the Circus newsletter to stay current on all important information regarding Turners Circus.
2. Always help in the set-up/tear-down of the equipment per instructors' request.
3. Take proper care of all equipment, realizing it is very expensive to replace.
4. Take proper care of all costumes for which I am responsible, including cleaning and hanging them up after each performance. I will not loan costumes or take them off Turners property without permission.
5. Not use profanity while on or about Turners Property or anywhere while representing Turners Circus.
6. Attend all practices/performances unless excused. (See Absence Policy)
7. Treat all members of the circus as I myself would like to be treated.
8. Always be aware of my surroundings and the people around me.
9. Never walk under a trapeze or any other apparatus while in use.
10. Report any injury immediately to an instructor no matter how small.
11. Not eat in the gym except in concession area or tile floor and will clean up my mess when finished.
12. Put trash in trash bins and plastic bottles in recycle can.
13. Keep clothes, gym bags, and personal articles behind the adult seating. Please keep expensive items at home.
14. Respect all circus members' personal belongings and privacy.
15. Leave rigging of drop lines to the trained instructors.
16. Keep shoes off of blue mats.
17. Wear correct hair, makeup, and proper undergarments to performances. This includes hair pulled back in a Circus approves style and undergarments that do not show. No unnatural or distracting hair colors permitted. Contact the Committee with any questions regarding this policy.
18. Physical and mental health may affect my ability to participate in Circus, or my participation may affect my physical and mental health. If at any time an

instructor/Circus Committee is concerned about my health, I may be required to obtain written clearance from a physician. Clearance by the physician does not guarantee participation, the Circus Committee will make the final decision.

19. I agree to abide by any and all Covid Guidelines that Turners deems necessary to put in place for the safety of participants and to be in line with local/state recommendations.

****Circus Committee reserves the right to pull performers from a show if not dressed correctly, including hair, makeup, and proper undergarments (including loose hair, visible undergarments and ripped tights)****

Basic Performer Safety

Be aware: Due to the variety and unpredictability of hazardous situations that could arise, preparedness, awareness and common sense are critical to safety. If you observe a situation or equipment problem that you think may be unsafe, report it to an instructor immediately.

Be mentally prepared: Only try a movement you feel prepared to try. Anticipate difficulties. Ask questions. Be responsible for yourself.

Be physically prepared: Have adequate rest and nutrition. It is critical to warm up and stretch before class and performances. Wear appropriate clothing. Be aware that some illnesses may affect your abilities.

Educate yourself: Many prescription and non-prescription drugs can affect judgment and coordination. Be familiar with any warnings provided with any medication you are taking. Be alert to any side effects. Use of alcohol, tobacco or any illegal drug by a participant will be cause for dismissal. Suspected use of illegal drugs or alcohol will result in suspension of any Turners circus activities for that day and a discipline report being taken to the Circus Committee for review. Our Zero Tolerance for drug use is for the safety of all performers.

Remember: You are a performer not a trained instructor. Leave the teaching and the rigging to the professionals.

****Gross failure to follow Circus policy may prevent participation in future Louisville Turners Circus seasons****

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

This contract is an agreement between Turners Circus and undersigned Parent or legal guardian of the Circus Performer, whereas the parent/guardian agrees to uphold the highest ethical and moral standards at all times whenever associated with the circus. In signing this agreement, the parent/guardian is committing to always presenting the best image possible of our youth and the community we represent.

Additionally, the parent/guardian's signature on this agreement signifies they have also read, understood and agreed to the Turners Circus handbook and rules listed below to become a part of 2024 Turners Circus.

As a parent/guardian, I will:

1. Attend All Performers meetings and use Facebook and the Circus newsletter to stay current on all important information regarding Turners Circus.
2. Always be prepared to help in the set-up/tear-down of the equipment, decorations and other items we may use, per request.
3. Take proper care of all equipment, realizing it is very expensive to replace.
4. Take proper care of all costumes for which I am responsible, including cleaning and hanging them up after each performance. I will not loan costumes or take them off Turners property without permission.
5. Not use profanity while on or about Turners Property or anywhere we are representing Turners Circus.
6. Assure my child attends all practices/performances which are not excused (see Absence Policy).
7. Treat all members of the circus as I myself would like to be treated.
8. Not interfere with other activities in the facility.
9. Always be aware of my surroundings and the people around me.
10. Never walk under a trapeze or any other apparatus while in use.
11. Report any injury immediately to an instructor no matter how small.
12. Not eat in the gym except in concession area or tile floor and will clean up after myself and my children. Put trash in trash bins and plastic bottles in recycle can.
13. Not wear shoes on the blue training mats.
14. Observe from designated area.
15. Help instructors keep children off the training floor when it is not their practice time.
16. Respect all circus members' personal belongings and privacy.
17. Walk my performer(s) into the gym and check for changes/announcements on the board at the front table. Performers 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian on property.
18. My performer(s) will have correct hair, makeup, and proper undergarments for performances.

