

## A Little History ...

The inaugural edition of the California Youth Square Dance Competition was held on Saturday, April 20, 2002 in Ventura, California as a part of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual California State Square Dance Convention. A total of sixteen competitors, ranging in age from 8 to 17 years, participated in that first event. They represented seven clubs from throughout California. It was our first effort and we learned a lot -- we felt it was a great success!

The *Queen Mary* Hotel was the perfect setting for the second annual competition, held April 26, 2003 in Long Beach, California as part of the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual State Square Dance Convention. Three squares of youth dancers ranging in age from 9 to 18 years, and coming from as far away as Salt Lake City, Utah, participated in the competition. Andy Shore served as the caller for the competition, while the three "teams" were headed up by caller/coaches Scot Byars, Pat Carnathan and Tim Pepper. The afternoon "prep" time called by Mike Kellogg and special assistance from the coaches added to the overall success of our event.

Our third annual competition held in Sacramento on April 24, 2004 brought six lively squares of competitors and a standing room only crowd to cheer them on at Cal Expo. The talented Andy Shore called for the practice session and Ben Goldberg and Phil Farmer called for the evening competition.

Moving back to Southern California for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> editions of the annual competition, there were three squares of outstanding dancers joining the challenge in both 2005 and 2006. A few scant seconds was all that separated the first and second place teams each year. In 2005 dancers were challenged by callers Pat Carnathan and Eric Henerlau, with Eric Henerlau being joined by Ben Goldberg at the microphone for 2006.

Our 2007 event was held in Riverside, home of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

The competition has been expanded to include "pre-set" teams so that our growing number of youth dancers can enter together representing their home club. Come join us and see how it all turns out, and make plans to cheer on our youth dancers to success!

## Tentative Youth Schedule of Events For the Weekend...

### Friday, April 18, 2008

7:30 - 10:00 p.m. - Dancing in the Youth Hall  
10:00 p.m. - ??? - Visit the other halls to dance!

### Saturday, April 19, 2008

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast  
*(for youth dancers & their families)*  
**2:00 p.m. - Deadline to Sign up for Competition**  
2:15 p.m. - Announcement of Competition  
"teams" for the "Open" Competition  
2:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Team Practice/Coaching Sessions  
for "Open" Division to "fine tune" your teams  
7:00 p.m. - Grand March  
*All youth dancers are asked to march behind  
the California Youth Banner -  
bring your own club banners as well!*  
8:00 - 11:00 p.m. - Fun Dancing in the Youth Hall  
**8:30 p.m. - The Competition Begins!**  
*Awards ceremony will follow the competition.*  
After Competition - Fun Dancing in Youth Hall

### Sunday, April 20, 2008

9:30 a.m. - Noon - Dancing in the Youth Hall



49<sup>th</sup> California State Square Dance  
Convention Youth Committee Chairmen

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The California Square Dance Council, Inc.

Proudly Presents Our  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Youth Square Dance Competition

Saturday  
April 19, 2008

Cal Expo - Sacramento, CA



Competition will be held in conjunction  
with the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual

California State Square Dance Convention

April 18 - 20, 2008

## California Youth Square Dance Competition

The California Youth Square Dance Competition was established in 2002 as an added incentive to keep young people dancing and encourage them to bring their friends into the fold by giving them a competitive “edge.”

### How It All Works ...

The competition is run with all ages and dance levels competing together. Participants dance to a patter call in the “hot hash” format, with each square being timed by three timers with stopwatches. Each square also has a “Caller-Coach” and a Judge. As long as the square continues dancing the clocks are running. If a square breaks down, the judge will direct the timers to stop their watches. Once the square has reformed into “lines” the judge will instruct timers for that square to restart their watches. At the conclusion of the 20-minute competition time, the square with the highest cumulative dancing time (an average of the three watches timing that square) will be declared the “winner.”

### Two Ways to Compete ...

There will be two Divisions: “Open” Division and “Team” Division. For the “Open” Division dancers can enter either individually or as a “Couple” and will be assigned to squares based on the lottery system. Dancers in the “Open” Division will compete at the Mainstream level of dance.

For the “Team” Division, dancers may bring their own teams and will enter as a “pre-set” square of 8 dancers competing at the Plus level of dance. Teams may represent one club or can be made up of dancers from several clubs as long as they enter the competition as a team. Difficulty will be increased since teams will have had the opportunity to work together in advance of the competition.

The competitions will be scheduled so that dancers may participate in both divisions. Practice ahead, because the Team Division will be tougher!

## The Rules ...

### General Rules for Both Divisions

- ☞ Competition is open to any dancer who has not reached age 21 by the day of the event.
- ☞ The competition is run with all ages and dance levels competing together.
- ☞ Both Divisions are timed events. Duration of the actual competition will be twenty (20) minutes of continuous “patter” dancing.
- ☞ Each square will have one (1) caller/coach, one (1) judge and three (3) timers. As long as the square continues to dance, time will be running. If a square breaks down time will stop until the square is reset in “lines” ready to continue. Once your square is reset in “lines” your time will resume even if the caller has not reached a point where you can resume dancing.

### Additional Rules for “Open” Division

- ☞ Competition will be at the MAINSTREAM dance level (Calls 1-60 as defined by Callerlab.)
- ☞ Dancers may enter as individuals or as couples. Singles will be matched up so all may participate.
- ☞ A lottery drawing will be held to assign squares for the competition.
- ☞ The square with the highest cumulative dance time during the competition will be declared the winner.

### Additional Rules for “Team” Division

- ☞ Competition will be at the PLUS dance level (Plus calls 1-31 as defined by Callerlab.)
- ☞ Dancers must enter as a team of eight (8) dancers (any gender) and may bring their own coach.
- ☞ Each couple in the square will be identified by a colored flag indicating their position in the square. Five-second penalties will be assessed if couples do not get back to their correct “home” position even if the square keeps dancing.
- ☞ The square with the highest cumulative dance time during the competition, less any penalties assessed, will be declared the winner.

## How Do I Sign Up? ...

Registration forms for the competition will be available in the Youth Hall beginning Friday evening. Entry forms will be accepted for the Open Division until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. It is important to get signed up by the deadline so that square assignments can be made and participants will have the opportunity to practice Saturday afternoon with all “team” members present. It really makes a difference in the final results! Entry for the Team Division will continue until 3:00 p.m. to allow participants who may not have enough from their own club present time to create a team with some of their new friends.

### So What Do I Win?

Everyone who participates in the competition will receive a “Participation” badge swinger indicating the year and location of the competition. (*Competition badges will be available for purchase at the convention*).

Members of the winning square from each division will be awarded special gold swingers that can either be worn independently or attached to the Competition badge. In addition, members of the winning teams will receive a special prize to be announced.

### California Youth Scholarship

Don’t forget to encourage all graduating seniors and youth dancers up to age 21 to apply for the California Square Dance Council, Inc.’s \$500 Youth Scholarship. Application deadline is April 1st, and the scholarship will be presented to our lucky winner during the California State Square Dance Convention.

How can you support the scholarship fund? By purchasing State Convention Grand Prize tickets and indicating “YOUTH” as the selling organization. A percentage of each ticket you purchase (or sell!) with this designation goes to support the Youth Scholarship Fund. And all Grand Prize ticket sales help support the Convention!