

## **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

## **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

## 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/glkit/sqdance.shtml](http://www.gov.ns.ca/NSAF/4H/glkit/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)

## OTHER EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU IN FURTHERING THE YOUTH SQUARE DANCING MOVEMENT.

**Y-02 – Take a Youthful Step to the Future.**  
A step-by-step guide to establishing and maintaining a youth square dance group. Recommended for leaders.

**Y-04 – USDA Founders Memorial Youth Fund Scholarship Application.**

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.

For additional information about USDA or any of its programs, please visit our web site [www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org) or Email the 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 & Committee Chairs mailing address and phone.

All USDA Educational Materials can be printed from the Internet at [www.usda.org](http://www.usda.org)

Live Lively –



Square Dance!

## USDA YOUTH PROGRAM

## INFORMATION ON COMPETITION IN YOUTH DANCING



**Upsilon Sigma Delta**  
Youth Square Dancer of America

Greek Letters to be worn  
only by Youth Dancers

This information sheet was developed by the Youth Advisory and Education Committees of the United Square Dancers of America and provides a brief summary of the Youth Program.

Y05

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