

# TAKE A YOUTHFUL STEP TO THE FUTURE



## A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING A YOUTH SQUARE DANCE GROUP



DEVELOPED BY THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA, INC.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

At a time when everywhere they turn youth are being told to say **NO**, square dancing is teaching them when to say **YES**. Through square dancing youth are taught to say **YES** to fellowship, friendship, education, and life.

One of the most important things that square dancing provides is a sense of self-worth. Youth receive consistent praise for positive productive behavior. They learn that they can have fun and make friends without being involved with gangs, drugs, and/or alcohol. They are taught that they are important. For in square dancing it takes eight people to be able to dance. Therefore, the actions of any one dancer in the square affects the other seven. Through this factor they also learn the importance and effects of working together for a common goal.

Square dancing provides youth with a great form of aerobic exercise. It helps to provide for muscle development and stamina.

Square dancing is a great educational tool. As they dance the caller is teaching them listening, attention, and eye-hand coordination skills. They also put math skills to work with such calls as "Eight chain thru" or "Square thru 3/4's". There is even a little geometry thrown in with calls like "Grand square" and "Diamond circulate".

Youth also have the opportunity to develop leadership skills. Youth dancers serve as officers and committee members from the club to national levels. This enables them to learn through observation of their adult counter parts, as well as through hands on training.

Square dancing is an excellent implement for social development. From the minute they join a class they are taught how to ask someone to dance to thank them at the end. They learn to be self confident as they learn each movement. They are constantly interacting with their peers, as well as adults, which gives them the poise and grace to deal with others. Square dancing also encourages respect for others while providing the opportunity to interact with the opposite sex in a controlled environment.

Square dancing helps to breakdown social-economic barriers. In a single square you can have a doctor, a lawyer, a bus driver, and a sanitation worker. Square dancing also helps to eliminate racial prejudice. Square dances are held all over the world. Square dance calls have become an international language and are the same in the U.S. as they are in Japan or anywhere else in the world. Therefore, anywhere in the world that a square dancers travels they can square dance. No one cares about race or nationality because they are all square dancers there to enjoy the dance.

Square dancing is as much fun for youth as it is for adults. Youth, music, and dance always seem to be an unbeatable combination.

Square dancing is more than a dance; it is a state of mind. It is a celebration of our country's roots. How better show our country's warmth and unity than through a form of dance where almost every movement starts by extending your hand to another. Square dancing truly reflects a cross section of the melting pot that is America. Halls filled with dancers of every ethnic background joining hands in fun and fellowship.

This book was developed by the Youth Advisory Committee of the **UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA, INC.**, and is designed to provide some easy to follow basic information on how to establish and maintain a youth square dance group. USDA also has many excellent booklets and pamphlets available regarding square dancing and square dance organizations, which apply to youth and adults alike. For further information regarding these materials contact the USDA Education Chairmen or you can download them from the USDA website at [usda@usda.org](mailto:usda@usda.org).

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF SQUARE DANCING

The roots of today's modern square dancing can be traced back over five hundred years to the ballrooms of France and the greens of England. The French contributed the Ballroom Dance, Court Ballet, and the Quadrille. These dances blended with the English contribution of the Morris Dance, the English Country Dance, and Longways Dance. The early American settlers took this blend and added in the German Lander, Polish Polka, Austrian Waltz, and the dances of the Mexican Court.

The style the dancing took on was directly relative to the geographic area where it was performed. The country or contra style of New England has been attributed to the influence of the French Contradanse. This style of dance was very popular during the post War of Independence years, following the French support of the American war effort. A style known as the "Appalachian Mountain Dance" developed in the mountain regions of Kentucky, North Carolina, West Virginia, and Tennessee, influenced by the areas Irish and German settlers. Included in this style were such steps as the "Kentucky Running Set" much faster paced than the "country" or "contra" of New England.



These styles were a very popular way of gathering the settlers in fun and fellowship.



Both the New England and Mountain Dance styles moved west with the settlers. The dancers of Texas, Colorado, and California among others added their own variations to create what was known as the Western Square Dance and today in its refined form is known as the modern American Square Dance.



## SQUARE DANCING TODAY

Modern square dancing, though still based on its early American roots, is quite different from the days of the old barn dance. Today's dancers hold dances in churches, schools, fairgrounds, convention centers, and even cruise ships. Callers using prerecorded music and sophisticated sound systems have replaced the caller hollerin' to the tune of a fiddle. Turkey-in-the-Straw and the Virginia Reel have given way to modern pop and country music. The calls themselves have evolved into more intricate patterns and movements.

