

“GUIDELINES FOR CLASS ANGELS”

WHAT IS A SQUARE ANGEL? They are the wonderful people who respond to the appeal to introduce square dancing to the public by demonstrating at shopping malls, one-night stands, TV spots and special programs. They bring others to square dance classes and aid the teacher/caller by filling in squares so that all class members may dance.

ARE YOU REALLY AN ANGEL? Most callers appreciate the support and help of experienced dancers in the beginning classes, but “Angels” can actually make the caller’s task more difficult and discourage, rather than encourage, new dancers. An angel will be an asset if he will only remember the first attempt and the first classes he attended. An Angel will not bring his “dancer ego” into the lesson sessions. Sometimes we forget that we were not born with all the basics installed for good square dancing and we too had to be shown right hand from left hand.

1. An Angel guides the new dancer and if done properly, only two people know that guidance was given - the one who guided and the one who was guided. Guidance is subtle; never pushing, pulling or humiliating.
2. An Angel can keep an enthusiastic attitude and an interested facial impression during the time the instructor is attempting to teach or demonstrate. If the Angel acts or looks bored or loses patience during this time, then perhaps he or she is not cut out to be an “Angel”.
3. An Angel does not attempt to explain a new movement during the time the instructor is talking. A new dancer cannot listen to two people at the same time. Answer any questions between tips or take the student to the instructor for help.
4. An Angel is careful not to say anything even in jest that may hurt a new dancer’s feelings or make him feel inferior or humiliated.
5. An Angel will offer his place in a square to a student who comes in late.
6. An Angel does calmly regroup if a square breaks down. He does what the instructor teaches in lessons to get a derailed square going.
7. An Angel is friendly and introduces himself to the new people and makes them feel welcome.
8. An angel tries to be as slow as a student while new movements are being taught and does not do the movement until it has been explained.
9. An Angel does not do any of the trick movements; gimmicks, bumps, kicks etc. that would confuse a learner’s ability to grasp the new movements.
10. An Angel does not express gripes or complaints about how the club is run or other general problems about other club members, officers or the instructor.
11. An Angel responds quickly to get squares set and ready to go and encourage the new dancers to get on the floor quickly.
12. An Angel wears badges and proper square dance attire and observes good manners and commandments of square dancers.
13. An Angel invites the new dancers to stop for coffee if this is a practice with the club.
14. An Angel arrives on time and is ready to dance.
15. An Angel dances with different dancers so as to share their personality with others.
16. An Angel is one who dances the calls the way they are called and not as they would like.