



# UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA

SQUARE DANCE – AMERICAN FOLK DANCE



## USDA's Youth Dancer Programs & Founders' Memorial Youth Fund Scholarship

**Presented by:**

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**Bonnie Abramson, Former USDA & CA Youth Advisor**



# USDA Youth Programs

- ❖ Overview Of Programs
- ❖ Youth Publications
- ❖ Recruiting Ideas
- ❖ Mascots & Logos
- ❖ USDA Involvement at National Square Dance Convention
- ❖ Scholarship Programs
- ❖ Non-USDA Programs



# USDA Youth Publications

- ❖ Take A Youthful Step to the Future (Booklet)
- ❖ USDA Youth Program
- ❖ Info On Competition in Youth Dancing
- ❖ USDA Scholarship Information



# Youth Logos & Mascots



❖ Frogs

ΥΣΔ

❖ Upsilon Sigma Delta



❖ Musical Notes



# USDA Involvement in the National Square Dance Convention

- ❖ Workshops & Seminars
- ❖ Display in Showcase of Ideas
- ❖ Support of Youth Hall
  - ❖ Door Prize Donation
  - ❖ Pizza Party / Ice Cream Social
- ❖ USDA's Youth After Party



# Youth Fund Scholarship

- ❖ Application Deadline – February 1st
- ❖ Open to High School Seniors and College Freshman
- ❖ Minimum of One \$1000 Award
- ❖ Must be an active square, round, contra or clogging dancer
- ❖ Must be active in dance, school, church or social organization
- ❖ Must show leadership potential <sup>6</sup>



# USDA Scholarship Application

- ❖ Actual Application Form
- ❖ Minimum 3 Letters of Recommendation
- ❖ Essay – *The Impact Square Dancing Has Had On My Life*
- ❖ Affiliate Nomination Form – signed by President of USDA member Affiliate Organization





# Application Form



**USDA FOUNDERS MEMORIAL  
YOUTH FUND  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**  
[www.usda.org/youth.htm](http://www.usda.org/youth.htm)



Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (inc. Area Code): (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 High School: \_\_\_\_\_ College: \_\_\_\_\_  
 USDA Affiliate: \_\_\_\_\_ How Long Have You Been Dancing: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dance Club(s): \_\_\_\_\_

(Additional pages may be attached for any of the information requested below. Include local, regional, state, or national positions)

**Square, Round, Clogging, or Contra Dance Related Recognitions, Committee Positions, and/or Offices**

| Position: | Date: | Organization: |
|-----------|-------|---------------|
| _____     | _____ | _____         |
| _____     | _____ | _____         |

**Honors and Awards (inc. School, Social Clubs, Church, 4-H, Scouts or any other organization)**

| Position: | Date: | Organization |
|-----------|-------|--------------|
| _____     | _____ | _____        |
| _____     | _____ | _____        |

**Officers and Positions (inc. School, Social Clubs, Church, 4-H, Scouts or any other volunteer organization)**

| Position: | Date: | Organization |
|-----------|-------|--------------|
| _____     | _____ | _____        |
| _____     | _____ | _____        |

**Your Completed Application Packet Must Include:**

- (1) Completed application.
- (2) Signed nomination form from USDA Affiliate Organization President (download form from website)
- (3) Three letters of recommendation – One from your local affiliated dance club of which you are a member, plus two more which can come from representatives of square dance clubs, schools, church, social clubs or long time acquaintances.
- (4) Applicant's essay of approximately 500 words on the subject *"The impact square dancing has had on my life."*

**Questions?**

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

**Email or Mail\* Completed Application to:  
USDA Founders Memorial Youth Fund  
Scholarship  
USDA Youth Advisor\***

*(\*If mailing application please contact Youth Advisor for mailing address)*

Revised 11/19





# Affiliate Nomination Form



**UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA  
FOUNDERS MEMORIAL  
YOUTH FUND SCHOLARSHIP**

**USDA AFFILIATE NOMINATION FORM#**



Each year the United Square Dancers of America – the national dancers’ organization – awards a merit-based scholarship(s) to a student(s) who has shown their dedication to the promotion and perpetuation of the total square dance movement. One of the application requirements is to be nominated for this scholarship by the president of the applicant’s USDA member affiliate organization. To simplify this procedure, this nomination form is to be used to provide that Affiliate nomination.

**USDA AFFILIATE PRESIDENT:** If requested to nominate an applicant, please complete and return this form either to the applicant so that they can include it with their application or send it directly back to the USDA Youth Chairman at the e-mail or snail mail address below prior to the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS - DON'T KNOW WHO YOUR AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE IS?** No problem. Use the attached list to find the USDA member Affiliate organization that represents your state or region. Then, contact the President of that organization and either provide them with this form or ask them to download it from the USDA website, [www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org), sign it and return it either to you for inclusion with your application or send it directly to the USDA Youth Chairman. Once you locate your Affiliate representative organization from the list, spend some time reviewing their website so that you can learn more about the state or regional organization that represents you.

**NEED MORE HELP?** Contact the USDA Vice President that represents your region.

**CENTRAL REGION VICE PRESIDENT** – Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia  
[usda.central.region.vp@usda.org](mailto:usda.central.region.vp@usda.org)

**EASTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT** – Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia  
[usda.eastern.region.vp@usda.org](mailto:usda.eastern.region.vp@usda.org)

**PLAINS REGION VICE PRESIDENT** – Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin  
[usda.plains.region.vp@usda.org](mailto:usda.plains.region.vp@usda.org)

**WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT** – Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming  
[usda.western.region.vp@usda.org](mailto:usda.western.region.vp@usda.org)

On behalf of the (Name of USDA Affiliate): ..... I/We Proudly Nominate (Applicant’s Name): .....

