

68th Edition Great All-American Youth Circus – “Circus through the Ages”
Circus Parent Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 20th, 2008

Introductions- CCAC, YMCA Staff

CCAC –Lisa Godin

CCAC Membership: Pick up a membership form across from the Circus Office or download one from the circus web site: www.ycircus.org

- **Video:** We are probably going to shoot the video on Alumni Night (Saturday, May 17th). This video is for a memento of the “big picture.” If you want video with close ups of your child only, you’ll want to bring your own video camera, as we can never guarantee who will or will not get close up shots on the full show video. You can pre-order your video during shows, but the videos will not be delivered until the summer (it takes a little extra time to edit).
- **Calling All Parents: We need Show Volunteers:** There are NO CLASS FEES in May, partly because we NEED YOUR HELP to make the show happen! Look at the list below and see which category feels right for you! You can sign up for volunteer positions starting on April 8th at run-throughs. For more detailed descriptions, refer to the “Join the Circus” page on the web site, and scroll down to the “Volunteers” heading. Follow this hyperlink: <http://www.ycircus.org/jointhecircus.htm>

Heads of Departments: *If you don’t know these people, ask Melanie or anyone from CCAC to point them out for you!*

- **Wardrobe/Costume Trailers: Diane Kimble**
 - Notes about Costumes / Wardrobe:
 - Circus costumes are **never to be taken home**. Never, never, never. If your costume needs to be washed, please tell one of the Costume Trailer volunteers and they will take care of it.
 - The costumes have all been donated / purchased by CCAC and are the property of CCAC. We have to keep them here so that each new generation of circus performers has something to wear come show time! This is one of the ways that CCAC and the YMCA cooperate to keep the costs to a minimum for circus participants. (This way, parents don’t have to pay hundreds of dollars – on top of the class fees – for show costumes that your child may only be able to wear for one season!)
 - We need a **male volunteer** to help maintain order in the Boys’/Mens’ costume trailer **at least** for the first weekend (May 2-4). Please see Diane Kimble if you’re interested and available.
 - **Fishnets.** Most girls will need to purchase their own fishnet tights. Brill’s Shoes will be at our Run-Throughs taking orders for fishnets. Please see your child’s head trainer to see if you need to purchase nets. When in doubt, flesh-colored / tan fishnets are the “default” color, and for any girls in intermediate Aerial acts or Intermediate or Advanced Acro, you will want to purchase “professional weight” fishnets. The soft cotton kinds aren’t sturdy enough and will tear too quickly and easily.

- **Underwear:** A performer's underwear **must not be visible** when he/she is in costume.
 - Boys should wear boxer briefs or briefs, but **NO** boxer shorts. Boxers bunch up too much and look bulky under the tank unitards the boys & men have to wear.
 - Girls should wear underwear with a high-cut leg so the panties aren't hanging out the bottom of their leotards. Also, tan or flesh-colored fabric helps to keep underwear inconspicuous.
 - Girls should wear bras with **clear** straps, if possible.
- **Cover-Up:** This means clothing that is worn **OVER** the performer's costume that **COMPLETELY COVERS** the costume. (Yes, this means even if you have long sleeves or pants, they must be covered as well.) This is to protect the costume from being damaged or stained, as well as to prevent the audience from seeing the costume before the performers go on stage. Cover-ups should be marked with the performer's name, and we suggest that you **use something you wouldn't mind losing**. We do our best to keep kids from losing their things, but we have over 250 performers and it is bound to happen from time to time!
- **Wear Shoes Backstage:** Our backstage "holding" area is outdoors, so we recommend that your child wear shoes or slippers to protect his/her feet from getting dirty or from stepping on something sharp! Shoes will also protect the bottoms of girls' fishnet stockings from dirt and holes. Your nets will look prettier and last much longer if you take care of them! And nobody wants to see dirty feet on stage!
- **Put Your Name in EVERYTHING:** Again, we do our best but with as many performers as we have, someone always loses something. Protect your belongings by writing your name them with a permanent marker!
- Concessions: **Janet Grenda**. Accepting help from all parents, as well as kids age 8 and up.
- Parent Patrol: **Will & Norene Reagan**. Volunteers must be age 16 & up.
- Ushers: **Carol & Len Ingalls**. Volunteers must be age 14 & up.
- Rousts: **Phil Starr**. Accepts volunteers age 14 & up. Must be at run-throughs to learn your rousting jobs. See Phil at the first run-through on April 8th if interested.
- Ticket Sales: **Pam Ford**.
 - **Friends of Circus** mail order pre-sale: April 2nd – 20th. Look for your letter! If you don't have one by the end of Spring Break, call Melanie: (909) 798-9622 ext. 205. Your address might be incorrect in the YMCA's records!
 - Ticket Sales in Y Lobby Mon.-Thurs., 4:30pm-7:30pm starting Monday, April 21st
- Merchandise Sales (Show Shirts pre-sale): **Audrie Salisbury**. Volunteers must be age 14 & up.
- Ad Sales for the printed Show Program: **Kim Clay-Ramos**.
 - See samples from last year's printed show program across from the Circus Office! Ad submission forms are also available across from the Circus Office or on the web site. Deadline for submission **Thursday, April 17th**. See submission form for pricing and ad size dimensions.
- Kid Watch: (department head TBA). Volunteers must be age 16 & up.
- Bleacher Construction & Tear Down: **Jay Brown**.
 - Bleachers are delivered the morning of **Wednesday, April 30th** and volunteers need to arrive **at 10am**. Anyone interested in helping with bleacher construction should speak to Jay Brown at one of the run-throughs.
 - Bleacher Tear Down happens right after the last show on May 18th. Again, many hands make for light work! We need as many able bodied volunteers as possible to help tear

