

2015 American Youth Circus Organization Youth Artist Showcase Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in participating in the 2015 AYCO Showcases Season. This summer, the American Youth Circus Organization (AYCO) will be featuring Youth Artists in three different performance showcases. They are:

<p>Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival (CCCF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicago, IL • June 15 -21, 2015 • Performance on June 21 • chicagocircusfest.com • APPLICATION DUE BY: April 18 	<p>Worldwide Circus Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Springfield, MA • July 14-18, 2015 • Performance on July 18 • worldwidecircussummit2015.com • APPLICATION DUE BY: May 16 	<p>American Youth Circus Festival @ Circus Conservatory of America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portland, ME • August 19 -23, 2015 • Performances August 20, 21 • americanyouthcircus.org • APPLICATION DUE BY: June 16
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Youth Artist Showcases have always been an important tradition of the American Youth Circus Organization. We are excited to offer multiple performance opportunities to youth artists this season.

Application Information

- Performers may apply to participate in one, two, or all three showcases.
- There is one application for all three performance opportunities.
- You may submit as many acts as you like for as many events as you would like, but you *must* submit separate applications *for each different act*.
 - For example,
 - With one application, you may submit the same act to multiple events.
 - If you would like to be considered for more than one act (ie. hand balancing and unicycle) for the same event, you must fill out the application for each act.
 - If you are ready to submit for one event now, but would like to prepare a different piece for later in the season, you must submit separate applications.
- For the **Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival** and the **Worldwide Circus Summit**, we might only be able to accept one act per individual and organization. You are welcome to submit multiple acts for these events. We will not know how many acts we will be able to accommodate until all applications have been received.
- For the **American Youth Circus Festival** we anticipate being able to accept two acts from each organization. For organizations wishing to present more than one act, we recommend submitting acts of different disciplines. Some organizations prefer to submit a large group act and an individual or small group act. You may submit as many pieces as you would like and we will work with you to find what will best represent your organization in the performances. Individuals not applying as part of an organization may submit multiple acts, but will only be accepted for one.
- At the **American Youth Circus Festival** there are two separate shows, one Thursday night and one Friday night. By submitting an application for the festival, you are submitting to participate in either show. The production team will determine which acts are in which show. If you have any concerns about this, please contact ps.aerial.arts@gmail.com.

Important Information & Criteria for Act Submission

**Your wellbeing is our number one priority. Please note that AYCO guidelines require certain safety procedures be followed with specific types of acts. All performers under 18 must have a coach, parent, or guardian with them that knows their act and can be responsible for the young person's health and safety. All aerial performers must have a spotter on stage and must work over crash mats. We will contact you should there be any safety concerns based on your application.*

1. Who can participate

- a. Youth ages 21 and under are eligible to perform.
- b. Exceptions will be made only if a young adult is over 21 but enrolled in a youth circus program that serves an extended age range or is a member of a college circus club.
- c. Performers wishing to participate in the **Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival** or the **Worldwide Circus Summit** must be AYCO members or be representing an AYCO member organization.
- d. Performers, chaperones, and all persons accompanying Youth Performers for the **Worldwide Circus Summit** will be required to pay \$15 per person to enter the site. This event is entirely volunteer produced and the fee will go towards the administrative expenses of the summit. We are able to offer this admittance to our participants at a highly discounted rate. Once acts are accepted into the showcase, they will receive information on how to submit payment.
- e. Performers wishing to participate in the **American Youth Circus Festival Showcases** must register to attend the festival. Submitting a performance application DOES NOT register you for the festival. You can submit a performance application prior to registering, but will need to be a registered festival participant to perform. Festival registration will be on AYCO's website: <http://americanyouthcircus.org/>

**PLEASE NOTE: This is NOT a competition. Performers of ALL SKILL LEVELS in all circus disciplines are encouraged to apply, and acts will not be selected based on skill level. We will be looking for acts that are complete, polished performances at whatever skill level the performers have achieved.*

2. Chaperones

- a. Each youth under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult chaperone (a coach or guardian) who knows the act that will be performed and who can advocate and look out for the health and safety of the performer. In the case of aerial acts, this person must also be able to serve as a spotter.
- b. Chaperones must be indicated on the performance application. Access to the backstage area will be restricted and only those individuals will be able to enter with performers. This is to insure the safety of our Youth Artists.
- c. Chaperones must register for the **American Youth Circus Festival** separately from their youth. Festival registration will be on AYCO's website.
- d. Chaperones and all persons accompanying participants in the **Worldwide Circus Summit** will be required to pay a \$15 fee to enter the summit.
- e. There is no registration required for Chaperones for the **Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival**. Other persons wishing to watch the AYCO Youth Showcase will need to purchase a ticket to the show.

3. Disciplines

- a. We will be selecting acts from diverse disciplines in order to create a well-rounded show.
- b. We will be working alongside the rigging team at each venue to choose aerial acts based on venue rigging capabilities.

PLEASE NOTE:* The performance at the **Worldwide Circus Summit might be in an outdoor venue. In case of inclement weather, our alternate venue might not be able to accommodate aerial rigging.

4. Length of Acts

- a. Solo and duo acts should be 2-5 minutes long.
- b. Acts with larger groups should be 2-7 minutes long.

5. Equipment

- a. Youth are required to bring any equipment and rigging specific to your piece unless you have specified that you need us to provide it in the application.
- b. We will borrow equipment from our partners and local AYCO member circus schools when need be.

6. Music and Costume

- a. All pieces must provide their own music, costumes, and props. Music and costume must be family friendly.
- b. Please ensure that you have listened to the words of your music and practiced numerous times with your costume to ensure that both are appropriate for a family audience.

7. Video

- a. A video of a performance or rehearsal of your act is mandatory.
- b. We need to see what you'd like to perform. This is important for safety as well as to make sure we know enough about your act to know how it would work in the context of the entire showcase.

Please Note:* We know that some organizations use their summer sessions to build acts to bring to the **American Youth Circus Festival. In certain circumstances, we will be able to accommodate this for the AYCO Festival ONLY. You will still need to submit an application with as many details as possible by June 16th to be considered for the shows. Please make note in your application if this is your intention. If your act is selected, we will still need to see video of a rehearsal of the act prior to the festival.

We are seeking Masters of Ceremony and Clowns for all performances: We would love to include youth performers with developed clown characters who would perform smaller transitional bits throughout the show. We are also seeking Ringmasters, either youth or adult performers, who would be able to serve as hosts to the shows, introducing acts and adding their own fun to the show. If this interests you or one of your students please email showcase director Polly Solomon directly at ps.aerial.arts@gmail.com.

The **2015 AYCO Youth Artist Showcase Application** can be completed here:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2015AYCO_YAShowcaseAp