

Houston Area Traditional Dance Society

Guidelines for Callers

Thank you for calling for our dance. We appreciate the time and effort you put into preparing and calling for us!

The evening's schedule

- ✓ The dance runs from **8:00 to 11:00 PM.**, with a 15 minute break starting around 9:30. We like to do announcements before the last dance of the first half.
- ✓ There will be an introductory session starting at 7:30 PM. You are not required to lead this, but you are welcome to do so. If you wish to lead it, you must be there **by 7:30.**

What we do for you

- ✓ We will furnish a **stand** for your notes and a **cordless microphone**. A stool or other tall seat may be available if requested in advance.
- ✓ **We will pay you** by the end of the evening.

What we expect of you

- ✓ If you do not lead the introductory session, please be at the hall **at least 15 minutes** before the start of the dance for sound checks and coordination with the band.
- ✓ Be sure that you agree on **signals** with the band before starting the first dance.

In your program for the evening, we expect you to do the following:

- ✓ Early in the evening, request that **experienced dancers** identify themselves and encourage the new dancers to seek them out, and vice versa.
- ✓ **Adjust the difficulty level** of the dances based on the proportion of new dancers in attendance.
- ✓ Although our primary dance form is contra dance, **vary your program** by including at least two dances in other formations such as circles, Sicilian circles, four facing four, triple minors, dances for a set number of couples, etc. At least one of those other formations should be a **mixer**, preferably early in your program.
- ✓ **Do a few challenging dances** during the evening, even if they take a little more teaching.
- ✓ The last dance of each half **should be easy**, with no new moves that require much if any teaching time.
- ✓ We encourage you to **take time to teach** when necessary, to give style pointers throughout the evening, and to remind dancers of good etiquette and safe dancing techniques.

Thanks again for calling for HATDS and especially for your help in making our dances fun for everyone in attendance!

Sincerely,

The HATDS Board of Directors