Even the clothing has evolved. Rigid costuming rules no longer apply. Actually, once you get involved in square dancing you'll enjoy getting dressed up in the fancy shirts and fluffy petticoats for special dances and conventions. But usually men wear a long sleeved western style shirt with blue jeans or western dress stacks and a western tie. The ladies can choose from the short skirt and bouffant petticoat to the prairie skirt or long skirt with western flair. Options are endless. Outfits can be very simple or very elegant and elaborate. The variety of styles and colors makes a beautiful flowing rainbow across every dance floor. Many times new dancers can find "gently used" clothing available to them.



Square dancers have formed local, state, and national organizations to provide a forum for exchanging and developing programs and ideas for the betterment of square dancing.

Square dancing today provides much more than recreation – it provides a great number of educational and social benefits. Dancers have the opportunity to develop promotional, leadership, and organizational skills as a member of a club or other square dance organization.

Social skills are a natural part of square dancing. It starts with the first greeting as you enter a hall and ends with the last "thank you" of the evening. Through constant interaction with others, square dancing helps develop social skills in a very comfortable and varied environment.

Today's square dancer has the opportunity to interact with dancers of almost every nationality, religious, ethnic, and economic background. Square dancing truly teaches "all men are created equal." For in a square every person is important and every person is dependent on the other seven people in the square. Language is not a barrier – no matter where in the World you go, square dancing is in English.

As you can see square dancing is more than a dance, it is a state of mind. Square dancers here in America take great pride in our country – it is a celebration of our country's roots. Square dancing reflects a cross section of the melting pot that is America. How better to show our country's warmth and unity than through a form of dance where almost every tip starts by extending your hand to another.

## **SETTING UP A YOUTH GROUP**

The following is a step-by-step suggested procedure to follow in setting up a youth group.

- 1) Locate a Caller that works well with Youth
  - A) Make sure that caller is willing to work out an appropriate financial arrangement
  - B) Find out what nights your caller is available.
- 2) **Locate a Hall.** Try the following:
  - A) Park & Recreation Department
  - B) Schools
  - C) Churches
  - D) Boys & Girls Clubs
  - E) YMCA
  - F) Community Centers
- 3) **Setting the time.** Remember you are working with Youth.
  - A) Don't set your hours too late at night
  - B) When holding a class don't make the hours too long. Usually 1 to 2 hours is a good length.
- 4) **Age Group** - Things to remember when setting age limits are:
  - A) Must be old enough to follow directions.
  - B) Younger children (such as under 12) should be accompanied by an adult that stays in attendance.  
You don't want to become a babysitting service.
  - C) Sometimes there are problems when mixing very young children with older teenagers.
- 5) **Publicity** - Get the word out that you are forming your group.
  - A) Make your flyer attractive to youth (See Appendix 1) Using bright colors helps to gain attention.
  - B) Ask permission to put flyers out through:
    - 1) Park & Recreation Departments
    - 2) Schools
    - 3) Churches
    - 4) Boys & Girls Clubs
    - 5) Scout Troops
    - 6) 4-H Clubs
    - 7) Adult Square Dance Clubs
    - 8) Square Dance Publications
    - 9) Square Dance Stores
    - 10) Store Windows

- 6) **Rules** - Establish rules of conduct from the very beginning. Part of teaching is training them in proper square dance etiquette. (See Appendix 2) Also need rules of conduct at your dance. For example:
  - A) Must remain in hall. You don't want to be trying to keep track of youth that are running all over outside. Also, there is a safety factor involved.
  - B) No talking in squares. When your caller is teaching he needs their complete attention. We would suggest you set down with the youth and let them have input in setting the rules. They will tend to observe the rules more easily if they are their rules.
- 7) Keep them moving and busy. Don't take long breaks. Once you lose their attention, it's very difficult to regain.
- 8) Once your group is established set up simple By-laws (See Appendix 3) and elect officers. This keeps youth interested because they know it's their club.
- 9) Vary activities. Once in awhile schedule something different. Example: Picnic/Barbecue - Have it as a family event. Activities such as this can help to get parents involved.
- 10) **Fund Raising.** This is always a challenge. The following are some things you might try:
  - A) Car Washes
  - B) Sponsorship (such as Adult Square Dance Clubs)
  - C) Booster Board (See Appendix 4.1)
  - D) Raffles (Check your local regulations)
  - E) Bake Sales
  - F) Silent Auction (See Appendix 4.2)

## FOUR VITAL POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. Maintain and enhance their self-esteem.

Young egos can be injured easily. Always approach things with a positive, rather than negative, attitude.

