

# CLASS GRADUATION



This pamphlet was developed by the Education Committee of the United Square Dancers of America, Inc. and provides information concerning graduation activities associated with square dance classes.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	3
Advanced Planning.....	3
Club and Class .....	4
Graduation Party .....	4
Decorations .....	5
Graduation Ceremony .....	8
Candle Light Ceremony.....	10
The Four F's .....	12
SQUARE Ceremony.....	14
Graduation Diploma.....	17
Club Welcome Packet .....	17
Refreshments .....	17
Graduation Games .....	18
Graduation Clip Art .....	33
Copy of Diploma .....	34
Invitation to Join the Club .....	35
Ending the Evening .....	36

Live Lively-



Square Dance!



## INTRODUCTION

Graduation from a square dance class is a very special occasion for a new dancer and signifies successful completion of a series of square dance lessons that are necessary prior to entering the activity as a qualified square dancer. The Graduation Ceremony should be a very memorable event and designed to "bridge the gap" between student and club member. To make a class graduation a memorable occasion requires advance planning with due consideration for decorations, graduation games, the graduation ceremony, diplomas, invitation to join the club, dance program, caller, MC, guests, refreshments, closing, etc. This pamphlet contains descriptions of many of the facets of a typical square dance graduation party.

## ADVANCE PLANNING

Advance planning is the key to a successful graduation party. The sponsors of a class should start planning the graduation party several months in advance to allow for proper preparation of all the props and special planned activities. The group designated to be responsible for the graduation party (Graduation Committee) should meet to develop a plan for the graduation party. The plan should address the following:

Date	Time	Place
Caller	Dance Program	Props
Master of Ceremonies	Special Guests	Decorations
Games	Refreshments	Assistants
Ceremony	Diplomas	Finances
Club Invitations	Set up	Clean up
Timing of Events	Supplies	Fun Badges
Closing	Club Badges	Awards
Publicity	Photographs	
Square Dancer's Oath	Welcome Packet	

Documentation of the Class Graduation for club, area, state publications and historical records should also be considered in the graduation plans. State or area officers may be invited to be "Inspectors" of the Graduating Class. Other special guests may be invited as observers or to participate in the ceremonies.

## **CLUB AND CLASS**

If the club sponsors the lessons, the graduation party provides a real opportunity for the club members to welcome the class into the club and to assure that the new dancers become acquainted with the club members and made to feel at home. It is very important that all the club members participate in the graduation program.

## **GRADUATION PARTY**

The graduation party should start the minute the new dancer walks through the door. Decorations will immediately establish and encourage the party atmosphere. Plan the party so that the program does not lag. Have several mixers and games ready. Arrange chairs to encourage conversation by grouping them in one area of the hall. If tables have to be set up or taken down during the graduation program, recruit help so it can be done quickly. Have diplomas ready and when they are presented, make it the most important part of the evening. The formal Graduation Ceremony just before the presentation of the diplomas should set the mood for this event. If the class is invited to join the club, have the designated club representative invite them to the next club dance or give each new dancer an invitation to the next dance. Last but not least have a special ending to the evening.





## DECORATIONS

The Hall: The hall where the graduation party will be held should be well lighted, decorated to fit the occasion and present a happy joyous appearance. This is the first thing that the class and club members will see when they enter the doors and the best opportunity to make an outstanding first impression of fun, fellowship and happiness. Decorations should fit the graduation theme. Large wall decorations always make a great impression when one enters a hall. Small decorations have a tendency to get lost in the crowd and fail to be impressive. Balloons, ribbons, dancer poster board cutouts, arrangements of square dance attire, large imitation diplomas, mortarboards, flowers, etc. can provide the sparkle that attracts the eye and sets the stage for an evening of joy and happiness. Large diplomas can be made of construction paper, poster board, or cardboard, and tied with a satin ribbon or with black bows made of paper or cardboard. A bag, jar or can filled with sand, dirt or rocks may be inserted in large self-standing decorations for stability. Lively colors should be used in the hall decorations. Decorations should also be designed with cost, ease of set-up and takedown, storage, future use, etc. in mind. It is also recommended that the club banner, scrapbooks and club historical documents be on display for the new dancers to see.

Tables: Tables used in the graduation party should also be decorated to fit the occasion. White paper napkins may be rolled and tied with gold or silver ribbons to simulate diplomas. For long tables a six-inch strip of crepe paper down the middle with diplomas and mortarboards placed on top makes a simple but attractive decoration. Centerpieces may be composed of live floral arrangements, square dance figurines, or fabricated graduation props. If the tables are separated, a large centerpiece for the head table with smaller centerpieces on the other tables should be considered. Mock diplomas mixed with floral arrangements also make attractive centerpieces.

