

Welcome to the AYCO and ACE US Circus Education Survey. We want to hear from all circus educators--the companies, organizations, programs, schools, and other institutions and businesses that are spreading the love of circus in the United States. We want to know who is out there and what they're up to.

While we understand that the current state of the world has put circus organizations in flux, we want to know the impacts the virus has had on educators as well as gather information on the scale of circus education prior to the virus.

The goal of our survey is to get a census--a complete count--of all circus educators in the US. AYCO/ACE will use this information to advocate for our industry. We know that circus education has a huge impact on the lives of our students, coronavirus or not--but to make a case for our impact on the economy and vitality of our communities, we need hard numbers. Whether you are new or have been around for years, whatever your size and specialty, we want to hear from you. You matter, be counted!

This survey includes questions about your business, the circus education you offer, any performances you put on, and the impact COVID-19 has had on you and your students. Answering the survey is entirely voluntary, and results will be made anonymous--we will share information about the field as a whole, never about any specific organization.

The survey should take about 15-20 minutes. Survey Monkey will save your answers, so if you need to pause while taking the survey, no problem--just return to the survey link using the same device and you will be able to pick up where you left off. If you need to navigate back to a prior page of the survey, use the "PREV" and "NEXT" buttons at the bottom of the survey.

If you would like additional information about the survey or our project in general, please see our info page at <https://www.americancircuseducators.org/circus-survey-2020/>. You can also **preview the full survey** via the pdf on the info page. For additional questions about the survey, please contact us at survey@americancircuseducators.org.

Thank you very much for your time!

Basic Information

1. What is the name of your company or program?

2. What is your role/job title? _____
3. Where are you (or your headquarters) located?
City/Town _____
State _____
4. In what year was your company or program founded? _____
5. What is your company/program's mission statement? (answer can be informal) _____
6. Did your company/program provide **circus education** in 2019 ?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I'm not sure
7. *[If "No" or "I'm not sure" above]*
What type of education or programming does your company/program provide?

8. How is your company or organization legally structured?
 - Nonprofit
 - LLC
 - Sole proprietor (freelancer/independent contractor)
 - For-profit corporation (s-corp, c-corp, etc)
 - Other (please specify): _____
9. In 2019, how many people did you have working on your circus programs at any one time? (Please include all staff--administrators, teachers, maintenance staff, leadership, etc.)
 - a. Full-time employees: _____
 - b. Part-time employees: _____
 - c. Freelancer/independent contractors: _____
 - d. Volunteers: _____
10. If there is anything else we should know about the number of staff in your programs, please tell us here: _____

Basic Information

11. Please give your best estimate for what percent of your 2019 staff are in the following racial/ethnic categories.

- African American/Black _____
- American Indian _____
- Asian/Pacific Islander _____
- Latinx/Hispanic _____
- White _____
- Multiracial _____
- Total _____

12. About what percent of your 2019 staff are the following genders?

- Female _____
- Male _____
- Non-binary/Trans/Other _____

13. In 2019, what was your overall yearly budget for all circus programs including staff?

14. In 2019, did you receive funding from any of the following sources? Please select all that apply.

- Private donations (include donations from individuals and charitable bequests)
 - ➔ *[If selected]* About how much did you receive in private donations in the past 12 months? _____
- Foundations and Corporations
 - ➔ *[If selected]* About how much did you receive from foundations and corporations in the past 12 months? _____
- Government grants
 - ➔ *[If selected]* About how much did you receive in government grants in the past 12 months? _____
- None of the above

Basic Information

15. What types of program structures did your company or organization have in 2019?

Please select all that apply.

- Youth recreational classes
- Adult recreational classes
- Private lessons
- Youth performing troupe
- Adult performing troupe
- Custom professional performances (gigs)
- Residencies
- Workshops
- Youth day camps
- Youth sleepaway camps
- Social circus
- Pre-professional or professional training program
- Other (please specify): _____

The next several questions ask about **COVID-19 impacts** on your company/program. We understand that the impacts of the pandemic are changing day by day. Any information or estimates that you can provide are helpful!