2. Listen and respond with understanding and empathy.

Whenever possible stop what you are doing and give their questions and/or comments your full attention. Make sure they realize that you understand and relate to what they are expressing.

3. Ask for ideas and/or offer suggestions.

Always let youth be an important part of the process. Even if there is a problem, ask them for ideas on how to solve it.

Try to state your ideas in the form of a suggestion. Youth are much more responsive to a suggestion than to a mandate.

4. Always remain an authority figure.

You can't be one of them. Be friendly, understanding, and warm. But always remain the authority figure.



## **KEEP IT FUN!!!**

There are some very simple yet very important things to keep square dancing **FUN** for youth dancers.



1. **Keep them moving!**

Don't take long breaks. Move quickly from tip to tip. If you don't have a round dance cuer, have records of their favorite rounds, clogs, or line dances available for use between tips.

2. **Keep up the pace!**

Set the dance speed at a level suitable for youth. Music needs to be modern and upbeat.

3. **Keep it simple!**

Set the dance level so that they are challenged, but yet able to cut up and have a good time.

4. **Keep it different!**

Vary activities. Occasionally have a theme dance where they can dress up.

Within your regular or as a special dance, let them earn Fun Badges.

Have them dance in all girl, all boy squares and see who can make it through the tip without breaking down.

5. **Keep them involved!**

Make sure that the youth are a part of the process. Give them a voice in the types of activities and events the club puts on.

6. **Keep it flexible!**

Flexibility is one of, if not, the most important things to keep in mind when dealing with youth. Always be ready to change or adjust plans and programs. If something isn't working out, quickly adjust or change it. If youth become bored it is extremely difficult to get them refocused. It is very easy to see when something isn't working. Youth won't hesitate to express through actions and/or words the fact that they are unhappy or disinterested in an activity.

**HOP TO IT!**  
**SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!**

Youth are a vital asset to the continuation and perpetuation of square dancing. We need to make sure that they feel secure as a member of our square dance family.

For Adults who welcome youth dancers, the Frog has been established as the universal symbol of our youth dancers. In an acknowledgement that not everyone is ready for the high energy and exuberance shown by our youth, advisors wanted to establish an easily recognizable symbol that would tell younger dancers “you are welcome to dance with me!” The illustrious (and friendly) Frog was selected.

Young dancers know that if they see another dancer with either a frog sticker or a dangle on their badge, that dancer welcomes and enjoys dancing with youth. Want to show your support?

Purchase a frog dangle from your favorite badge vendor or order free frog stickers for your club.

For stickers send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:



**FROG STICKERS**

USDA Youth Advisor

E-mail: [usda.youth.advisor@usda.org](mailto:usda.youth.advisor@usda.org)

See web site [www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org) Officers & Committees for

Current Officers and Committee Chairs mailing address and phone.

Please indicate number of stickers needed. We will be happy to send you as many as you need. Order as often as you like.

**Upsilon Sigma Delta of America**  
Greek Letters to be worn **only** by  
**Youth Dancers**

**ΥΣΔ**

The United Square Dancers of America have adopted these Greek letters to represent Youth Square Dancers of America. We are accustomed to the double square, the square and circle, the frog, music notes, etc. We accept those symbols as an ordinary part of our activity. So now is the time to introduce a new symbol – one to identify our youth dancers and give them a “new image.”

For more information contact the USDA Youth Advisors.

# **USDA FOUNDERS MEMORIAL YOUTH FUND** **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

## **PURPOSE**

The United Square Dancers of America – the national dancers organization – awards a merit-based scholarship to a student who has shown their dedication to the promotion and perpetuation of the total square dance movement.

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

The United Square Dancers of America Founders Memorial Youth Fund expects to award one Foundation Scholarship on the basis of merit to a high school senior or college freshman who

- Has a record of volunteer service in square dancing, and
- Has outstanding leadership potential and communication skills.

## **CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY**

Each nominee must be

- An active square dancer
- A high school senior or college Freshman planning to continue their education
- Sponsored by a USDA affiliate organization, and
- Committed to the promotion and perpetuation of the total square dance movement.