An attractive centerpiece could be a graduating figure complete with robe, mortarboard and diploma. Here are some rather easy directions to make such a figure. These dimensions will make a graduate about 8" tall, but the measurements may be increased as desired.

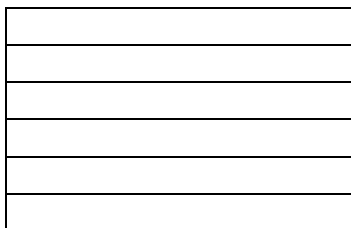
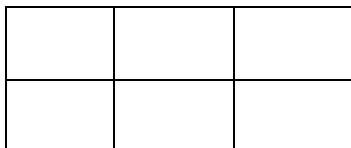
Roll black construction paper into a five-inch cone for the robe and into two three-inch cones for sleeves. Glue or staple these individually. Put pipe cleaners through the sleeves for the arms, allowing the lower end of each to extend about an inch below the sleeve. Bend the other end of each pipe cleaner at a 45-degree angle and insert it into the hole at the top of the robe. This will hold the sleeves to the robe. Place a pipe cleaner through the top of the robe and extend it about two inches above the robe, twisting the end of it into a small circle. Glue a two-inch square construction paper mortarboard to the circle of pipe cleaner. You might even add an authentic touch by making a tassel from embroidery floss. Roll a tiny, two-inch wide white paper for a diploma and fasten it firmly in the right pipe cleaner hand. For the final touch, take a full white carnation, affixed to florist's wire, and attach it to the pipe cleaner in the neck, thus giving your graduate an attractive floral head. The carnation will also keep the mortarboard and the robe separated.

Stage: The stage, or caller area, is the center point of focus for dancers and on this special occasion, decorations should be applied to fit the graduation theme and the other decorations used in the hall.

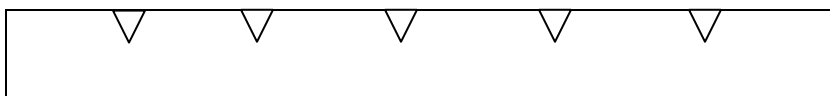




Dancers: Mortarboards can be made for the graduating students, black for men, white for the girls, and issued as they enter the hall or at a specified time during the program. They can keep them as a keepsake or the mortarboards may be taken up and stored for the next graduation party. To make the mortarboards, use 2' X 3' poster boards. Two poster boards will make 6 mortarboards. Divide and cut the two poster boards as illustrated below.



Cut 4" strips in a "V" saw-tooth pattern about half way or 2" deep as illustrated below.



Roll the strip into a circle and glue the ends. Fold the "V" cut ends into the center of the circle and glue them to the poster board square.

To make the tassel use colored yarn, wrap it around an 8" piece of cardboard 6 times. Slide it off the cardboard and wrap another piece of yarn around one end and tie, leave a piece of yarn about 4" long, glue this to the center of the mortarboard. Cut the end of the tassel.

## GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony is the highlight of the Graduation Party. There are many different types of ceremonies and may be elaborate or very simple. The following are examples of some of the ceremonies that may be used:

**A Simple Statement:** "Your diploma is a fulfillment; it is a reward; it does represent a degree of accomplishment but it does not represent the end of an activity. It means the beginning of fun and friendships. Look upon your diploma as your passport to a new avenue of enjoyment." The diplomas are then presented.

### **A letter from the club to be read to the new dancers:**

Dear New Dancers:

Congratulations, you are no longer beginners. You have come through the learning period like real troopers, giving your smiles and laughter and your friendliness to those of us who had the pleasure of working with each of you. You have discovered that there are many important considerations other than simply learning the figures. You have learned to be patient and tolerant. You have developed the ability to react automatically to the calls. You have learned the importance of a sense of humor. You have discovered when to whoop and holler and when to be respectfully quiet so that others may listen and learn. You have come to realize that a prime accomplishment of this class has been the development of an attitude that makes you a desirable member of the square. Remember this - although your initial class lessons are over, you will always be learning more about this activity. Perhaps one of the greatest things you've learned is how to learn. And so, from all of us whose pleasure it has been, being with you these past few months, good luck and happy dancing!

"The Club"

The diplomas are then presented to the graduating students.





## Poems may be used in the Graduation Ceremony:

A little bird has just related  
That you will soon be graduated,  
And we are all very delighted  
To tell you that you're invited  
To enter into a friendship hub,  
Come and be a member of our club.

### THE CLASS

We come tonight with joy and elation  
To another [club name] graduation --  
An outstanding class, in many ways,  
Who deserve a lot of credit and praise.

They've learned a lot since the very first night  
When some didn't know their left from their right.  
They can allemande left and allemande thar  
And slip the clutch and shoot the star.

They can weave the ring with their hands behind 'em  
And swing their partners (if they can find 'em)  
They can box the gnat and circle to a line.  
In fact, they can do most anything fine.

