

# Homestay Information

While on tour, the Circus Smirkus Troupers (Smirkos) stay with families in the communities where the Big Top Tour performs. A minimum of two Troupers are assigned to each host (we call them Homestays) and spend three nights with their hosts depending on the length of the Tour's stay in town.

Homestays can be individual adults, families, or couples who have the ability to comfortably host at least two Smirkus troupers and have been approved by Smirkus staff (following a criminal background check).

The job of a Homestay Host is to:

- Provide nourishing meals and snacks as needed.
- Provide a quiet location for rest and sleep, as well as an atmosphere where Troupers can comfortably relax and wind down after being "on" all day.
- Ensure that Troupers are transported to and from the show site in a safe and timely manner.

The Smirkus Homestay Program does more than provide Troupers with a comfortable place to sleep: at the end of a stay, the homestay experience adds a unique and personal experience for both the Troupers and the participating host families.

For more information, or if you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Sue Sumner, North Star's homestay coordinator for Circus Smirkus in Northampton, at [suesurner@gmail.com](mailto:suesurner@gmail.com).