## **SELECTION PROCEDURES**

A committee examines all nominations and selects the recipient. Recipient is selected on the basis of

- Extent and quality of service to square dancing
- Leadership record
- Demonstrated dedication to the promotion and perpetuation of the total square dance movement
- Future leadership potential and communication skills, likelihood of “making a difference” in square dancing.

## **SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The selection committee will be comprised of the following members:

- USDA Founders
- USDA president
- Youth advisory committee chair
- Two members of the U.S.D. A. Executive committee/board selected by the president with the approval of the Board of Directors.

## **NOMINATION PROCEDURES**

The following items are required for each nominee:

- A completed application,
- A letter of nomination from member affiliate,
- Nominee’s essay of not more than 500 words on the topic “the impact square dancing has had on my life.”

## **NOMINATION DEADLINE**

The complete nomination package must be received by February 1 at the address specified on the application form.

## **SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT**

The recipient will be announced at the June Annual Board of Directors meeting at the National Square Dance Convention each year.

**USDA FOUNDERS MEMORIAL YOUTH FUND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

**Applicant's name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone (\_\_\_\_)** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade in school** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age** \_\_\_\_\_

**High School** \_\_\_\_\_ **College** \_\_\_\_\_

**Honors and Awards**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Officers and Positions**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Square Dance Committee Positions and/or Offices**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**USDA Affiliate**

**Signature of USDA Affiliate President**

**Date**

Send (1) this application, (2) Letter of nomination from USDA affiliate club or organization, (3) additional letters of recommendation if desired, and (4) applicant's essay of 500 words or less on the subject "the impact square dancing has had on my life" to:

**USDA Founders Memorial Youth Fund  
Scholarship Applications  
USDA Youth Advisor**

**Questions:**

**E-mail: [usda.youth.advisor@usda.org](mailto:usda.youth.advisor@usda.org)**

See web site [www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org) Officers & Committees for Current Officers and Committee Chairs mailing address and phone.

# **UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA**

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The **UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA, INC. (USDA)** was formed on June 26, 1981, during the National Square Dance Convention held in Seattle, Washington, and has grown to a size that approaches the representation of 310,000 dancers throughout the United States. USDA is an organization formed by dancers, for dancers, and is under the operational control of dancers. The purpose of the organization is to:

Promote and perpetuate the total Square Dance Movement, which includes Square, Round, Contra, Clogging, Line and Heritage Dancing.

Establish a line of communication from the individual dancer to a recognized unified body so that an expression of varied opinions can establish or influence policy for making decisions at the national level.

Provide for education to further the growth and enjoyment of Square Dancing.

Encourage cooperation between member clubs, state associations, councils, federations; national and international organizations-, or other groups involved or interested in the promotion of Square Dancing.

Provide a forum for implementing the benefits of membership in the **UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA** and assist members in any way possible.

Represent Square Dancing to the general public as a wholesome, enjoyable family type recreation.

As a dancer's organization, the **UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA** serves to represent the square, round, contra, clogging, line, and heritage dancer in decisions that are made at the national level relative to the development and growth of the dance activity. This representation takes place through various State and Regional organizations affiliating with the USDA. As a united voice, USDA is able to express the views of the dancers on a national level so they might be relayed to the other national and international groups with whom the dancers interact, such as leaders, callers, cuers, instructors, commercial enterprises, other dancers, etc.

The **UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA INC.** is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of representatives from each affiliate member. The USDA Executive Committee consists of a President, four Regional Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Information Officer, Historian, Parliamentarian, and Committee Chairmen.

The annual meetings of the **UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA, INC.** are held immediately prior to each National Square Dance Convention.

# UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA

## RESOLUTION

### UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA FOUNDERS MEMORIAL YOUTH FUND

**WHEREAS:** United Square Dancers of America is dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of square dancing, its history and traditions; and,

**WHEREAS:** United Square Dancers of America recognizes and respects the importance of youths contributions to square dancing's past, present, and future;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

United Square Dancers of America establish the **United Square Dancers of America Founders Memorial Youth Fund** for the purpose of obtaining contributions, be it financial, services, and/or time. Said contributions will be dedicated to providing quality promotional and educational square dance materials to youth of all ages.