From City: ..... State: ..... for the USDA Scholarship.

I/We certify that he/she is a member of (Club Name): ..... Name(s) of USDA Affiliate President: .....

Signature: ..... Date: .....

**CONTACT FOR MAILING ADDRESS OR EMAIL THIS NOMINATION FORM TO:** [usda.youth.advisor@usda.org](mailto:usda.youth.advisor@usda.org)

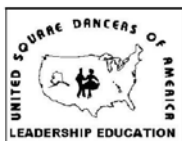


# Supporting Scholarship Program

- ❖ Encourage Students to Apply
- ❖ Donate to USDA's Scholarship Fund
  - ❖ USDA is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit so donations are tax deductible
  - ❖ Donate as individual or group
  - ❖ Donation form available on USDA website,



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**Make a Difference – Support Our Youth  
With Your Donation to the  
FOUNDERS MEMORIAL YOUTH FUND  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Each year 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, including square dance, round dance, contra and clogging. Donations are needed to continue making this \$1,000 scholarship available.

We need your help and support! Our youth are the future of our country and of square dancing, and the purpose of USDA is to support both of these causes.

**DO YOU KNOW A YOUTH DANCER HEADING TO COLLEGE?**

If you know of a youth dancer who is a high school senior or college freshman that would like to apply for the scholarship, the application form can be downloaded from the USDA website, [www.usda.org/trifold/IS-Y04.pdf](http://www.usda.org/trifold/IS-Y04.pdf). The complete nomination package must be received by February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, with the recipient announced in June at the USDA Annual Board of Directors meeting held in conjunction with the National Square Dance Convention.

Make a donation in memory of a fellow dancer, in honor of a special occasion, or simply because you support youth square dancing. USDA is a 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which qualify for tax deduction status, this is a really great cause to support. If you would like more information, contact [usda\\_youth\\_advisor@usda.org](mailto:usda_youth_advisor@usda.org).

**PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION TO THE USDA FOUNDERS MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP**

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*(we'd like to add you to our USDA News newsletter mailing list)*

Please accept this donation in honor of/in memory of, or acknowledging the following event:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please send an acknowledgement of this donation to: *(if different from above – we will automatically acknowledge donor)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount:  \$5.00  \$10.00  \$25.00  \$50.00  \$100.00  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: USDA Scholarship  
Mail Donation and Form to: USDA Founders Memorial Scholarship Fund  
1411 W. Lake ct, Littleton, CO 80120

**Thank you for your support of Youth Square Dancing in America!**



# Other Scholarship Programs

- ❖ California designed application to mimic USDA's Application
- ❖ Texas, Oregon, Missouri and other states offer youth scholarships.
- ❖ Check with your state or regional affiliate organization to see if they have a scholarship program
- ❖ If you decide to create your own, look to matching USDA requirements





# Recruiting Youth

- ❖ Family members & friends
- ❖ School, youth, social or church groups
- ❖ Home School organizations – need PE options
- ❖ Dance/Social Clubs
- ❖ Cal Poly San Luis Obispo



# Ideas to Keep Youth Involved

- ❖ Welcome them – don't shun them (some adults don't want to dance with youth)
- ❖ Let them get involved on committees, etc.
- ❖ Encourage travel to other clubs, take them to party dances, events and conventions





# Ideas to Keep Youth Involved

- ❖ Kids like to “show off” and perform
  - ❖ Encourage participation in school talent shows, 4-H events, etc.
  - ❖ Perform/participate in dancing at fairs, community events, etc.
  - ❖ Pacific Northwest Youth Dance Competition or Pennsylvania Farm Show
  - ❖ Youth Group applied to America’s Got Talent



# CALLERLAB Caller Training

- ❖ Starter Kit for New Callers – free to under 21
- ❖ CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coaches
- ❖ Reduced Membership Fee
- ❖ CALLERLAB Equipment Grant
- ❖ CALLERLAB Scholarship
- ❖ CALLERLAB – [www.callerlab.org](http://www.callerlab.org)



# Specialty Youth Dancer Events

- ❖ Pacific Northwest Teen Dance Festival & Competition
  - ❖ [www.PNTSDF.org](http://www.PNTSDF.org)
- ❖ Pennsylvania Farm Show
  - ❖ [www.farmshow.PA.gov](http://www.farmshow.PA.gov)
  - ❖ Tom Miller has info re: square dance competition – [tommil@verizon.net](mailto:tommil@verizon.net)



# All Youth Forms

All Youth Forms, including pamphlets, booklets, Scholarship Application Form, Affiliate Nomination Form, Donation form are available on USDA website under Programs/Youth

<http://www.usda.org/Youth.php>



# **Thank You!!**

For more information contact:

**Dan Reedy – USDA Youth Advisor**

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

**Bonnie Abramson**

**USDA Social Media**

**[SocialMedia@usda.org](mailto:SocialMedia@usda.org)**



# Join Us Next Month For USDA Educational Materials\*

Saturday, January 16, 2021

Featuring: Tony & Diana Rock, USDA Presidents, and Dale & Kathy Worthington, USDA Leadership Education Chairmen  
Time: 2:00 pm Eastern / 1:00 pm Central / Noon Mountain / 11:00 am Pacific / 9:00 am Alaska & 8:00 am Hawaii

*\*This workshop was previously scheduled for March. The January workshop, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" has been rescheduled for March*