down. Bring your 3/4” and a 15/16” wrenches! Bring your wrench and let’s see whether we can beat our fastest tear-down record!

YMCA Staff – Melanie Ramiro

APRIL

Please pick up / download Calendars, Performer Contract & Participant Form. All available across from the Circus Office and on the web site: www.yccircus.org. Participant forms and show contracts need to be returned to Melanie by April 10th.

No classes during Spring Break: Mon., March 31st - Sat., April 6th

Act Class/Practice Schedule for APRIL:

- Mon. & Weds. classes will meet on **MONDAYS ONLY** during April
- Tues. & Thurs. classes can sign up for extra practice time on **WEDNESDAYS** during April. See your child’s instructor to find out when (or if) there will be extra practices.

Run-Through Schedule: Tues. April 8th – 1st Half ONLY
 Thurs. April 10th – 2nd Half ONLY
 T/TH April 15th, 17th, 22nd & 24th – Full Run Throughs

Circus “Jargon” Glossary (for all the new Circus families):

- “Call Time”: Time to gather, organize, get act notes/instructions from Melanie and/or your child’s Trainer(s), and warm up before the run-through / rehearsal / show begins.
- “Run: Rehearsal / show start time
- “Doors”: This means “doors open.” This happens 30 minutes before each show time, and all performers must be cleared from the gym when doors open.
- “Cover Up”: This means clothing that is worn OVER the performer’s costume that COMPLETELY COVERS the costume. (Yes, this means even if you have long sleeves or pants, they must be covered as well.) This is to protect the costume from being damaged or stained, as well as to prevent the audience from seeing the costume before the performers go on stage. Cover-ups should be marked with the performer’s name, and we suggest that you **use something you wouldn’t mind losing**. We do our best to keep kids from losing their things, but we have over 250 performers and it is bound to happen from time to time!
- “Run Through”: Essentially, a practice for show that runs OUT of the act order and *without* costumes
- “Rehearsal”: A show practice that runs IN the act order and *possibly with* costumes. (So make sure you come in work-out clothing, just in case your costume isn’t ready!)
- “Dress Rehearsal”: Yes, you guessed it! A full show practice *with* costumes.
- “Grand Spec”: This is our “curtain call” or “final bow” at the end of every show. All performers are welcome to stay for Grand Spec, but we leave this to the parents’ discretion! If you have a very young performer and you want to go home so you can get them to sleep by bedtime, we completely understand!
- “Strike”: This means “tear down” in the performing arts world. For us, it means disassembling the bleachers and cleaning up the costume trailers and the gym. This happens right after the last show.