In the singing calls, they really look great.  
They bow to their partners and circle up eight  
And the ladies center and the men sashay --  
Most of the time they go the right way.

When the yellow rock's called, they respond with a shout.  
And of all the yellow rockers, one couple stands out.  
To vote for the best would just take a minute.  
[Insert name] would certainly win it.

And thank you [caller/teacher] for a job well done.  
You've made these past months really fun.  
You also deserve congratulations for all your help  
and all your patience.

From the club to the class we'd like to say,  
For us this is a really happy day.  
You've come through blisters, laughter and tears.  
To learn the greatest activity there is.

### **CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY**

**MATERIALS REQUIRED:** 4 Tables, 4 candles, matches, flashlight, diplomas, badges, and a list of rules or manners for each student.

**PROCEDURE:** One table is set up in each corner of the hall. One unlit candle and matches are placed on each table with a club member in charge of each candle. The diplomas are placed on Table #1 with the instructors or a class officer to present them (depends on who is reading the script). A list of square dance rules or manners is placed on Table #2 with a class officer to give them out. Table #3 has the club badges if the class has joined the club earlier or possibly a letter offering membership if you plan for them to join the club after graduation. Table #4 has a club member ready to lead the class in a "happy yell." The hall lights are dimmed or turned off. A record is on the turntable. The music is turned down while the speaker is talking and turned up as the dancers promenade from table to table as directed by the speaker. The speaker has a flashlight to provide light to read the script. The class might promenade from the back of the room up to the speaker and then to each corner of the room as the speaker directs. If the class is small, a club member could escort each couple around the room. There would be too many people moving around the room if the class is large and it is better for the class to move alone or with the instructors or one class member leading them.



SCRIPT: It is graduation night and you have reached an important step in your square dancing career. The interlocking squares are the symbol of square dancing. It now becomes necessary for us to embark on a journey to the outer edges of our square. (Name of leader), will you please lead the class to the first-stop of their journey.

*(Music up as the students are escorted to the first table. Music down.)*

You have arrived at the first stop of your journey. (Name of person), will you please light the FLAME OF FRIENDLINESS. (Wait for candle to be lit.) Square dancing is a common bond between us as friends. Wherever you visit, or whoever shall visit you, never let it be said that you were not friendly. As a token of this stopover and of the (number) weeks you have spent dancing with us we award you this diploma. (Diplomas are presented.) (Name of leader), will you please lead the class to the second stop of their journey.

*(Music up as they move to the second table. Music down.)*

You have now arrived at the second stop. (Name of person) will you please light the FLAME OF DUTY. (Wait for candle to be lit.) As a child needs love or a tree needs water, a square dance fraternity needs a commitment of duty. When you are on duty, never let it be said that you wished to be elsewhere. May you and those who follow you keep the flame of duty burning brightly. As a token of your visit to this stop you will receive a list of rules for you as a square dancer. (Rules are presented.) (Name of leader), will you please lead the class to the third stop of their journey.

*(Music up as they move to the third table. Music down.)*



You have arrived at the third stopover of the square. (Name of person), please ignite the FLAME OF DEMOCRACY. (Wait for candle to be lighted.) As our forefathers have done, so do we do the greatest good for the greatest number. It becomes your duty to offer ideas and suggestions, but it is also your duty to abide by the group's decision in your square dance club. As a token of this stop, we offer you membership in (Club Name) and hope that you will join us in our dancing pleasure. (Present club badges.) I will now lead you to your final stop and journey's end.

*(Music up as they move to the fourth table. Music down.)*

You have now arrived at the fourth and final stop. I am pleased to light the FLAME OF FUN. To achieve your purpose of uniting with us, a high level of dancing enjoyment should be your goal. With this goal in sight, our common bond as friends can be a source of good fun. I have nothing to give you as a token of your visit to this stop, but you in turn, have something to give me -- the sound of a square dancer having fun. (Name of club member), will you lead it. Let's hear it. (Cheer or yell lead by club member.)

Now your journey is completed. Welcome to the wonderful world of square dancing! (Club members welcome new dancers.)

## **THE FOUR F'S**

**MATERIALS REQUIRED:** None

**PROCEDURE:** Ask the graduates to form a semicircle around the speaker, so all can hear. The speaker reads the following script.

**SCRIPT:** Square dancing has become, for me and for many others with us tonight, a very important part of our lives. When I think of square dancing, I think of the four F's -- FUN, FAMILY, FELLOWSHIP and FRIENDS.



Square dancing is Fun - a very enjoyable pastime, good exercise and an activity that can lighten the heart and help you forget your problems and the daily pressures which many of us live with.

Square dancing is a Family activity that any age family member can enjoy. The family that dances together stays together.

Square dancing promotes Fellowship. The definition of this word is a group of people with the same interest. It gives true meaning to the expression "I like the pleasure of your company."

