

Circus Spire & Circus Gilly

Audition Information Packet

2023-24 Performance Season

Circus Spire and Circus Gilly auditions will be held Sunday June 25, 2023. There are TWO options for the audition this year: In-Person or by Video submission.

Submission Deadline for All Audition Materials: Monday, June 12, 2023

Audition Location: In-Person auditions will be held at Kinetic Arts Center on Sunday, June 25, 2023. Video submissions will be reviewed on the same date as the in-person auditions.

Thank you for your interest in Kinetic Arts Center's Circus Spire and Circus Gilly Youth Performance Programs! The following includes a brief description of each program and this year's audition process. Please complete the [Audition Application Form](#) and follow instructions to submit the following items by **June 12, 2023**:

1. Auditionee & parent/guardian contact information,
2. All video or photo materials,
3. Medical Information
4. Kinetic Arts Center's Release and Waiver (if you are not already a client in our system),
5. Proof of Vaccination (if not already in our system).
6. Completed auditionee questionnaire.

We are looking for students that are committed to the rigorous training required to succeed in Circus Spire and Circus Gilly and who approach that training with enthusiasm and excitement!

Please remember that every performer brings something unique to a circus ensemble. Some artists are strong, some are flexible, some have exceptional balance, some are graceful, and some are outrageously funny. There are circus artists who have only one of these traits and some who have multiple. We are most interested in seeing what you can do and are not concerned with the things you cannot do . . . yet.

Program Description

Kinetic Arts Center's Youth Training Program features two sections: Circus Spire and Circus Gilly.

Circus Spire (13 – 18 years old) is a pre-professional, multi-disciplinary circus youth troupe committed to excellence in circus arts training and performance. Performance opportunities include a multi-week, full-length production, individual act development, festivals, showcases or cabarets, etc. Circus Spire members can be offered several opportunities to coach the next generation of circus artists at Kinetic Arts Center.

Circus Gilly (9 – 13 years old) is a performance program for circus students who are ready for the challenge of more rigorous training. The primary aim of the program is to elevate circus skills to circus art by incorporating character and mood into performances. Circus Gilly training includes (but is not limited to): developing an understanding of vocabulary used across all circus mediums, increasing body awareness and engagement, and augmenting training in physical theatre, aerial arts, balance, acrobatics, partner acrobatics, juggling, and strength and conditioning disciplines.

The Commitment

Although Kinetic Arts Center knows that Circus Spire and Circus Gilly participants may not wish to pursue a professional career in circus or continued advanced training, we provide the training necessary to do so. We love it when students continue to professional circus training programs or when they go on tour with companies in the US and abroad! However, we believe it is most important that every child emerge from our programs with the confidence that they can attain personal goals because they have already achieved success in the circus.

Students enrolled in Circus Spire and Circus Gilly programs are committed to physical and artistic training in circus arts. They seriously apply themselves during training times and their hard work pays off through their fabulous performances.

Circus Spire requires a minimum commitment of 8+ hours (per week) in ensemble training plus additional rehearsals, performances and add-on classes. Circus Spire is the pinnacle of our Youth Training Program, is audition-based, and highly focused.

Circus Gilly requires a minimum commitment of 4+ hours (per week) in ensemble training plus additional rehearsals, performances, and add-on classes.

Acceptance

Circus Spire and Circus Gilly programs are a commitment for both the student and parents/guardians. It's essential to our program's success to have enthusiastic families who support the student's choice to pursue circus arts training at Kinetic Arts Center.

You will be notified within two weeks following the audition submission deadline if your child has been accepted into the program. A follow up meeting will be scheduled where we will formulate a training plan for the season ahead.

We have a magnificent blend of families and we encourage you to take advantage of any group activities (as COVID safety allows). We'll sometimes attend performances as a group outside of Kinetic Arts Center; other times we'll plan circus picnic/potlucks, or even go on non-circus related outings. Our community only becomes more tightly knit in the lead up to and during show runs when we come together to support our performers and to welcome audiences.