19. I agree to abide by any and all Covid Guidelines that Turners deems necessary to put in place for the safety of participants and to be in line with local/state recommendations.

****Circus Committee reserves the right to pull performers from a show if not dressed correctly, including hair, makeup, and proper undergarments (including ripped tights) ****

Basic Information for Parents/Guardians

Communicate: Allow instructors to handle discipline on the training floor. All issues are to be taken to the Head Instructor, Terri Kendall, and/or the circus committee. If a situation needs to be addressed immediately, please find an instructor or committee member to handle the issue at hand.

Volunteer: There are many ways to volunteer and our program cannot manage without you. At least one parent/guardian of all performers must volunteer 17 hours (including 2 hours of set-in/set strike) or choose to opt out for a fee of \$300.

Educate yourself: Many prescription and non-prescription drugs can affect judgment and coordination. Be familiar with any warnings provided with any medication you are taking. Be alert to any side effects. Use of alcohol, tobacco or any illegal drug by a volunteer while executing volunteer duties will be cause for dismissal. Suspected use of illegal drugs or alcohol will result in suspension of any Turners Circus activities for that day and taken to the Circus Committee for review. Our Zero Tolerance for drug use is for the safety of all performers. If dismissed from volunteer duties, you forfeit the \$200 volunteer fee.

****Gross failure to follow Circus policy may prevent participation in future Louisville Turners Circus seasons****

New to Circus? Have Questions?

April Farmer, Administrative Director, will be the dedicated Circus Committee Contact for our new families. You can reach her with questions at circusmomapril@gmail.com or at 502-435-3550 (text preferred during work hours).

Absence Policy

Performers must attend all scheduled practices and rehearsals.

Reasons for Policy:

- To create consistency with act training. To better assure safety through consistent training. To create a supportive bond among act participants. To teach discipline and commitment. To allow enough time for learning choreography

Exceptions:

- 1 pre-excused absence allowed per performer, per act, to be turned in to April Farmer in advance of absence at <http://bit.ly/circusabsenceform>
- Illness reported at <http://bit.ly/circusabsenceform> prior to practice. For reasons stated above, extended illness may necessitate make up sessions or removal from act.
- Covid Quarantines should be observed and will be handled on an individual basis to assure performer safety and readiness.
- Out of town guest performers who have been invited to perform, will not be participating in group choreography, have an established training schedule and have proven themselves to be reliable performers.
- Performers with hardships who: have permission from the instructor AND provide alternate training schedule of equal value as the regular training schedule AND provide documentation of choreography progression (ie show instructor or submit video of progress) AND agree to attend a minimum of 4 regularly scheduled practices for act cohesiveness
- **No exceptions given for Dress Rehearsals**

All performers seeking absence policy exceptions must be in good standing with Turners Circus and should contact the circus committee thru April Farmer

Absence Form: <http://bit.ly/circusabsenceform>

Volunteer Opportunities

Turners Circus is an all-volunteer program and there are volunteer opportunities for every talent you have to offer. Each family is obligated to a minimum of **17 hours of volunteer time, 2 hours of which must be Set In or Set Strike**. Each family will track their participation in the Volunteer Log Book. There is a \$300 (check only) deposit required and if the **17 hours** are met, the check is shredded at the end of the circus season. If you prefer not to do the volunteer hours, please let us know to deposit your check immediately. Other volunteer positions are likely to arise, please let us know where you think you could help. ****All circus receipts are due to Michelle Standridge by March 30, 2024 or you will not be reimbursed. ****

Cleaning Committee

- Help oversee that bathrooms, stairwells, and blue mats are clean for practice and performances. Trash removal during/after practices and performances. Cleaning floors and under bleachers after performances.