16. How has COVID-19 impacted your company/program so far? Please select all that apply.

- Cancelled regular classes
- Cancelled/postponed special workshops
- Moved classes online
- Moved workshops online
- Offered credit for cancelled classes/workshops
- Offered refunds for cancelled classes/workshops
- Cancelled/postponed performances
- Moved performances online
- Refunded tickets for cancelled performances
- Reduced salaries/payroll
- Laid off or furloughed staff/employees
- Used financial reserves
- Increased expenses (e.g. from cleaning, videoconferencing, increased admin staff time for planning, etc.)
- Permanently closed/suspended operations
- Other (please describe): _____
- No impact

17. Compared to this same time last year, how much programming is your company/program offering?

- None
- About a quarter
- About half
- About three-quarters
- About the same amount

18. Compared to this same time last year, how much income is your company/program taking in?

- None
- About a quarter
- About half
- About three-quarters
- About the same amount

19. What is your best estimate of the loss of income you've experienced from COVID-19 so far? (estimate to the nearest dollar) _\$ _____

20. Have you done any of the following to access additional income or reduce expenses because of COVID-19? (Please select all that apply.)

- Applied for COVID-19 financial assistance from any of the federal CARES Act funding programs
- Applied for state or local COVID-19 financial assistance
- Launched a fundraiser or crowd-funding
- Negotiated reduced/delayed rent or mortgage payments
- Negotiated reduced insurance costs
- Other (please describe): _____

21. Have you received any COVID-19 financial assistance from federal, state, or local sources? (Please select all that apply.)

- Yes, federal
- Yes, state
- Yes, local
- Yes, other (please specify): _____
- No

22. How severe do you expect the overall financial impact of the coronavirus to be on your organization? [*scale: 1-Not severe at all; 5- Extremely severe*]

23. Overall, how confident are you that your organization will survive the impact of COVID-19? [*scale: 1-Not at all confident; 5- Extremely confident*]

24. Anything else you would like us to know about the impact of COVID-19 on your organization/program? _____

Education

The next several questions ask about **circus education** at your company/program in 2019.

25. Within all your circus education programs, about how many individual participants did you have in 2019? _____

26. For how many hours each week did your average student participate (including classes, rehearsals, training at your facilities, etc.) in 2019?

- Less than 2 hours per week
- 2-3 hours per week
- 4-6 hours per week
- 7-10 hours per week
- 11-20 hours per week
- 21-30 hours per week
- 31-40 hours per week
- More than 40 hours per week

27. How many weeks per year were your educational programs active in 2019?

- 1-13 weeks (or 1-3 months)
- 14-26 weeks (or 4-6 months)
- 27-39 weeks (or 7-9 months)
- 40-52 weeks (or 10-12 months)

28. What age participants did you serve in 2019? Please select all that apply.

- 0-23 months (infant)
- 2-5 years (preschool/kindergarten)
- 6-10 years (elementary)
- 11-13 years (middle school)
- 14-17 years (high school)
- 18-25 years (young adult)
- 26-55 years (general adult)
- 55+ years (mature adult)

29. About what percent of your students were youth (ages 0-17) and what percent were adult (ages 18+) in 2019?

- Youth (ages 0-17)_____
- Adult (ages 18+)_____
- Total_____

Education

30. About how many of your youth students qualified for free or reduced price lunch at school in 2019?

- 25% or less
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- 76-100%
- I'm not sure

31. Please give your best estimate for what percent of your 2019 students are in the following racial/ethnic categories.

- African American/Black _____
- American Indian _____
- Asian/Pacific Islander _____
- Latinx/Hispanic _____
- White _____
- Multiracial _____
- Total _____

