

Sonja Harpstead

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Summary:

- Research experience focused on
 - The youth experience in a recreational setting
 - Common business practices within the circus industry
- Experience working with all ages in a variety of settings for extracurricular learning
- Experience expanding programs for new learning opportunities for youth

Education:

Master's Degree in Individualized Study, NYU, New York, NY *2013*

Thesis focus on experiential education particularly social emotional learning and youth development in recreational circus classes

Related Experience:

Circus Moves, Connecticut, Circus Skill Instructor, *2018-2022*

- Introduced attendees to circus skills, facilitated in playful physical education and team building work.

Eureka Puzzles, Boston, Massachusetts, Games Leader for Events, *2015-2022*

- Introduced attendees to games and puzzles, explained rules and encouraged new thinking strategies through play.

Westchester Circus Arts, Tarrytown, New York, Circus Instructor, *2018-2020*

- Designed and implemented a curriculum to introduce students to circus skills such as juggling, tightwire walking, and trapeze. Choreographed year-end performances to showcase skills learned. Hosted an online juggling stream for students during quarantine.

American Youth Circus Organization, Remote, Research Lead for Circus Industry Census, *2018-2019*

- Designed and implemented a national-wide survey of the circus industry
- Authored all related materials including survey language, invitations, and final reports.

Circus Warehouse, New York, New York, Circus Instructor, *2011-2018*

- Created classes and curriculum including teen aerial, youth performance troupe and adult recreational tightwire classes
- Developed circus skill learning games for children's class.

Additional Work Experience:

American Youth Circus Organization, Research Volunteer, *2011*

New York Circus Arts, Circus Instructor and Facilities Manager, *2007-2008*

Various Locations, Swimming Instructor, *2000-2006*

Skills:

- Performance experience in
 - Stilts, aerial acrobatics, and tightwire
- Logistics and supply organization