

Hello.

The following is a summary of what touring with Absolute looks like for a band. Our "Policies and Procedures" and "Artist Contract" documents are much more detailed, but this serves to give a brief overview of what to expect.

#### **Absolute's Vision:**

***"To empower emerging generations to change their world by living their lives with purpose"***

You can be a part of it! By partnering with Absolute as one of our Artist Associates, you would be traveling to schools in North America as part of one of our road teams. This involves taking an active role in our 1 hour motivational presentations and having the opportunity to help build up a generation of youth who will be equipped and ready to change our world.

#### **What touring looks like:**

- Artists are normally contracted for a four month term, usually stretching 16-18 weeks. The Fall tour goes from the end of Aug. to mid Dec. and the Spring tour from the end of Jan. to the end of May. Ideally, an artist must commit to the full term. If the working relationship proves to be successful for both parties, Absolute may consider the band for a following tour.
- Because we are a charity organization (non-profit) and our Think Day program is donation based, we can not pay our artists. Though this may discourage some at first glance, understand that you also aren't worrying about booking the shows yourself, shows falling through, poor promotion/attendance, paying for fuel/maintenance/breakdowns of the touring vehicle, paying for food while on tour...all the things that often put independent band tours in the red, returning home in debt. This tour offers huge exposure to a band's key target audience (high school students) and is an incredibly valuable experience for those willing to work hard and invest time into the success of their music.
- Our show is an hour long, and within that hour the band would play 3 original songs, and also be required to play a couple of jingles and be involved in a crowd interaction segment. We also may have the opportunity to do evening concerts, which will be much more band orientated.
- Your band will have the opportunity to sell merchandise in schools. Absolute will do their best to make sales successful for you, and many bands have done extremely well. We can provide you with past figures on numbers of shows (75 shows a tour as rough number) and past band sales, and level of upcoming bookings, but are unable to guarantee a certain level of sales as this can vary due to audience response to your band/music and market conditions on bookings.
- Once a band is accepted for the tour, Absolute requests a \$1,000 touring deposit which acts as a small security. After completion of the tour, the full deposit amount is refunded.
- Absolute charges a minimal commission of 10% on all of band's merch sales while on the tour.
- You would be based out of Hamilton, ON. However, our teams travel coast to coast, so each touring season always involves both local shows and longer road trips.
- Our teams travel in vans/modified buses, pulling trailers with our stage equipment. There may be a cap on the weight of band gear allowed, as we cannot exceed the weight capacity of our vehicles.
- If you do not have accommodations in the Hamilton, ON area, band members may use Absolute's housing facilities for the term at a cost of \$100 per band member.
- While our teams are in Hamilton, both training and doing local (Southern Ontario) shows, team members are responsible for their own groceries. Though we like to keep our teams on the road (away from Hamilton) for the majority of the touring season, to be safe, we recommend that you be prepared to be responsible for one to two months worth of groceries at your own expense.
- On the road, away from our home base, we commit to providing 3 meals a day, but don't expect dinner at "The Keg", because you will be sadly disappointed! Please remember that Absolute is a not-for-profit and so we have to budget accordingly. When food is not provided by billets or schools, our average meal budget per person is between \$6 - \$8. Subway, Quiznos, Wendy's, and grocery stores are some of our regular food stops, though it varies depending on the preferences of each team.
- Our road teams are most often billeted out when they are in a city or community, and we work with local organizations to find families who offer to take in members of our teams for whatever length of time they are in that area. Sometimes, on short notice, or when billets are not available, the teams will stay at a school or church. You'll need to bring your own sleeping bag and pillow.
- You would be traveling under the banner of Absolute, and so the message you portray as an artist and your behavior would be expected to fit in with our values. When a band signs a contract with Absolute, signing parties are held to their word, and lack of contract fulfillment will not be tolerated, and includes significant financial penalties.
- Though booking separate evening and weekend gigs for your band is possible and we do try to be accommodating, Absolute's schedule is always first priority and can be difficult to book around, considering the sometimes last-minute nature of our bookings/plans. All possible bookings will need to be run by Absolute before confirming and any expenses involved (i.e. gas/transportation) would be your responsibility.
- While training in Hamilton, each team member will be asked to prepare a personal story, telling of a life experience that can encourage students to make positive life choices. Absolute staff will help develop these stories and then choose which will be the strongest for our presentations. Team members in the past have shared stories ranging from finding one's identity, bullying, self-esteem issues, to abuse, drugs and alcohol, and suicide. Don't stress out about this; we don't call on every person to talk, and we are sensitive to those who are not comfortable sharing something that's still very recent or too personal. Hearing a personal story can also be a great opportunity to create connection for your band with the audience.
- By signing up with Absolute, band members become fully integrated team members, and will be required to fulfill team responsibilities like everyone else on the tour, I.E. possibly speaking in the show, unpacking and packing the tour vehicle, setting up and tearing down the A/V equipment, helping with dishes at billets' homes, etc.
- Remember we are working in schools, and not clubs. Therefore we work with noise restrictions, and you as a band will be required to

work within those limits, without complaining. Absolute's primary customer base is the schools we present in, and therefore we must work within their requirements.

- We occasionally do shows in the U.S. or drive through to get to the West coast, so all members of the band need to have a valid passport in order to cross the border. This will need to be presented upon arrival at our office in Hamilton.
- Because we are constantly working with/around minors, we require each member of our teams to have a criminal record check done, which will also need to be presented upon arrival at our office in Hamilton.

If partnering with Absolute looks like something that your band would be interested in, please get back to me and we can proceed with the application process.

Thanks,

JP