Program

- Gather program content, secure advertising, print and assemble programs.

Concessions

- Work concession shifts during Sunday practices.

Costumes

- Help assemble costumes; opportunities for sewers and non-sewers.

Dressing Room

- Help young performers get into costume. Keep dressing room quiet and organized.

Green Room Volunteers

- Chaperone performers in green room. Keep green room quiet and organized.

Set Design

- Gather supplies and props, create/decorate set pieces.

Decorating Committee

- Gather supplies; decorate stairwell, lobbies on second and third floor, hallway from lounge, and lounge space.

Parking

- Patrol parking lot prior to and throughout performance. Help steer patrons in and out of facility.

Ticket Sales

- Sell tickets during last two rehearsal Sundays, dress rehearsals, and performances.

Ushers

- Help seat guests and keep aisles clear for performer entrances and exits.

Floor Crew

- Help change equipment during practices with supervision of instructor
- Change equipment and sets during performances
- **Must be able to move, push, and lift equipment**
- **Must attend Rigging Boot Camp and dress rehearsal**
- **Preferred availability for all/ majority of shows**

Lighting Crew

- Learn to use spotlights and work them at performances
Must attend Rigging Boot Camp and dress rehearsal
- **Preferred availability multiple shows**

Registration Policy

For registration to be considered complete, all of the following must be submitted.

- Members: \$80 single/\$130 family registration Nonmembers: \$165 single/\$265 family registration (Your registration will include 1 T-shirt per performer. For an additional \$5 you may upgrade your T-shirt to a Fitted Tee.)
- Completed registration and waiver forms (including t-shirt size) (online)
- Signed compliance (online)
- Registration and Costume Fees payment (cash, check or online payment)
- Volunteer deposit - \$300 (check - will hold until required hours are complete)
- Complete Set of Costume Measurements (online if not at Open House)

Registration closes at midnight on October 31st. There is a 200 performer capacity limit. Registration will close early if we reach max capacity, in which case a wait list will be started. Register at <http://www.louisvilleturners.org/circus-program>.

Reason for Policy:

To assure all vital information is turned in before circus practice begins. To maintain the capacity of the building and spaces in the acts. To ensure fairness when capacity has been reached.

Exceptions:

- Registration is not complete until all payment is rendered and costume measurements are received. All registrations which are not completed by the October 31st deadline will be removed from the registration pool and moved to a waiting list at the risk of losing their spot if capacity is reached. **Late Fees of \$20/act apply if not paid by the October 31st deadline.**
- Late Fees also apply if you request to switch acts after October 31st. Such requests may or may not be approved by the committee depending on factors such as act capacity, costume availability and reason for requests. No such request will be granted after the first week of practice.

Refund Policy

When I and/or my child/children are accepted as performers, I agree to pay the registration fee, costume fee, and volunteer deposit by by October 31st. No registration refunds will be issued after January 2nd. Costume fees are non-refundable.

Possible Fees to Consider Before Registering

- Registration (varies, \$80-\$265)
- Volunteer Deposit (\$300)
- Costume Fees (varies by performer/act)
- Fitted T-shirt Fee (\$5)
- Audition Fee (\$10)
- Discount Pass (3 shows/\$25 or 9 shows/\$50, good for one named person)
- Tickets to Shows (only show volunteers admitted for free)
- Additional Act Equipment (hoop, fire props, poi, etc)
- Base Costume for younger performers (approx. \$25)
- Costume Accessories (tights, earrings, etc to be purchased from Turners)
- Proper Undergarments for Costume (to be purchased on your own)
- Late Fees of \$20/Act

Dates to Consider Before Registering

- August 13 and September 10 Open House & Assessments
- September 9 Auditions
- September 10 Speaking Roles Auditions
- September 14 Audition Act Registration Opens
- September 30 Audition Act Registration Closes
- October 1 General Registration Opens
- October 31 Registration Closes/Measurements Due
- January 7 First Sunday Practice and New Family Orientation
- March 3 Floor Practice Schedule & Set-In
- March 10 Floor Practice Schedule, Performance Info Meeting, Tech Rehearsal
- March 11 Act 1 Dress Rehearsal
- March 12 Act 2 Dress Rehearsal
- March 14 Full Dress Rehearsal for All Performers
- Performances March 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24
- March 24 Set Strike
- Flood Dates TBD