Square dancing means Friends. Take one part of a human being, two parts of respect and kindness, one large measure of love and understanding, mix well with a left allemande and a right and left grand and you have friendship.

Remember that courtesy to your fellow dancers, a smile to your corner, and the understanding that you were once a beginner too are very important attributes of a good square dancer. Help those who are learning, just as you were helped.

Now will each of you please repeat after me this square Dancer's Pledge:

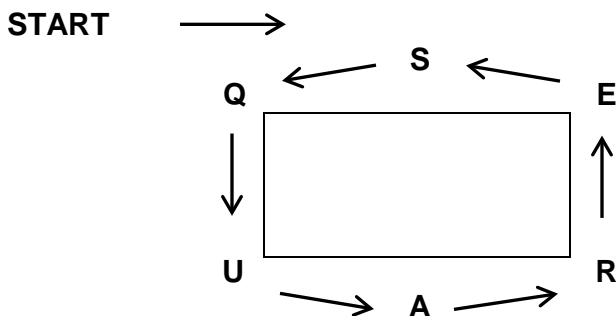
*With all my ability... I will do my best... to keep square dancing the enjoyable... wholesome... friendly... and inspiring activity I know it to be. This I pledge in the sincere desire... that it may grow naturally... and unexploited in the coming years... and be available to all who seek... the opportunity for Friendship... Fun and Harmony through square dancing.*

(Diplomas, badges, rules, etc. are presented to the graduating class.)

## S-Q-U-A-R-E CEREMONY

**MATERIALS REQUIRED:** Six large placards, approximately one foot square. Print one letter on each card.

**PROCEDURE:** A simple yet eloquent ceremony for graduation can bring dedication and happiness to your newest club members, and at the same time impress on them the beautiful and important lessons they have learned. Six club officers or club members, each with a placard, station themselves as shown in the diagram below, while a seventh, called the Marshall, guides the students along a pathway between the various stations. The placards may be hung around the neck of the individuals on station or may be revealed one at a time when the Marshall brings the students to their station.



The Marshall speaks when they arrive at the station called “S”.

*S stands for study, satisfaction, and smiles, and is represented by our caller, (Name), who like you has studied many months and even years, to bring you the satisfaction you receive by dancing, all the while smiling even when things go wrong.*

The caller may then present each person with a fitting memento, or make a short speech of welcome, or both.



The Marshall then guides the group to point “Q.” The club president speaks.

*Q stands for quickly obeying the instruction of officers, caller and cuer, to the best of our abilities. Q also stands for quietly doing this so that everyone else is able to hear the message, too. Q also stands for questions, which are always welcome, provided they are asked without malice, nor in an attempt to embarrass another.*

Other material may be presented to the students by the president as deemed appropriate.

The Marshall now leads the group to the third spot on the floor, the letter “U,” where the vice president (or program chairperson) is stationed. This club representative speaks:

*You are now at the third point in your travels and the letter we show you is, appropriately, the letter U. This stands for Unity, in always remembering the best interests of the club, in which the letter U is third, as it also is in the word you. This also reminds us that there are three other couples in a square, in which the letter U also appears at the third position. U also refers to the first letter in the word understanding, for by understanding the instructions of callers and officers, and by understanding the problems of our fellow dancers, we may hope to create a better world.*

The graduating class is now escorted to the fourth point, at which the club secretary is stationed. The letter “A” is now shown and explained by the secretary:

*A is the first letter of the alphabet, and you are now graduating in the first program of club dancing, known as mainstream, in which the letter A appears not once but twice, as the second letter from the end of the word, thus denoting symmetry, which is the basis of the art of square dancing. This will help you to remember that in normal choreography, whatever happens on one side of the square*

*also happens, as a mirror image, on the other side of the square. A also stands for ability and awareness, which you now presumably have, but which you must never allow to become other than an awareness of your skills, never looking down on others who may be less agile or knowledgeable, for it was the patient help of Angels who brought you to this point, and ability was never refused you while you were learning.*

The Marshall now brings the candidates to the fifth point, letter “R,” which is the station of the club treasurer. The treasurer speaks:

*R stands for records, and it is my (our) job to keep the financial records of the club, including dues, payments to callers and cuers, monies received from dancers, and payments for hall rentals, picnics (other activities can be mentioned) and the annual financial report, which is then given to the auditing committee for review. The R in review should also remind us that no matter how long any of us have been dancing, it is always a good idea to review even simple basics, and to never assume that we now ‘know it all.’*

The class is now brought to the sixth and final point, the letter “E,” exemplified by the person(s) in charge of lessons and membership. The speaker tells the class:

*The letter E refers to excitement and excellence. Both attributes are appropriate to square dancing, and we hope you seek those among your family, friends and acquaintances who are interested in learning a new skill, so they will join us for our next class. May you never lose the excellence and excitement in square dancing that characterizes our art. You have now traversed the six points of our ceremony and each letter has been explained to you. Put the letters together and they spell the word SQUARE. May all your dealings with your fellow dancers be square ones, and the same be true of their treatment of you.*





## **GRADUATION DIPLOMA**

An example of a square dance diploma is displayed in the back of this pamphlet. A diploma is something that the new dancer will want to keep and possibly frame for hanging on the den wall. The diploma should be prepared by using calligraphy, typing or by printing. Do not write in pen or pencil - it will look cheap and unworthy.