Things to Remember During Rehearsals:

- You **must stay with your child** for the entire duration of the run-through, rehearsal or show if he/she is **under 12 years old**.
- Come to rehearsal ON TIME at “**Call Time**”. We **will** run acts out of order the first 2 weeks. Do not count on coming just in time for your act to go on. There is no way to predict that time!
- Bring homework, snacks, water, toys, games, books...something to help keep your child occupied.
- We also suggest that you bring your own **chairs** to run-throughs and rehearsals. The gym benches and the floor aren't very comfortable after a few hours!
- You are free to & encouraged to leave as soon as the last act that you are involved with (perform in, assist, spot) goes on. This applies for run-throughs, rehearsals, and shows.
- **Do NOT come to practice, rehearsal or show with jewelry or gum.**
- **Show Contract:** Please pick up / download, sign and return to Circus Office
- **Participant Form:** Please pick up / download, complete **one for EACH participant** and return to Circus Office
- CCAC will be doing the **Pizza / Cuca's fund raiser** during run throughs, but we never know if they will run out of food, so be sure to bring snacks just in case! And please make sure you **CLEAN UP after you eat!** The gym floor is new and shiny. Let's keep it that way!

MAY

Rehearsal Schedule: Tues., April 29th – 1st Half Dress Rehearsal
Wed. April 30th – 2nd Half Dress Rehearsal
Thurs. May 1st – Full Dress Rehearsal
See May Calendar for Call Times.

Show Schedule: Fri. May 2nd, 9th, 16th @ 7pm
Sat. May 3rd, 10th, **17th (Alumni Night) @ 5pm**
Sun. May 4th, 12th, 18th @ 3pm
See May Calendar for Call Times.

Show Guidelines:

- “Call Time” is **longer** during **dress rehearsals & shows** so that everyone has time to gather, get into costume, stretch, and get important last minute notes before the house opens. Please come to call time with **hair & make-up done**.
- **Make-up/Accessories:** While it is acceptable for performers to wear a certain amount of stage make-up, we do prefer that it remain natural. The rule is: Wear make-up to be seen, but not so much that one sees nothing but the make-up! Wardrobe has all the accessories needed for performer's costumes & hair.
 - A quick note about **GLITTER:** If you put glitter make-up on your child, make sure it is glitter that is **intended for use as make-up** and not the kind intended for arts & crafts. The reason: glitter pieces often fall into spotters eyes and if it is the wrong kind of glitter (meaning: the kind that is intended for arts & crafts), it can injure their eyes!
- **Unattended Children:** Show time is NOT free babysitting time. Please make arrangements for siblings or family members that are NOT involved in the show and who are not volunteering to be somewhere else. The “Performers Waiting Area” manned by the Parent Patrol behind the gym is for

Performers ONLY. Non-performing children must be in **Kid Watch**. Please tell your children NOT to wander around unattended! This is for the children's own **safety**!

- Just like in rehearsals, you are also encouraged to take your child home after his/her last act, unless you are spotting, rousting or volunteering. Make sure your child knows to stay in the secured holding area until you come to get him/her.
- **Tickets for Performers:** REMEMBER: No one (even performers & their families) are not allowed in the gym during a show **unless they have a ticket** for a seat. We have to comply with Fire Code!

Other Notes for May:

- **Pictures:** Burgess Photographics will take an **All-Cast Picture** on **Wednesday, May 14th**. Act & Individual Pictures will be taken on **Weds., May 14th & Thurs., May 15th**
 - A schedule of which acts will be taken which days will soon follow. Individual pictures can be taken on either day.
- **Strike:** Immediately after the last show, we strike. This means we tear down all the bleachers and tidy up the gym and the costume trailers. We would like everyone to pitch in to make this happen as quickly as possible!
- **Awards Ceremony:** Did you know we give out Circus Awards? Most parents don't know that their first year! Awards are not based on skills, but rather on attitude!
 - Make sure to bring your folding chairs to the **last show** (Sunday, May 18th) so that you can set them up in the gym after all the bleachers are torn down. The Awards Ceremony usually starts at about **7pm** and runs for about an hour. Bring your dinner!
 - Please see the "History" page on the web site to learn more about Circus Awards!
<http://www.ycircus.org/history.htm>
- **Cast Party:** All Circus families (Yes, even the non-performing members of your family!) are invited to the Cast Party on **Memorial Day: Monday, May 29th** from **1pm to 4pm**. Location: Russell & Tammy Seheult's house. 11362 Walnut St., Redlands, CA. The party is a **POT LUCK** so bring something yummy to share! Help with set up & clean up would be much appreciated! Don't forget your swimsuit & a towel!