

California Square Dance Council, Inc.

Youth Advisory Committee Report

August 14, 2004

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SCHOLARSHIP

Revised California Youth Scholarship applications are available today. Committee members David & Susan Cleek will be overseeing the scholarship process this year. Also, there are new applications for the USDA Scholarship with revised rules and qualifications so be sure to pick one up at the back table or from their website if you have potential applicants in your area. www.USDA.org. Paul Connelly from Lower Waterford, VT, was the winner of the 2004 USDA Scholarship. Not only is he an active youth dancer, he is a round dance cuer and teacher.

YOUTH COMPETITION

Flyers are available for the 2005 Competition, our 4th Annual, to be held Saturday, April 16, 2005 in conjunction with the State Convention. We will continue with the "Open" competition as it has been run in the past, but have added a "Team" Competition with some additional rules and a higher dance level. Dancers will be able to participate in one or both of the competition divisions. Please be sure to distribute the flyers to any interested youth dancers in your area. Given the growing number of participants in the competition, we will be looking for advance sign-ups from adult individuals who would like to volunteer as timers, judges or coaches for teams. There is a sign-up sheet at the youth information table. Volunteers will be asked to be available for the afternoon practice sessions as well as the evening competition so that they are familiar with their duties.

NEW YOUTH CLUB

A new youth club has been formed in the Garden Grove area, with dance dates of August 29th, September 26th, October 31st, December 5th and January 30th. Youth Advisory committee members Jesse & Cheryl May have spearheaded this new group, and their first newsletter is available. Meeting place is 12812 Garden Grove Blvd. in Garden Grove, CA, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. I encourage you to support this new youth group by informing any youth in your area and encouraging them to attend, as well as supporting them yourselves.

YOUTH SQUARE DANCE CAMP

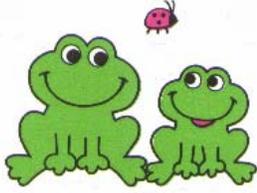
A youth square dance camp/new dancer class was conducted July 26 – 30 in Sunnyvale by the Yellow Rock & Rollers of Cupertino. Fee for the camp was \$65 and was open for youth ages 8 and older. Sessions were held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day, with caller Ruth Riegelhaupt-Herzig leading the sessions. We have not gotten a formal report on the camp but hear that it was a great success. The club will also begin a regular new dancer class in September. They are part of the Santa Clara Valley Association.

2005 NATIONAL CONVENTION YOUTH PROGRAM

The 2005 National Convention in Portland, OR will feature youth as the featured topic of their Organizations Round Table. The session will take place on Friday, June 24, 2005 at 3:00 p.m., and will be titled, "Youth and Square Dancing – How They See the Future." I encourage anyone interested in promoting youth square dancing to attend this round table discussion.

CAHPERD PROJECT

There will be a separate agenda item to report on the CAHPERD project.



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ΥΣΔ Of America

USDA Youth Advisors John & Alitia Becker decided that one new goal for the USDA Youth program was to give Youth Square Dancing a new LOOK! Their hope is to do this utilizing the Greek Letters ΥΣΔ which were introduced at the National Convention in Denver, CO. They gave out T-shirts, danglers and ribbons to help emphasize the change. The reception of the new “logo” was very well received by youth dancers at the convention. Watch for this new symbol to appear throughout youth information.

FESTIVAL YOUTH PROGRAMS

There was a tremendous turnout of youth dancers at both Silver State in Reno and Fun Weekend in Grass Valley, and there are lots of flyers available for the youth program at Jubilee in San Jose. With Fun Weekend’s “family-oriented” format of games and activities as well as lots of dancing, attendees are invited to bring family members and friends even if they are not dancers. For the first time ASDSC turned the Mainstream hall into an alternating New Dancer/Mainstream hall, plus offered an Intro to Square Dance session from noon to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. All of these sessions were well attended and gave non-dancers an opportunity to try square dancing in a fun and festive environment. The Adobe Squares of Petaluma, who have a large youth contingent, brought along a lot of their youthful friends and then took advantage of the exposure by starting their new dancer class the following Tuesday night while the “wonderful experience” was still fresh in their minds. Youth in the Adobe Squares have been very successful in attracting teenage dancers via active recruitment by their current youth members and being willing to take new teen dancers in at any time and doing “quick-teach” sessions and putting them into “stacked” squares. This enables them to dance with their friends very quickly after starting. This method won’t work for most clubs, but it has been very successful in Petaluma with caller Scot Byars’ working closely to bring the new dancers up to speed quickly. The River City Rugrats are going to try an all-day New Dancer class in early October, with participants in the first session being ready to attend Harvest Hoedown in October. They plan to follow it up with a two-day weekend retreat that will combine fun and learning to bring the participants up to the Mainstream level by the end of the weekend.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Abramson, Chair, Youth Advisory Committee