Rehearsals and Performances

Both Circus Spire and Circus Gilly are ensemble-based programs that also facilitate the development of individual stand-alone acts. **Attendance is mandatory during all rehearsals and the rehearsal schedule is subject to change throughout the show development process.**

A position in the ensemble for the Circus Spire and Circus Gilly show is guaranteed (provided there are no missed rehearsals) for every student. The integrity of the production is jeopardized whenever a performer skips a rehearsal. We plan rehearsals carefully in an effort to match your student's stated availability. **If your student is absent during any part of the rehearsal period (whether planned or unplanned), it may impact the roles or acts your student is assigned in our shows.** A rehearsal calendar is always accessible on our online registration system. **A solo is never guaranteed in any performance** and is determined based on several factors (i.e., strength, readiness, artistic balance, etc.).

Fees and Payment Policy

We strive to keep tuition as low as possible. All production expenses (including costumes for the in-house spring shows), extra production-specific rehearsals and insurance ARE included in your tuition. Group activities like offsite retreats, field trips, additional classes/workshops are NOT included. In addition, make up, uniforms, and wearables will need to be purchased separately.

*Below is the tuition and fee payment schedule for the **2022-23 Season**. **At this time the fees are not set for the 2023-2023 season**. We will publish this information as soon as possible. We offer a variety of payment options and exclusive discounts for any of our regularly offered classes that are taken in parallel. Financial arrangements are made (following acceptance into one of our programs) through our Operations Manager.*

Circus Spire: \$7,950

Circus Gilly: \$5,450

Enrollment, Cancellation & Vacations

Fees are not discounted due to student vacations or holiday closures. It does not happen often, but unforeseen events can lead to withdrawal from the Youth Training Programs. Please refer to the charts below for withdrawal deadlines and associated terms (subject to change).

Circus Spire

Withdrawal Date	Terms
September 1 - 30	Any paid tuition will be refunded in-full, less the non-refundable deposit.
October 1 - December 15	Tuition will be pro-rated to 50% of total fees and due payable immediately, less the non-refundable deposit.
December 16 – June 30	Any remaining tuition balance will be due payable immediately. No refunds.

Circus Gilly

Withdrawal Date	Terms
September 1 - 30	Any paid tuition will be refunded in-full, less the non-refundable deposit.
October 1- December 15	Tuition will be pro-rated to 50% of total fees and due payable immediately, less the non-refundable deposit.
December 16 – May 31	Any remaining tuition balance will be due payable immediately. No refunds.

The Audition

Please fill out our [Audition Application Form](#) (click through here or from our website). If you have any questions about our Circus Spire or Circus Gilly programs or about the audition process that are not covered in this information packet, please email Kate Hutchinson, Artistic Director at Katherine@KineticArtsCenter.com. See **Requirement for Auditions** below for a detailed list of skills we look for in these auditions.

There are TWO options for auditions this year: In-Person or by Video submission.

In-Person: You (and at least one parent/guardian) please attend auditions on *Sunday June 25, 2023* from 11am - 1pm at Kinetic Arts Center. There will be a group warm up followed by act presentations - max three (3) minutes each. The second part of auditions will be character work and skills demonstrations.

Video submission: You will submit a video introduction, a video of an act you created as well as demonstrate the prescribed skills found in the Requirement of Auditions section below. Acts will be reviewed on June 25 following the In-Person auditions. Your act must be no longer than three (3) minutes. Skills demonstration is in addition to your act time.

Preparing for Auditions

Preparing an act for an audition can be a daunting task. We are often asked what students can do to help prepare. We have the following resources available for auditionees:

Act Creation for Circus Spire and Gilly Auditionees (Youth 8 - Teen) – Enrollment open after April 4 with Emily Phillips

This class is designed for aspiring circus performers who already have ground-based or aerial skills they can draw upon to build an act for the June 25, 2023 audition. In this four-class series, you will develop strength, comfort, and understanding of necessary audition skills in addition to your act choreography. Enrollment is for the full class series – we cannot offer drop-ins or make-ups for this class.

