

UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate publication for dancer awareness

USDA Youth Programs and the Founders Memorial Youth Scholarship

The United Square Dancers of America – the national dancers' organization – is proud to support youth dancers and youth square dancing across the country.

USDA awards merit-based scholarships annually to students who have shown their dedication to the promotion and perpetuation of the total square dance movement. The scholarship is open to any active square, round, contra or clogging dancer who is a high school senior or college freshman planning to continue their education. At the 2022 Annual Meeting in Evansville, IN, the USDA Board of Directors voted to increase the youth scholarship award to \$2500. **Completed scholarship applications are due on or before February 1 of each year.** The USDA Youth Scholarship program is primarily funded by generous donations from square dance organizations and individual dancers. Contributions are always welcome! USDA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization so donations are tax-deductible to individuals or businesses.

USDA also supports youth dancers through various activities at the annual National Square Dance Convention. In recent years, USDA has sponsored a pizza party for youth and also donated gift cards which are given away during the convention through drawings in the youth dance hall. In addition, USDA supports the use of the frog symbol to let youth dancers know they are welcome in a square and has adopted the Greek letters Upsilon Sigma Delta ($\Upsilon\Sigma\Delta$) to represent Youth Square Dancers of America.