## **THE GOALS OF THE USDA FOUNDERS MEMORIAL YOUTH FUND**

- 1) To teach youth about square dancing, its history, and traditions.
  - A) To make educational and promotional materials available to youth
  - B) To make up-to-date instructional materials available to educators to assist them in teaching modern American square dancing.
- 2) To increase the number of youth participating in square dancing.
  - A) Develop and distribute promotional and educational materials that present a positive, upbeat view of youth participation in square dancing.
  - B) Encourage the adult square dance community to actively seek youth participation in square dancing.
- 3) To establish a scholarship fund to assist and encourage youth square dancers to continue their education.

### **PRINCIPALS:**

Square Dancing is a vital part of America's history and tradition. Square dancing's roots in America go all the way back to the early settlers. Yet, how many of today's youth or even adults know of its history.

America's youth should be taught that square dancing is more than a dance; it is a state of mind. They should know that square dancers take great pride in our country. They should see square dancing as an on-going celebration of our country's roots.

Let them see how square dancing represents our country's warmth and unity by being a form of dance where almost every movement starts by extending your hand to another.

### **NEEDS:**

Our needs are great. A substantial amount of contributions from throughout the square dance community is needed to reach our goals. Your generosity is essential to our total success. Please help assure the full potential of our youth program by making a tax-deductible contribution to the fund. To further assist us, pass this information along to your fellow square dancers. With the total support of the square dance community we will be able to reach youth throughout the country.

To make a contribution or for additional information, contact the USDA Youth Committee or any Executive officer.

## COMPETITION AND YOUTH

### Competition in this Recreation Youth Thrives on the Challenge!

Disapproval of competition in the square dance movement has been expressed by some but the positive aspects are far greater than the negative. The competition in teen square dancing is an avenue for pre-teen and teen square dancers, square dance callers and round dancers to display their accomplishments, meet new friends and dance within their own age group.

The Teen competition has been a starting-ground for many of the caller/cuer, teacher, dancer, club executive who keep the recreation healthy. The fact that many adults active in square dancing today share the common experience of having competed in teen competition dancing. If you were to attend a teen competition as a spectator, without knowing it was competitive, you probably would not even realize that there were trophies to be won. You would see the finest display of square dancing and round dancing done smoothly and comfortably with impeccable timing and styling.

The youth are learning self-confidence and fair play while enjoying themselves and making life-long friends. The onlooker sees a large number of pre-teens and teens involved in a safe recreation while learning how to interact with adults. You also see older teens acting as good role models for the younger participants.

The United Square Dancers of America endorse the practice of competition square and round dancing for youth.

Most young people enjoy competition and we believe this will help to perpetuate and promote Square Dancing.

The United Square Dancers of America would strongly disapprove of any competition that would embarrass or humiliate a dancer, no matter the age or circumstance!

The United Square Dancers of America is aware all dancers do not approve of competition square dancing. We hope this information will help them understand our position on this subject.

### **ORGANIZATIONS THAT CURRENTLY HOLD OR HAVE COMPETITION DANCING:**

California	Oregon/Washington
Florida	Canada
Arkansas	4H

## **Examples of Youth Square Dance Competition**

Team  
Singles  
Couples  
Challenge Fun  
Callers

### **Team Competition**

1. Enter as whole square and practice routine
2. Judged on:
  - a. Mechanics
  - b. Appearance
  - c. Style
  - d. Personality of Squares

### **Couples Rounds Competition**

1. Enter as couple
2. Judged on:
  - a. Execution errors
  - b. Choreography errors
  - c. Rhythm
  - d. Enjoyment
  - e. Posture
  - f. Styling

## **Singles or Couples Competition**

1. Enter as single dancer with or without assigned partner, assigned square one practice session.
2. Enter as a couple assigned to a square, one practice session.
3. Assigned a square
4. One practice session
5. Judged on:
  - a. Time of continuous dancing or elimination of squares

### **Challenge Fun Squares**

Your square gives a “friendly” challenge to the other squares and caller.

“Atta boys” may be given to the square left standing.