Diplomas can be ordered from many sources. These sources may be found in most of the national square dance magazines and square dance apparel shops.

## **CLUB WELCOME PACKET**

The class has completed the graduation ceremonies, now is an opportune time to present them with a Welcome Packet. The packet contains many items of interest to the new dancer such as:

Club Constitution & Bylaws	Club Roster
Club Calendar or Schedule	Club History
Square Dance History	Square Dance Pledge
Square Dance Ethics	New Dancer Notes
Guidelines for New Dancers	Graduation Prayer for Beginners
Sources of Information	Dos & Don'ts of Square Dancing
Introduction to Area, State, National, International Organizations	

## **REFRESHMENTS**

Refreshments at a graduation party can range from light finger foods to a sit-down dinner. If light finger foods are served, they may be served all evening or at a specified time. Sit-down dinners can be served before or after the party.

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Square Dance!

## **GRADUATION GAMES**

### **PHANTOM DANCE**

The Phantom Dance is a dance with less than eight dancers in a square. Dancers must dance with "Phantoms" in the square.

**MATERIALS REQUIRED:** No special materials required.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Form one or two "class" squares.
2. Announce that this is the Phantom Dance and designate one or two of the dancers in square to take a seat, leaving the square short of one or two dancers. If two are designated to leave a square, it may be two ladies or two men or any combination thereof. Suggest that they be taken from opposite positions (Head or Side).
3. Now you have a square with less than eight dancers and you tell them the caller will call a short tip and the class members must dance beautifully as possible and pretend that the phantom dancers are still in the square.
4. The caller commences with the dance, probably a little slower than normal to allow the dancers to perform all the maneuvers with their "Phantom" partner.
5. Keep the tip short, don't overkill! Thank the dancers, solicit applause for their performance, and make them feel good to have accomplished this difficult feat.

### **THREE-CORNER SQUARE**

The Three-Corner Square dance is a square dance performed with only three couples. (There is a "Three-Corner" fun badge that can be earned and presented to any dancer for dancing in a three-corner square.)

**MATERIAL REQUIRED:** No special materials

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## PROCEDURE:

1. Form one or two "class" squares.
2. Announce that this is the Three-Corner Square Dance and we need only three corners in the square. Designate one couple from each square to be seated and advise the dancers they are to perform all the calls just as if the missing couple was in the square.
3. The caller commences with the dance, probably a little slower than normal to allow the dancers to figure out how to do the maneuvers without the missing dancers.
4. Keep the tip short, don't let it drag out or become embarrassing to the class dancers.
5. Thank the dancers, present fun badges if available, solicit applause for their performance, make them feel good to have accomplished this difficult dance

## VENUS DANCE

The Venus Dance is a dance performed by dancers with their hands behind their back, just like the Venus statue - with no arms. (There is a "Venus" fun badge for dancing in a square without the use of arms.)

**MATERIALS REQUIRED:** No special materials

## PROCEDURE:

1. Form one or two "class" squares.
2. Have caller commence calling a normal tip. After he calls for about 15 seconds, the MC stops the dance and announces that he forgot to tell the dancers that this is the Venus Dance and Venus has no arms, therefore they are not allowed to use their hands or arms. Ask the dancers to put their hands behind their back and keep them there for the full dance.
3. The caller restarts the dance, probably a little slower than normal to allow the dancers to adjust to the "no arms" dancing.
4. Keep the tip short, don't let it drag or become embarrassing to the dancers.

5. Thank the dancers, present fun badges if available, solicit applause for their performance.

## THE CLOSED KNEE SHUFFLE

This dancing game is to demonstrate the smooth dancing skills the new dancers have learned in class lessons.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** Four (4) grapefruit, Four (4) large navel oranges

### PROCEDURE:

1. Form one "class" square.
2. The MC advises this new square that square dancing is supposed to be smooth with the feet shuffling along with the music. It is known that men always seem to take too large steps. The Closed Knee Shuffle will help them remember to take small steps and shuffle along with the music.
3. To assist the men, hand each one a grapefruit and tell them to put it between their knees and keep it there throughout the dance. This will assure small steps and a smooth shuffle.
4. Have the caller start the music, pause, then stop the music. Ask the observers at the dance if the girls' steps are also too large. They will probably all say yes, but anyway the vote indicates they do, so pass large oranges to the girls with the same instructions.
5. Have the caller commence with a short patter, allowing the dancers almost enough time to do their thing. Keep the tip short and after sufficient laughter and fun, thank the dancers for participating in the "closed knee shuffle".
6. It is always fun to get those with the loudest laughter on the sidelines to now get up and really show the new dancers how it should be done. This permits the new potential club members to laugh at the experts and to know that everyone is a potential "guinea pig" in the square dance activity.



