

# Press Release

Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau

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## **Show Me Clowns for Jesus National Conference Feb. 18-20 in Springfield**

Springfield, Mo. – The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Show Me Clowns for Jesus National Conference is Friday-Sunday, Feb. 18-20, 2011, with a Gala Faculty Show open to the public from 8-9:30 p.m. Saturday in the main Convention Center Hall at the Ramada Oasis Convention Center. Doors open at 7:45 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children 12 and under.

The conference (This year's theme is "Clown School Daze."), is a multi-level (beginner to advanced), non-denominational training and equipping school for experienced clowns, those interested in clowning, and others wanting to use creative arts to bring joy and the message of hope in Jesus Christ to their communities. Walk-in registrations are accepted Thursday, 7-9 p.m. Thursday and 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday. Day registration rates are available.

On Thursday evening, training is available in how to do a wholesome, non-religious show for school children ("Safety is No Joke") and then this group of trainees and instructors will go to Robberson and Freemont Elementary schools on from 1-2 p.m. Friday to do the show for the kids.

Special "Intensive" classes with guest faculty will also be offered during from 9-11 a.m. Friday in the "Techniques of Face Painting Design and Application" and from 1-3 p.m. in "Balloon Creations" to go with the face painting, a new art form called "Paint-A-Loons."

The first general session is at 7 p.m. Friday and will include contemporary praise and worship and a performance featuring the school show trainees. Workshop sessions begin Friday and feature six to seven different classes on varied topics including "God's Sense of Humor" and "How to Be a Balloon Entertainer" taught by professionals from Missouri and across the country. There are five workshop sessions through Sunday morning followed by contemporary praise worship, "clown worship," and a commissioning of the new clowns. The conference ends at noon Sunday.

The workshop Saturday afternoon will take more than 200 clowns to nine nursing homes, Cox Hospital, Victory Mission, and to Grandview Baptist Church where a fun, interactive clown show is set for 3-4:30 p.m. This hands-on style of training is unique among variety arts conferences and distinguishes the Show Me Clowns for Jesus conference. The activity is called "Show Me a Smile Day" and has been recognized the last two years by the mayors of Springfield as a city holiday.

For more information, visit [www.showmeclownsforjesus.org](http://www.showmeclownsforjesus.org). For information about other conventions, conferences and group events in Springfield, call the Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800-678-8767.

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