32. About what percent of your 2019 students are the following genders?

- Female _____
- Male _____
- Non-binary/Trans/Other _____

33. Anything else we should know about your 2019 participants?

34. In which of the following areas did you offer instruction in 2019? Please select all that apply.

- Clowning or physical acting
- Juggling or object manipulation (Diabolo, Poi, Plates)
- Fire manipulation
- Balance apparatuses
- Wheel apparatuses (Cyr, German, Wheel of Death)
- Acrobatics, tumbling
- Hand-balancing
- Contortion
- Partner or group acrobatics
- Rebound/bounce acrobatics (Trampolines, Russian bar, Korean plank)
- Static aerials
- Swinging aerials (Including Flying)
- Other (please specify:) _____

Education

35. What were the three most popular disciplines/apparatus/skill areas that you offered in 2019? _____

Performance

The next few questions ask about your company/program's involvement with **performances**.

36. Did your company or program put on any circus performances (for example, student showcase, troupe performance, custom professional performance (gigs), etc.) in 2019?

- Yes
- No

37. How many performances did you put on in 2019? _____

38. Considering all performances in 2019, about how many audience members attended each performance? _____

Insurance

The next few questions ask about any **insurance** that you may have for your company or program.

39. What type of insurance does your company or program have?

- Insurance specifically for circus arts
- Other insurance (please specify what kind) _____
- No insurance

40. What is the name of your insurance company? _____

41. Have you ever had to submit a claim to your insurance?

- Yes
- No

42. *[If yes to above]* How many claims did you submit in 2019? _____

43. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your insurance?

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	N/A
Price						
Customer service						
Policy aligns well with your needs						
Claim resolution						

44. Anything else you would like us to know about your experience with your insurance?

The next few questions ask about your **relationships** to other organizations.

45. Within your circus programs, did your company or organization collaborate with any of the following types of organizations in 2019? Please select all that apply. If you did not collaborate with any organizations, please select that response.

- Community or fraternal organizations
- Religious organizations
- Social organizations
- Governmental organizations
- Arts organizations (non-circus)
- Other circus programs
- Humanitarian organizations or NGOs
- Education organizations and schools
- Private companies
- Health organizations
- Private foundations
- Sports organizations
- Other (please specify:) _____
- We do not collaborate with any other organizations

46. What type(s) of collaboration(s) did you have with those organizations?

47. Are you a member of any professional organizations?

- Yes (please specify which organizations) _____
- No

Last questions!

48. In 2019, how challenging was each of the following to your company or organization as you continued or grew your circus education programs? [Scale 1-Not at all 2-Slightly, 3-Somewhat, 4-Substantially, 5-Enormously.]

- Funding/finances
- Space
- Staffing
- Business administration
- Recruiting students
- Attendance consistency
- Public image of circus

49. In 2019, what was the single biggest challenge in continuing or growing your circus education programs?

- Funding/finances
- Space
- Staffing
- Business administration
- Recruiting students
- Attendance consistency
- Public image of circus
- Other (please specify): _____

50. Tell us more about that challenge:

51. Anything else you would like us to know about your company or organization?

52. (Optional) Please let us know about your experience completing this survey. We welcome any comments, questions, or concerns. This feedback will be used by AYCO/ACE only to inform future census survey creation.

Contact information and raffle drawing: if you'd like to, please provide your email address and let us know what contact you'd like from us moving forward.

53. Email address (optional): _____

54. How may we contact you? (Select all that apply.)

- Please include me in the raffle drawing for a free registration for the Virtual ACE EdCon on November 5-8, 2020
- Feel free to contact me if you have questions about my responses
- Please add me to the AYCO/ACE mailing list

Thank you for completing our survey! Please help us get the word out by sharing this survey with other circus educators you know.

If you would like additional information about the survey or our project in general, please visit <https://www.americancircuseducators.org/circus-survey-2020/> or contact us at survey@americancircuseducators.org.