## **WISH I WERE YOU DANCE or ROLE REVERSAL DANCE**

How many times have you heard "I wish I were you"? This dance allows the dancers to live out that wish by exchanging places (reversing roles) with their partners and dancing a short tip.

### **MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

- 4 -Cowboy hats
- 4 -Western bandannas, with neckerchief slide.
- 4 -Belts, with toy gun and holsters.
- 4 -Bonnets or fancy women's hats
- 4 -Square dance slips or aprons

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Form one square of "class" dancers. Feel free to fill in with club members.
2. Tell the dancers in the square that during lessons, many times friendly arguments were heard on who had the hardest part of dancing, the men or the ladies. Often the argument ended with "I wish I were you." Well this dance will grant you that wish.
3. Have the caller put the needle down and he calls for the dancers to do a "Half Sashay", then stops, cuts the music and say "Hey, they just don't look right - it is really confusing to me."
4. Four club members enter the room with one hat, bandanna, belt, bonnet and slip and assist dressing one couple appropriately. The gals don the cowboy hat, bandanna, gun and the guys slip into the slips or aprons, and bonnets. Now they are all dressed appropriately and will not confuse the caller.
5. The caller commences to call a short patter, not too long, but long enough to assure that the dancers really don't wish to be in the other position.

6. Thank the dancers for their participation in the "Wish I Were You" Dance and solicit a hand from the observers.

## ANIMAL SOUNDS

This is a game and a mixer for both class and club members. All dancers will be mixed and will be dancing with a different partner for this tip. The purpose of this activity is to teach the class that graduation is not the end of learning. This activity will supplement the class formal training with some new and different training and will demonstrate the importance of listening.

**MATERIALS REQUIRED:** Two shoeboxes, bags, bowls or something similar, one marked "MEN" and the second marked "WOMEN." Write on eight slips of paper the name of an animal (example - write DOG on eight slips of paper, or cat, or duck, cow, rooster, etc.), fold and place four in each of the "MEN" and "WOMEN" boxes. Mix the slips of paper in the boxes. Use as many different animals as there are squares to dance.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Form two lines down the length of the hall with men on one side of the hall and the women on the other side.
2. The "MEN" box is passed down the row of men and each man picks a slip of paper out of the box. Likewise the "WOMEN" box is passed down the row of women and each woman picks a slip of paper out of the box. **DO NOT UNFOLD AND LOOK AT THE SLIPS OF PAPER YET! DON'T PEEK!**
3. Advise the dancers that there are names of animals in the boxes and the objective is to find your mate by listening for the mating call.
4. Have all dancers peek at their slips of paper and determine what type of animal they are. On the count of three, boys will give the mating sound of their animal and the girls will return the mating call. Find your mate and



- that will be your partner for the next tip, and then locate all eight of the same type animal and that becomes your square.
- Count down, one, two, - turn lights out or down very low (Think about Safety)! THREE - Go!
  - After all dancers have found their partners and all squares have been identified and grouped, turn the lights up and dance tip with the new partners.

## **IT'S IN THE BAG DANCE** **or** **CARRYING ON**

This dance pits the ability of the class dancers to concentrate on the caller and dance while carrying items in one hand.

**MATERIALS REQUIRED:** A suitcase (preferred) or a large bag. Something for each dancer to hold (fresh egg, damp sponge, box of cereal, a serving tray, toilet seat, bunch of grapes, grapefruit, telephone book, balloon, etc.)

### **PROCEDURE:**

- Form one square of class members.
- The MC announces that it has been observed that this class has been quite adept at "carrying on" amongst themselves. In this dance we're going to ask them to demonstrate this specialty to the club. This is the "It's in the Bag Dance."
- To assist the class in their demonstration, take the bag or suitcase to the edge of the square, with all the items stored inside. Pass out one item to each dancer - except one! Look around for the last item - can't be found, then loudly comment that one of the men does not have anything to carry. Your audience will probably be way ahead of you. As you had all of these things in a large suitcase or bag, you fumble back in your suitcase looking for something else. So, in somewhat of a disgusted manner, close the suitcase, leave the square for a short



- distance and then turn around and say, "here is something" and give the gentleman the suitcase to carry.
4. The caller commences to call a short patter, slow enough to permit the dancers to attempt to make it through the dance changing hands as fast as possible and still maintain a safe event.
  5. Thank the dancers, collect the "carrying" items, solicit applause from the observers and thank the caller.

