

Young Dancer Initiative

A Modern Square Dance Program for Youth



Modern Square Dancing

Fun

Fitness

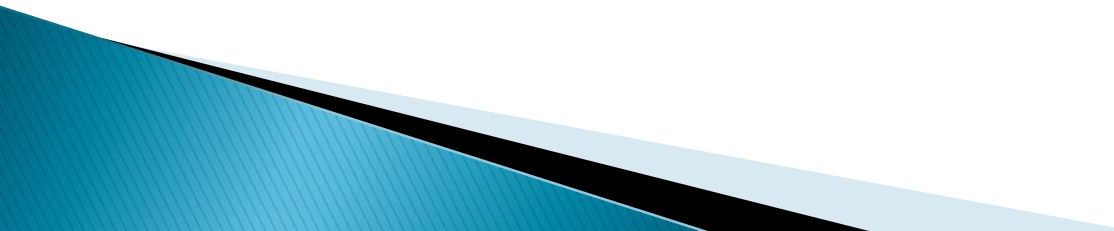
Friendship



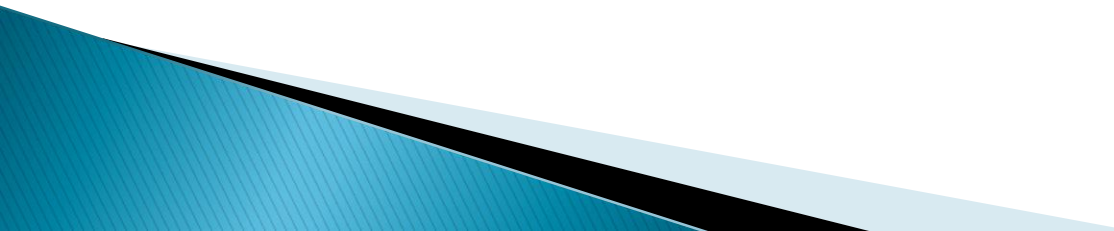
Set to Music



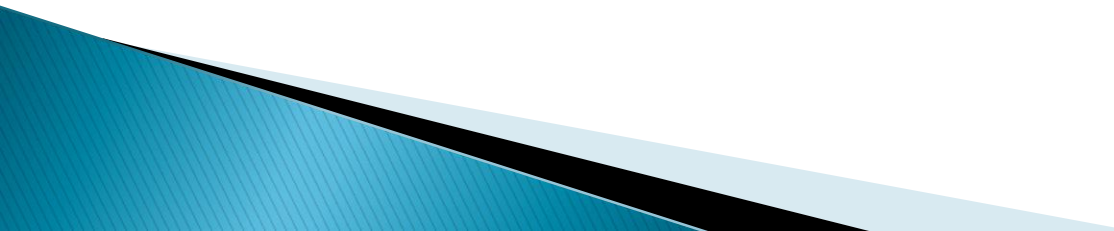
Fun

- ▶ Youth love to dance
 - ▶ Learn at their own pace
 - ▶ Meet and mix with opposite gender
 - ▶ May be social or competitive
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Fitness

- ▶ A two hour dance session = a five km walk
 - ▶ Participants are using their whole body
 - ▶ Improves balance and coordination
 - ▶ Mental workout
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Friendship

- ▶ Encourages mingling in a safe, drug and alcohol free environment
 - ▶ Couples and singles
 - ▶ Encourages teamwork
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But

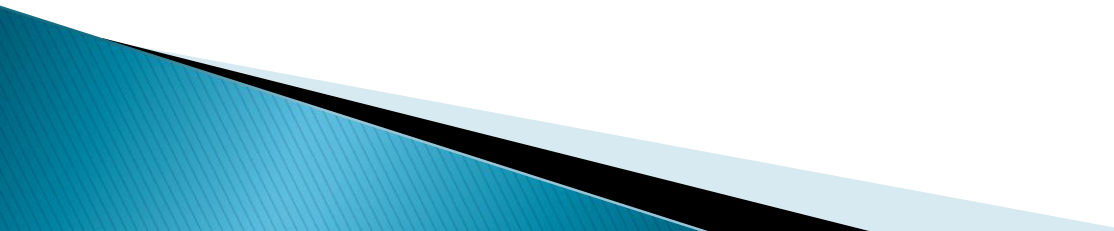
- ▶ Aging Dancer population
- ▶ Declining membership
- ▶ Clubs are folding
- ▶ Very few younger dancers
- ▶ No Young Callers



Need to find a way to reach youth



Safe Environment

- ▶ Off the streets
 - ▶ Chaperoned where appropriate
 - ▶ Drug & Alcohol Free
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Young Dancer Initiative

- ▶ Develop and actively promote a
- ▶ Sustainable
- ▶ On-going
- ▶ Square dance program for youth
- ▶ In Eastern Ontario



Basic Concept

- ▶ Full Basic/Mainstream Program
- ▶ 20 hours of instruction
- ▶ Limited number of locally based Youth clubs
- ▶ Financial Assistance from EOSARDA

