

**News From  
California**  
**“Teaching Square Dancing in the Classroom “**  
**Workshop for Teachers.**  
(February 2005)

We started in April 2004 by going to the Santa Clara County Department of Education and presenting the idea of Teaching Square Dancing in the classrooms at their board meeting to get the workshop accredited.

We contacted to the SCVSDA and SCVCA (Dancer and Callers) and the Committee to Promote Square Dancing to see if they were interested in sponsoring such a program in April & May 2004. SCVSDA voted & approved Funding for 20 Teaching Manuals and CD's from Bob Ruff and Jack Murtha, ordered thru Wagon Wheel records. See website for more info on teacher music for children: [www.wagonwheelrecords.net](http://www.wagonwheelrecords.net) SCVCA voted and approved funding for lunches for the teachers. The Committee to Promote Square Dancing promised funding towards the event.

Roger Smith did the presentation. We asked Carol Hill if she would like to come tell of her experiences of teaching square dancing in schools for the past 13 years. Fortunately she was very excited about the event and her paid input was very much appreciated. Then we looked for a school in a central location to hold the workshop and had to pay a user fee.

Thank you to the Santa Clara County Department of Education, who designed the brochure with our input. We paid for the printing. Josie mailed the brochures to 420 Santa Clara County schools in care of the principal in September.

The 2 workshops were from 9:15 am-2:30 PM. Roger went through the instruction book for the first 1 1/2 hour and gave them a crash course on square dancing the first 20 calls. Carol Hill did the next 1 1/2 hours, then we had lunch. After lunch teachers had a chance to teach a call, like they would to the kids.

We gave the teacher the free CD and work books and lots more info on square dancing in a packet, also a computer made name tag with a plastic cover and a certificate of completion of Course #XG-ADM404B

We had refreshments, coffee, tea, juices, muffins, snack bars, etc. for the teachers on arrival and served a Togo's sandwich lunch with fruit and veggies.

61 teacher signed up and 49 came to the 2 workshops, some that had signed up early, had to go to a mandatory school workshop instead. (No-shows are on a list for the future.)

The survey sheet showed that a most of the teachers will implement the Square Dancing in the Class room program. Some wondered why that was not offered before? We also gave to the teachers info on the classes that started in January. A few already are attending classes to get more experience. We will monitor the teachers that implement the square dance program and offered them ongoing free support if the feel they need it. None were interested in starting a youth club, they just want to teach in their schools.

Total cost per teacher (49) for this workshop was \$ 52.67. Thank you for the very generous donations made by SCVSDA; SCVCA & The Committee to Promote Square Dancing. Roger Smith & Josie Baumgartner donated their time & paid the balance.

Many thanks to Carol H, Carole N. and Davina R. for their inspirations & great help.

We feel this is a great investment for the future of square dancing & a great social barrier breaker for the many different nations that are now attending schools.

Why not try in your area!

Roger Smith & Josie Baumgartner -

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