## **ABSENTEE DANCE**

The Absentee Dance is similar to the Three Corner Square Dance; six dancers are used in the square with two dancers "absent." Substitute dancers will be inserted in the square to assure that there are eight dancers as required.

### **MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

One mop decorated to resemble a female dancer. The mop, handle down, has beautiful long blond or white hair, may be decorated as well as the imagination will allow – small square dance slip taped on the handle, large eyes, sunglasses, lips pinned or taped below the hair line, etc.

One broom, decorated to resemble a male dancer. The broom, handle down, may have a cowboy hat over the bristles, eyes, tie taped to the handle, even a holster and toy gun to make the cowboy authentic.

Keep these props hidden until called for.

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Form a square of class members.
2. Select a female and a male (best to select from opposite couples - select the female from the head couple and the male across the square from the other head couple position) and ask them to sit down on the sidelines. Announce that we want to see how it is to dance with a couple of dancers absent. Ask the dancers if they can





- do it. If they complain or indicate any difficulty, then tell them you have something that might assist them.
3. Ask someone to go get our two special, never complaining, dancers. They return with the broom and mop that replaces the absentees. Remind the dancers, that these special dancers have never graduated and may need some help as they make their way around the square. Pass them on, never drop or throw them, treat them gently!
  4. Have caller commence with a short patter. When completed, thank the dancers, solicit applause, compliment them a little, and take the dancing dollies back to the closet for next year.

## EGG DANCE

This game will shock the best of dancers as they clumsily dance on eggs positioned strategically in the square: A good illusion.

### MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Six raw eggs
- A handful of potato chips
- Six small one-inch square, wet sponges
- One roll of paper towels
- Eight bandannas
- Eight assistants for set up and clean up

Keep all props out of sight. It is very important that the dancers do not see the props.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Form a square of class members.
2. Announce that the Egg Dance will demonstrate the ability and proficiency of the new dancers and the faith they have in their fellow dancers.
3. Carefully scatter three whole eggs in the center area of the square, "accidentally" drop the fourth egg on the

- floor, breaking it to show the dancers they are real eggs, other assistants will immediately move in with paper towels to clean up the mess. Place the last two eggs on the floor. Then ask the dancers if they think they can dance around the eggs without stepping on them.
4. Ask the dancers to remove their shoes to assure the rest of the dancers that they will not step on the eggs and prove their sincerity and faith in their fellow dancers.
  5. Tell the dancers to take a good look and memorize the location of each egg. Tell them to take one more good look, because that is the last they will see of the eggs. At this cue, eight club members move in rapidly with bandannas and blindfold the dancers.
  6. After all blindfolds are on and inspected to assure that they cannot see, other club members sneak in and remove the eggs and scatter the potato chips and wet sponges on the floor where the eggs were.
  7. The caller commences with a short patter and a couple of club members stand by to assist any "lost dancer" and head them in the right direction.
  8. The dancers will scream and cringe every time they step on a potato chip and wet sponge, thinking they are eggs.
  9. After a short time, the MC complains about the mess on the floor and requests the caller to stop. Remove the blindfolds and give a big hand to the new proficient dancers and proudly announce that the proficient dancers did not step on one egg.
  10. Other members clean up the mess and get ready for the next event.

## SHOE BOX SQUARES

This dance will be very funny for the dancers and the on lookers.

MATERIALS REQUIRED: 16 Shoeboxes



## PROCEDURE:

1. Form a square of class members.
2. Tell the dancers that they have learned to slide their feet to the beat of the music in class and now they will get a chance to prove it.
3. Issue each dancer two shoeboxes to put on their feet. (Use caution on slippery floors.)
4. The caller commences with a short patter for the dancer's demonstration of their skills.

## TIPTOE THROUGH THE TULIPS

This is very similar to the Egg Dance but nice fresh baked pies are placed on the floor instead of eggs. Demonstrates the proficiency of the dancers to dance with their eyes closed to the basic calls.

MATERIALS REQUIRED: (Keep all props out of sight)

Four fresh baked pies

Two empty pie pans

Four to six large wet sponges

One roll of paper towels.

Eight bandannas

Eight assistants to tie bandannas and clean up

## PROCEDURE:

1. Same procedures as the Egg Dance, only the pies are substituted in lieu of the eggs.
2. Caution the dancers not to step on the pies, because that is our desert for the evening.
- 3.

Live Lively -



Square Dance!

## A FUN TEST

The test on the following pages is a "fun" test to give to all that are present at the class graduation, especially the caller. Students like to stump the caller.

The 30 pictures depict a square dance call. Name them by writing the calls on a separate piece of paper.