### **Caller/Cuer Competition**

- Judged on:
1. Knowledge
  2. Command
  3. Tone/Pitch
  4. Rhythm
  5. Personality
  6. Timing
  7. Enunciation
  8. Clarity

## **WEB SITES THAT HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON COMPETITION DANCING**

**California Square Dance Council Youth Section**  
[www.squaredance.org/youth/youth-opening.html](http://www.squaredance.org/youth/youth-opening.html)

**The Dance Competition TEEN ZONE**  
[www.teen.squaredance.bc.ca/index.shtml](http://www.teen.squaredance.bc.ca/index.shtml)

**College Royal, Square Dancing**  
[www.collegeroyal.uoguelph.ca/square-dancing.shtml](http://www.collegeroyal.uoguelph.ca/square-dancing.shtml)

**4-H Modern Square Dance Competition**  
[www.gov.ns.ca/NSAF/4H/gkit/sqdance.shtml](http://www.gov.ns.ca/NSAF/4H/gkit/sqdance.shtml)

**The Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival**  
[www.teen.squaredance.bc.ca/pntsd.html](http://www.teen.squaredance.bc.ca/pntsd.html)

**ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SQUARE DANCE  
COMPETITION**  
Leavenworth, WA  
[www.bavarianleavenworth.com/photos\\_squaredance.htm](http://www.bavarianleavenworth.com/photos_squaredance.htm)

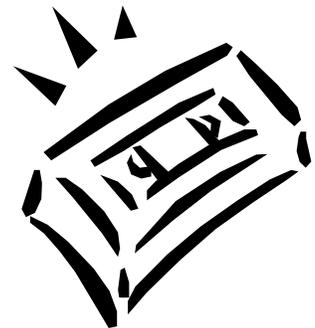
## YOUTH SQUARE DANCE TRAINING AID AVAILABLE

A Youth Square Dancing Training aid is available through United Square Dancers of America. The video is being distributed free of charge. This aid is the culmination of many years of planning by the Youth Committee of USDA and is meant for use by anyone interested in teaching youth to square dance - callers, teachers, youth workers such as 4-H, Girl or Boy Scouts, church groups, etc.

Home school has become a very large part of the American way of life. "We have had several Home School parents tell us that this is a perfect way to have a 'social activity' for the Home School students," says, USDA Youth Advisor. "With square dancing they can have something fun to do with friends at home, church or community center. It is clean entertaining and promotes many desirable skills, such as listening to instructions. After hearing this I highly recommend a square dance class for Home School youth!"

We have all personally experienced youth who have come to a square dance class so shy they could hardly carry on a conversation, or even look up. None of them want to touch hands right at first, but soon get over this and the transformation is like watching a personality bloom.

Many hours of work and fun went into making a video (which has now been converted to CD format). Spearheaded by John and Alitia Becker, USDA Youth Advisors, and Lottie Ainsworth, caller from Louisiana, they set out to teach a group of 10 youth ages eight to seventeen from a youth church group in Eros, Louisiana..



An instruction sheet accompanies each CD containing information vital to making this teaching tool user-friendly. Instead of taking hours of planning the lessons and working on the program, it is just not necessary with the CD.

Credits go to Sonya Savelle/Rocking M Records, Mark Clausing/PMDO Records, and Tony Oxendine/Royal Records for allowing their music to be used in the CD.

To order your copy for use by your club, association, youth group or teacher, contact:

USDA Youth Advisor, E-mail: [usda.youth.advisor@usda.org](mailto:usda.youth.advisor@usda.org)  
or  
Education/Publications Committee at, [usda.education.publications@usda.org](mailto:usda.education.publications@usda.org)

See web site [www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org) Officers &  
Committees for Current Officers and Committee  
Chairs mailing address and phone.

A E C Y W W T I C A

Appendix 1

# **UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA**

## **CODE OF ETHICS FOR SQUARE DANCERS**

1. Always dress in proper square dance attire.
2. Always strive to maintain the spirit of square dance fellowship.
3. Always remain in a square, unless you have an emergency. Then try to get someone to take your place.
4. If one more couple is needed to fill a square, quickly obtain a partner and fill the square.
5. As a club member always do your share of the club duties.
6. Always maintain good manners when asking someone to dance.
7. Never talk in a square while your caller is instructing or calling.
8. Never make fun of a dancer that makes a mistake.
9. Always practice good personal hygiene and grooming when attending a dance.
10. Always be willing to dance with beginners.
11. Do not cut in, add extra twirls, or kicks unless everyone in the square approves.
12. Always keep in mind that everyone square dances for FUN

# **SAMPLE CLUB BYLAWS**

## **BYLAWS OF THE ABCD SQUARE DANCE CLUB**

### ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this non-profit organization shall be **ABCD SQUARE DANCE CLUB**.

### ARTICLE II - OBJECT

The primary purpose of this club shall be to promote youth square dancing and to further the interest and participation of the members.

### ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership is open to any youth dancer between the age of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ who is interested in the purpose of this club, willing to abide by its bylaws and able to dance at the current level of the membership.

