

Guidelines for Callers for NTTDS Dances

“NTTDS is a non-profit educational organization that promotes a better understanding and appreciation of American folk dancing, its music, its history, and related folklore.”

Calling at an NTTDS dance is both a responsibility and a privilege. As a caller, you represent the face of NTTDS, and your actions behind the microphone reflect upon the organization as a whole. Subsequently, the following guidelines must be followed:

- Arrive early so the sound system can be tuned to your voice.
- Have a beginner lesson prepared and be available to teach it 15 minutes before the dance starts.
- Have a back-up repertoire of very easy dances in the event that a very large number of newcomers arrive.
- Come fully prepared to call the dances you have selected. The dancers are not guinea pigs.
- Start and end the dance on time.
- Keep discussions between and during dances focused on the task at handdancing. Promotion of outside activities and groups that do not relate to our Charter statement require prior approval from the Board.
- Address the dancers in a positive, respectful manner, remembering that as the caller of the dance you set the tone for the entire evening. Discussion of politics, religion, current events or any other potentially divisive topics and jokes is not acceptable.

In short, our goal is to provide a pleasant educational experience in a fun, friendly, and welcoming environment.