



CALLERLAB COMMUNITY DANCE PROGRAM

(Revised February 2021)

Aside from the typical one-night stands that perhaps attract as many as one out of every ten Americans who have at least a single exposure to square dancing during their lifetime, the greatest potential for any future program lies in an easy-access, limited basics program that demands little commitment on the part of the dancers, but at the same time provides an almost unlimited scope of variety, friendship, and fun. However, the great majority of men and women who would like to be involved in square dancing on a limited time schedule find that such an on-going program is not available.

The Community Dance Program (CDP) is a grass-roots concept of the activity -- the basic form of square dancing that Americans have enjoyed for years. While there is no limit to the variety involved, it is the form of variety that can be achieved with a limited amount of learning time and then enjoyed for a lifetime.

THE 12 CORE BASICS FOR THE COMMUNITY DANCE PROGRAM

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Circle Left / Circle Right 2. Forward and Back 3. Arm Turns (Right/Left) 4. Dosado 5. Swing 6. Single File Promenade 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Couple Promenade 8. Left-Hand Star / Right-Hand Star 9. Pass Thru 10. Ladies Chain, Two/Four 11. Right and Left Thru 12. U-Turn Back
--	--

Additional Basics Commonly Used In Community Dances

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bend the Line ○ California Twirl ○ Courtesy Turn ○ Dive Thru ○ Grand Square 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lead Right ○ Right & Left Grand ○ Rollaway ○ Star Promenade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Separate ○ Split Two ○ Weave the Ring ○ Wheel Around
---	--	---

The 12 Core Basis were identified in 1997 as those calls used most frequently in the dances from "Dancing for Busy People by Calvin Campbell, Bob Howell & Ken Kern" and the "Callerlab Community Dance Program Handbook". The members of the Committee for Community and Traditional Dance (CCTD) still agree that they are the 12 most frequently used calls.

Since most Community, Contra, and Traditional Square Dances welcome beginners and walk through each dance, these calls are provided as a reference regarding the kind of choreography that has stood the test of time, not as a list that should be taught. The Additional Basics Used In Community Dances are calls that are often included in dances selected for community events.

The CCTD maintains a dance resource at <https://dances.CALLERLAB.org> where many of those originally surveyed dances can be found along with others. Each dance has a posting of the prompts and a description with a link to a downloadable rtf version. The site also has a sortable index to the dances that have been published in the "CD Journal" with links to a downloadable pdf file of each "CD Journal".