

GUIDELINES FOR CLASS ANGELS AT LAC-A-DO

WHAT IS A SQUARE ANGEL?

They are the wonderful people who respond to the appeal to introduce square dancing to the public. They bring others to square dance classes and aid the teacher/caller by filling in squares so that all class members may dance.

ARE YOU REALLY AN ANGEL?

Most callers appreciate the support and help of experienced dancers in the beginning classes, but “Angels” can actually make the caller’s task more difficult and discourage, rather than encourage, new dancers. An angel will be an asset if he will only remember their own first attempt and the first classes he attended. An Angel will not bring his “dancer ego” into the lesson sessions. Sometimes we forget that we were not born with all the basics installed for good square dancing and we too had to be shown right hand from left hand.

According to OASDI rules, to be an Angel and attend lessons for free, you need to:

- Be a dues-paying member of a square dance club
- Have graduated from a complete set of Mainstream lessons.

These rules are based on our insurance requirements. If you don’t meet these two rules, but need financial assistance, let us know. We want to make sure everyone who wants to dance gets to dance.

Many recent graduates (and some longtime dancers) still want to contribute financially for lessons. They know that lesson funds support the callers and the Hall. We suggest this rule of thumb: ***if you feel that you are learning more than you are helping, you may want to pay for all or some part of lessons.***

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An angel at Lac-A-Do agrees to do the following:

1. An Angel guides the new dancer and if done properly, only two people know that guidance was given - the one who guided and the one who was guided. Guidance is subtle; never pushing, pulling or humiliating. Sometimes “pointing” is the best way to guide a student. We recommend that you get to where you’re supposed to be and then put the correct hand up to guide the student where to go.
2. An Angel keeps an enthusiastic attitude and an interested facial impression during the time the instructor is attempting to teach or demonstrate. If the Angel acts or looks bored or loses patience during this time, then perhaps he or she is not cut out to be an “Angel”.
3. An Angel does not attempt to explain a new movement during the time the instructor is talking. A new dancer cannot listen to two people at the same time. Answer any questions between tips or take the student to the instructor for help.
4. An Angel is careful not to say anything even in jest that may hurt a new dancer’s feelings or make him feel inferior or humiliated.
5. An Angel calmly regroups if a square breaks down. He does what the instructor teaches in lessons to get a derailed square going.
6. An Angel is friendly and introduces himself to the new people and makes them feel welcome.
7. An angel tries to be as slow as a student while new movements are being taught and does not do the movement until it has been explained.

8. An Angel dances the calls the way they are called and not as they would like. An Angel does not do any of the trick movements; gimmicks, bumps, kicks etc. that would confuse a learner's ability to grasp the new movements.
9. An Angel does not gripe or complain about clubs, other dancers, OASDI, or the instructor(s).
10. An Angel responds quickly to get squares set and ready to go and encourage the new dancers to get on the floor quickly.
11. An Angel wears a badge and observes good manners and commandments of square dancers.
12. An Angel invites the new dancers to participate in activities at the hall.
13. An Angel arrives on time and is ready to dance.
14. An Angel dances with different dancers so as to share their personality with others. An Angel does not monopolize or "claim" a student as a permanent partner.
15. An Angel lets the caller know (quietly) if a student is struggling to learn a concept.
16. An Angel makes sure that every student is in a square during the teaching tip. An Angel invites students into a square. An Angel may be asked to step out if there are not enough spaces for students.
17. An Angel works to keep new students dancing, by dancing with them, talking with them during breaks, and encouraging them.
18. An Angel helps out in the kitchen and the hall, before, during, and especially after the lessons.
19. An Angel must not "recruit" students to join a club until after the students have completed Mainstream lessons.
20. An Angel knows the importance of having fun. Come to the class expecting to have an enjoyable evening and encourage others to do the same.

Don't forget: **A smile on your face helps your feet dance better!**