Fees: \$240

Wednesdays: May 31, June 7, 14, 21, 2023

4 – 6pm

To augment this class, consider taking the **Acrobatics – Beginning (8-Teen)** class on Tuesdays through May 23 and then beginning again on June 6, 2023. In addition, we are offering four Saturdays of **Supervised Open Gym** to offer you a bit more practice. Visit [Here](#) for more schedule information.

Emily Phillips is the Acrobatics, Hand-Balance and Hand-Stands Head Coach for Circus Spire and Gilly. When she isn't upside down herself, you can find her dancing late into the night with friends and family.

Beginner Acrobatics (8 – Teen) with Patrick Stevens

Tuesdays: May 3 - May 24, 2023 *Restarting again on Tuesdays: June 6, 2023*

4:00 - 5:30pm

Use this class to round out your aerial skills and take your audition to the next level with increased acrobatic movements like cartwheels and forward rolls. This class is an ongoing drop-in class.

SUPERVISED Youth Open Gym - Gilly & Spire Audition Prep Time – Enrollment after April 4

Saturdays May 28 - June 25, 2023

4:15 - 6:15pm

Fees: \$40 per visit

Run your act as many times as possible before the audition date! A coach will be onsite and able to answer any questions and help with rigging. Attendance is limited to eight (8) students. Pre-registration and payment is required.

Private Lessons - Please reach out to Janelle@KineticArtsCenter.com to make private lesson arrangements.

“What Makes a Good Audition?”

According To Artistic Director, Kate Hutchinson

1. Presence is the number one thing we look at. We want to see your student looking confident on stage. We could care less if they "nail" every skill included in their act. We care a lot more about how they recover from missteps and how capable they are of staying "in character" and present until the end of their performance.

2. I love pointed feet and straight knees! This is part of 'being present' for me. Being able to engage the legs and feet fully demonstrates good body awareness and the ability to direct energy (this is a must for Spire auditionees. Gilly auditionees are not expected to have mastered this yet.).

3. Energy! We love artsy, emotional, concept-driven acts. However, we recommend creating an act that makes you smile. When choosing audition act music, go for bright, joyful music. Choosing bent feet and legs also indicates 'being present'.

4. Auditionees should incorporate skills into their act that they can perform consistently. We are looking for students who can perform precisely rather than trying to present skills within an act that aren't as solid just because you are trying to impress us. Clean double footlocks are much more impressive to me.

5. Be yourself. Be you x10. You are awesome. We want to see you!

Bonne Chance! Good Luck! Break a leg! Merde! And all that Jazz!

Requirements for Auditions

At auditions (either In-Person or Video auditions) please be prepared to show us your skill level (unless otherwise indicated) in the following:

Introduce Yourself!

In one minute or less (this is in addition to your three-minute act or video of your act), please tell us your name, age, and about any relevant training and experience in circus and/or other performance or movement disciplines (ex. dance, theater, singing, musical instruments, gymnastics, capoeira, etc.). *Video Auditionees: this is in addition to your act time.* Practice this in front of a mirror before you film.

Show Us Your Flexibility!

We'd like to see the following: splits (left, right, and middle), bridge/backbend, and a pike. *Video Auditionees* - if you may submit a link to a photo album of still images instead of a video for this section.

Show Us Your Strength!

We'd also like to see the maximum number of push-ups you are able to complete. *Video Auditionees*: this is in addition to your act time.

Show Us Your Balance!

Do a handstand (either freestanding or against a wall) for 15 seconds. *Video Auditionees* - *let's see that recorded*

Show Us Your Act!

Be prepared to perform an act of your choice either In-Person or on Video. Please present an act no longer than three (3) minutes *Video Auditionees*: submit your link in the audition form.