

# UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA NEWS RELEASE



2008-12



For immediate publication for dancer awareness

## USDA ENCOURAGES YOUTH DANCERS

United Square Dancers of America (USDA) is a nationwide square and round dance organization that was founded by volunteer dancers and is still staffed by volunteers. The purpose of USDA is to provide assistance and programs that will benefit the dancer in the square dance activity. The Youth Committee of USDA concentrates on encouraging, assisting and promoting the youth dancers in the activity.

At the 57<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention® being held in Wichita, KS, June 25-28, 2008, many activities are directed toward the youth dancers to make their experience at the convention more complete.

On Thursday night June 26, from 10:00 until 11:30 p.m. **United Square Dancers of America will be hosting a Youth after party.** The theme will be **Prairie dogs?** There will be dancing, games, fun for the youth and the winner of the Prairie Dog contest will be announced. It will be a fun night for the youth.

Each year USDA awards a **\$1,000.00 scholarship** to a senior in high school or a freshman in college who displays leadership abilities in the square dance activity. After considering several very well qualified candidates, a winner has been selected. **This year's winner will be announced to the square dance world at USDA's Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday June 25.**

Several items of educational materials are available at the Showcase of Ideas to help dancers engage the youth in square dancing. Pamphlets are available to show how to organize and run a youth club, help keep the interest of the youth in the activity and explain the programs that are available for the youth dancers. In addition applications are available for the youth to apply for the Founders Memorial Youth Scholarship for next year.

**Youth Chairmen Alitia and John Becker will be moderating a youth education panel,** and have **Justin Russell**, a young caller from Memphis, TN, and **Ashley Parker**, last years Founders Memorial Youth Scholarship winner from California, **assisting as panelists.** They will discuss subjects related to youth and approach them from the youth's viewpoint.

We know youth are the future of square dancing, and by getting them involved and excited, the dancing future looks great.

For further information about youth dancing contact:

### Youth chairmen

Alitia and John Becker  
7547 Westlake Rd.  
Sterlington, LA 71280  
(318) 665-9085

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

### Information Officer

Lyle and Jean Beck  
12566 Rugby Ct.  
Dubuque, IA 52002  
(563) 556-1253

E-mail: [usda.information.officer@usda.org](mailto:usda.information.officer@usda.org)