### ANSWERS

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Ferris Wheel           | 16. Spin the Top             |
| 2. Bend the Line          | 17. Grand Right and Left     |
| 3. Track Two              | 18. Swing Thru               |
| 4. Right & Left Thru      | 19. Spin Chain the Gears     |
| 5. Cast off $\frac{3}{4}$ | 20. Pass Thru                |
| 6. Flutterwheel           | 21. U Turn Back              |
| 7. Recycle                | 22. Circle to a Wave         |
| 8. Fan the Top            | 23. Box the Gnat             |
| 9. Do Sa Do               | 24. Hinge a Quarter          |
| 10. Sweep a Quarter       | 25. Grand Parade             |
| 11. Head 2 Ladies Chain   | 26. Pro-men-aid              |
| 12. Swat the Flea         | 27. Load the Boat            |
| 13. Square Thru 4 Hands   | 28. Tag, Trade and Roll      |
| 14. Star Thru             | 29. Slide Thru               |
| 15. Flip the Diamond      | 30. Circle to a 2-faced line |

Live Lively -



Square Dance!





16 	17 	18 
19 	20 	21 
22 	23 	24 
25 	26 	27 
28 	29 	30 



## SQUARE DANCE TEST

This is another "fun" test to give the graduating class. It requires that the following "test" be printed on an 8 1/2" X 11" sheet of paper with copies for all.

Hand out the test (face down) and pencils with instructions that no one looks at it until the test leader tells them to. Also inform participants that it is a timed test of 3 minutes, and there can be no copying from other papers. (If any of the club members have not had the test, they may also be selected to participate also.)

The key to success on this game is to keep the club members quiet and the class members that do follow directions very well from giving the game away.

Urge the class on during their test, giving out the time they have left for the test.

Live Lively-



Square Dance!

## SQUARE DANCE TEST

### CAN YOU FOLLOW DIRECTIONS?

**THIS IS A TEST - YOU HAVE 3 MINUTES ONLY**

1. Read everything carefully before doing anything.
2. Put your name in the upper right hand corner of this paper.
3. Circle the word "name" in sentence two.
4. Draw five small squares in the upper left hand corner.
5. Put an x in each square.
6. Put a circle around each square.
7. After the title of this page (can you follow directions) write, "yes, yes, yes".
8. Put a circle completely around sentence number seven.
9. On the back of this paper multiply 703 by 66.
10. Draw a rectangle around the word "corner" in sentence four.
11. Loudly call out your first and last name when you get this far along.
12. If you have followed directions carefully to this point, call out "left allemande" with gusto!
13. In your normal speaking voice, count from ten to one backwards.
14. Punch three holes in the top of this paper with your pencil point.
15. If you are the first person to reach this point, loudly call out "circle left".
16. Underline all even numbers on the left side of this paper.
17. Loudly call out "yellow rock your corner".
18. Now that you have finished reading everything carefully, do only sentences one and two.

Collect the papers and either post them on the wall or hold them up to display the holes in the papers, the writings, etc.



## GRADUATION CLIP-ART



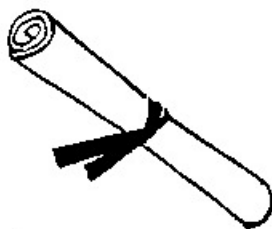
# GRADUATION GRADUATION



### *Congratulations*



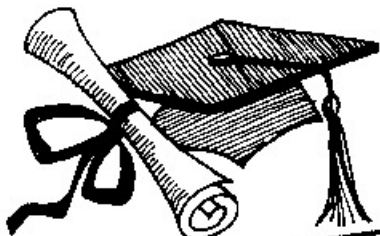
## GRADUATION DANCE



**Grads**  
you're great

WELCOME  
GRADUATES!

**Grads**  
YOU'RE TOPS  
WITH US...



HATS OFF TO  
NEW GRADS







## **INVITATION TO JOIN THE CLUB**

If this is a club-sponsored class and the new dancers are going to be invited to join the club, graduation is a good time to invite them to join. There are several ways this can be achieved –

1. A written invitation to the next dance. Some clubs let the new dancers in free the first time.
2. Each new dancer has a sponsor to meet, visit, and dance with at the first dance.
3. Give the new dancer a booklet about the club, by-laws, calendar, history, membership roster and other pertinent information. (This may wait until the new dancer joins the club).

Live Lively –



Square Dance!

## ENDING THE EVENING

As the graduation party comes to an end there should not be a let down, but a real high that should be maintained to the last minute. Let the new dancers know when and where the next club dance will be held. Give them something to remember and something to look forward to. There are several ways to end a graduation party. Discuss the ending with the caller and solicit his ideas and suggestions. A typical closing could have all the squares, at the end of the last tip, form a circle and do a left allemande and a grand right and left, and say "Goodnight" all around the circle. The experienced dancers can also form lines or arches at the door to say "Goodnight" and give a "Yellow Rock" to the new dancers.



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