Section 2. Youth meeting the requirements for membership set forth in Section I may request membership by filling out a membership application and submitting it to the club Senior Advisor. Prior to submission of application applicant must attend three (3) club dances and/or graduated from the club class.

Section 3. Upon meeting the requirements in Sections 1&2 their application will be voted upon by the members at a regular and/or special club meeting.

Section 4. Only members in good standing shall participate in business meetings or serve in elected and/or appointed positions.

### ARTICLE IV - DUES

Section 1. The amount of dues shall be set by the board of directors with the approval of the membership.

Section 2. Dues shall be payable on the first day of \_\_\_\_\_ of each calendar year and shall be delinquent if not paid by the last day of the same year. When delinquent a member is not in good standing and membership may be terminated by a majority vote of the membership.

### ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 1. The officers of this club shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Senior Advisor. The officers will serve as the club's Board of Directors.

Section 2. Nominations will take place at the \_\_\_\_\_ general meeting. Any member in good standing may make a nomination.

Section 3. Election shall be by ballot at the \_\_\_\_\_ general meeting. The member receiving the most votes will be declared the winner.

Section 4. The officers shall serve a term of \_\_\_\_\_ (time frame). They shall assume office on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

Section 5. Any vacancy in office shall be filled by a majority vote of the members.

## ARTICLE VI - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings, appoint committees with the approval of the members present, call special meetings when necessary, and perform such other duties as pertain to this office.

Section 2. The Vice President shall assist the President and perform his/her duties in his/her absence.

Section 3. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining a record of the activities of the club and shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office or as shall be assigned to that office.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining a record of the finances of the club, shall collect dues, shall keep a record of the membership, and notify members of dues delinquency. He shall pay all approved bills.

Section 5. The Senior Advisor shall be the adult authority in all club matters. He/She will sign all documents requiring an adult signature. He/She will chaperone all club activities and/or appoint qualified adults to act as chaperones in his/her absence or when additional adult supervision is required.

## ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1. Square Dance Club nights shall be held \_\_\_\_\_ except holidays or when a majority vote changes the night.

Section 2. General meetings shall be held \_\_\_\_\_ except holidays.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called by the President and/or Senior Advisor, or shall be called on the written request of at least three (3) active members.

## ARTICLE VIII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The board of directors shall be composed of the elected officers and each officer shall have one vote. A majority shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The board of directors shall be authorized to conduct all business affairs of the club and will hold meetings \_\_\_\_\_ (when), the time and place to be determined by the board members.

## ARTICLE IX - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern in all cases not definitely provided for in these bylaws.

## ARTICLE X - AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These bylaws can be amended at any meeting called for that purpose provided \_\_\_\_\_ (time frame) written notice of the proposed amendments is given to each member.

## ARTICLE XI - DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of this club, any remaining assets shall be distributed to a charitable organization as recognized by law and selected by the members.

**These are inexpensive ways to raise funds for you club.**

*SPECIAL NOTE.* Before starting these or any fund raising project, check on the rules and regulations in your area.

### **BOOSTER BOARD**

Materials needed:     Bulletin Board  
                              Thumb tacks or stapler  
                              Box with alphabetical dividers

Go out to your local merchants and ask them to become a club booster by making a donation to your club. In exchange, you display their business card on the bulletin board for one year. Obtain a supply of their business cards and attach one to the board, place the remainder in the box for the dancers and/or their parents to take with them. At each dance be sure to announce for everyone to support your boosters. After each dance or class night check the box to make sure you still have cards for each merchant displayed. If needed contact merchants for additional cards.

**SUGGESTION:** Place your club name on the back of each card. Ask the dancers/parents to present the card when they utilize a contributing merchant. This will make it easier to obtain their support the next year.

Appendix 4.1

### **SILENT AUCTION**

Materials needed:     3" x 5" index cards  
                              Pencils or Pens  
                              Tables to display items

Obtain donated items. At your dance or class place items on table with 3 x 5 cards and pen or pencil. During the dance people place their name and a bid for the item on the cards. At the end of the dance the person with the highest bid receives the item.

Appendix 4.2

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For copies of these publications contact:

USDA Youth Advisor  
[usda.youth.advisor@usda.org](mailto:usda.youth.advisor@usda.org)

See web site [www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org) Officers & Committees for Current Officers & Committee Chairs mailing address and phone.

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