

Circus Elite Requirements

Circus Elite is a program for the circus enthusiast child. It is not exclusive to advanced skills, nor is there an age limit. It does however require that the child be open to learning, have an optimistic attitude, and be excited about performing. The following requirements and guidelines should ensure that campers are well suited for the Circus Elite experience.

- Campers must have attended, or will be attending, a two-week Independent Lake Camp session before attending CE. There are certain possible exceptions to this that can be discussed with Gia (head of the circus department), such as if the child has been in another circus program before OR sibling situations. With such an intense and fast-paced program, it is important that campers be acquainted with camp, its policies, living conditions (including being away from home), and the circus program itself.
- Campers must have some circus experience. They should take circus as a prime while they attend camp. CE works towards putting on a show, and so it is important that campers gain experience performing by being in one of our regular circus shows.
- CE is a specialized program that is entirely devoted to circus activities. We encourage campers to be interested in performing at least two or three acts. CE is NOT for campers only interested in learning/performing one act. Even if the camper has only performed in only one act before, they should choose two other acts that interest them and be familiar with the basics in those acts BEFORE the elite week starts. (Dailies are great times to work on these, as well as getting a head start at home.)

For example, jugglers should be able to juggle three balls, unicyclists should be able to easily ride in a figure-8 while holding a spotters hand, aerialists should be able to hang by their knees and do two pull-ups, clowns should have one short prepared skit, etc.

- Campers should be aware that the opening and finale of the CE show includes all CE campers. They usually have some human pyramid formations in which everyone is involved. No experience in human pyramids is necessary, however all campers must be willing to try to be involved in some way. It is helpful if the camper is comfortable in weight-bearing situations such as sitting on someone's shoulders or having someone (weight appropriate) sit on theirs. All campers should have basic body awareness, and be able to do a forward roll.
- Aerialists should be aware that aerial acts work in a loose progression. Experience is required on the single trapeze BEFORE attending CE in order to perform in an aerial act. If a non-aerialist is at all interested in trying aerial equipment during circus elite, it is highly encouraged that they attend one of the "aerial for fun" dailies during the normal session in order to learn basic tricks and technique.
- All campers should be advanced in smiling and toe pointing!
- CE campers should introduce themselves to Gia when attending camp. It is very helpful for circus management to get acquainted with the circus elites before CE even starts. We try to learn their names, learning styles, and favorite acts as soon as we can.

Circus Elite is virtually tailored to meet the needs of all different kinds of children. We are experienced in teaching different learning styles and physical capabilities. If any of the above guidelines should cause concern for an interested camper, Gia is more than willing to discuss possible remedies. The most important part of Circus Elite is campers who try hard and have fun!