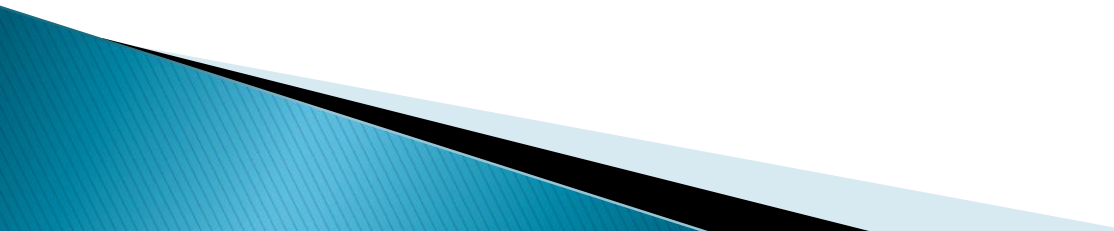


Program Delivery

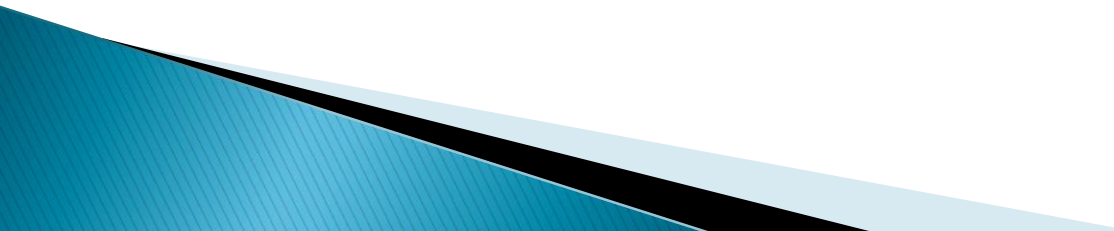
- ▶ Flexible format
- ▶ Tailored to local conditions
- ▶ Delivered through local clubs and Callers



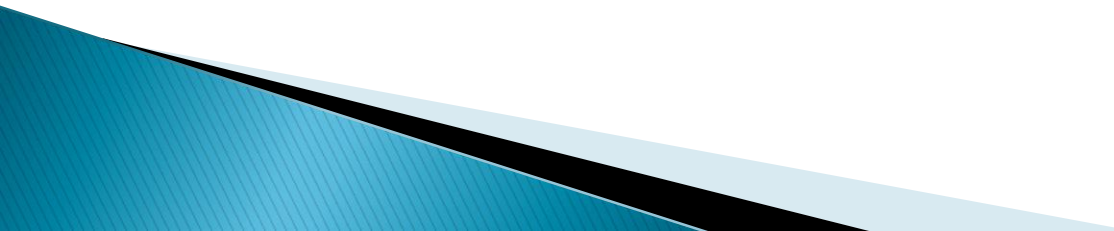
Long term

- ▶ Program to expand gradually
 - ▶ Self-sustaining
 - ▶ Plus and Advanced classes
 - ▶ Regional Dance Competition
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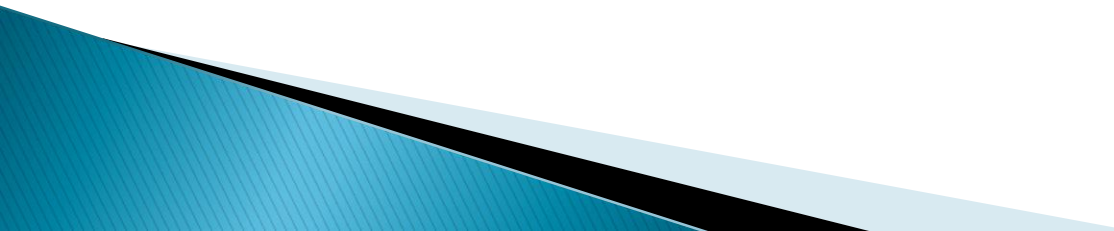
Opportunity for Growth

- ▶ Opens square dancing to a new audience
 - ▶ Increased club membership
 - ▶ Opportunity to recruit parents
 - ▶ Another generation of square dancers
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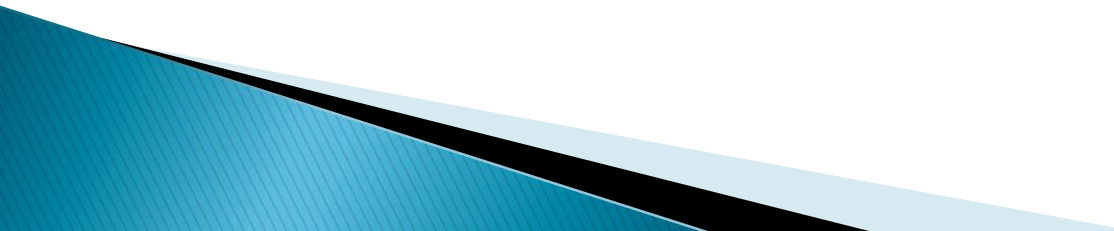
Change will be required

- ▶ Different Music
 - ▶ Faster music
 - ▶ Faster learning environment
 - ▶ Change in acceptable dress
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Now What ?

- ▶ Give us your ideas
 - ▶ Tell us how this can work for your club
 - ▶ Tell us how this can work for your community
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We will

- ▶ Select a number of Pilot Projects
 - ▶ Assist with implementation
 - ▶ Monitor progress
 - ▶ Make adjustments to program as required
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Get Them Dancing

