

CALLERLAB



Certified Square Dance Teacher (CSDT) Program

A program for certification of
CALLERLAB member callers as
square dance teachers

*recognizing excellence in
square dance teaching*

Introduced April 2000
Las Vegas, Nevada
(Revised November 9,2011)

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CERTIFIED SQUARE DANCE TEACHER (CSDT) PROGRAM

PURPOSE

The CALLERLAB Certified Square Dance Teacher (CSDT) Program has been created to provide a credential to callers who are square dance teachers. The program evaluates education, experience, knowledge, and skill as pertaining to square dance teaching. The program components include an evaluation, a résumé or experience statement, lesson plan and other supporting documentation, and the administration of an oral examination. The program focuses on the teaching of beginners and seeks to provide a credential that could be recognized by the square dance community as well as educational and recreational institutions. The CSDT program is designed to be voluntary, challenging, credible, and fair.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The CSDT Program includes affiliation, education, experience, knowledge, and skill requirements. These requirements are satisfied through examination of an application and supporting documentation and an oral examination.

The CSDT Program is focused on teachers of beginners and the examinations are based on teaching of the Mainstream program, though teachers of a shorter program list may qualify for certification (see eligibility requirements below). The CSDT Program will be jointly administered by the CALLERLAB Home Office and the Caller Training Committee.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All candidates for CSDT must:

1. Be an Active, Associate, or Life Member of CALLERLAB;
2. Call at least 50 dance events - including class sessions - per year for the previous five years); and
3. Be experienced as a square dance teacher with a minimum of 90 contact hours of beginner instruction

CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE

APPLICATION PACKAGE

Those persons believing that they meet eligibility may begin the certification process by submitting to the home office:

1. A completed application form expressing desire to begin the certification process and stating willingness to abide by the CSDT Ethics Pledge (reproduced in this document);
2. A résumé of calling and teaching experience (if needed to supplement the application form);
3. A copy of the applicant's lesson plan for a class series; and
4. A \$25 initial application fee

RÉSUMÉ FORMAT

Any résumé format is permitted provided that it clearly identifies years calling and classes taught with total contact hours for each class. To assist in verification the applicant should include dates, places and sponsors of programs as well as two or more references that know and can attest to the applicant's experience. Preferred references are CALLERLAB member callers, square dance club presidents, and officers of a local callers association.

The Caller Training Committee may check the applicant's references and may request additional information from the applicant in order to verify eligibility. To assist us please be as thorough as you can in describing any experience or education.

ORAL EXAMINATION

When the Caller Training Committee determines an applicant should continue the certification process, the applicant will be advised of this and will be asked to submit a \$50 examination fee to the CALLERLAB office.

Candidates will notify the CALLERLAB office when they will be available to take the oral examination. This examination, approximately two hours in duration, seeks to gain an understanding of the candidate's teaching philosophy and challenges the candidate's ability to deal with difficult situations.

Candidates are advised that an excellent opportunity to take the oral examination is available at the annual CALLERLAB convention. If the candidate cannot attend the CALLERLAB convention, other opportunities may be available at the National Square Dance Convention (NSDC), or other large dance events which are attended by Certified Teachers who can administer the examination.

For those applicants who are not able to attend a convention or other event as described above, special arrangements may be made for the oral examination. The candidate must coordinate these special arrangements through the Home Office and Caller Training Committee. These special arrangements may involve travel costs being at the applicant's expense.

Upon successful completion of the oral examination the candidate has completed all requirements and will be issued a certificate.

RETESTING/RE-APPLICATION

Applicants not successful during the oral examination may be retested after a minimum waiting period of sixty days. A second failure will require that an applicant reapply. A new application will be accepted and the testing process resumed only if the applicant's résumé and supporting documentation establish additional training and/or additional teaching experience.

MORE INFORMATION

If you have specific questions on the CSDT program that are not sufficiently answered by this brochure, please:

E-mail - CALLERLAB@aol.com

Phone CALLERLAB office - 1-785-783-3665

Fax CALLERLAB office - 1- 785-783-3696

Write or phone the Caller Training Committee Chairman.

Betsy Gotta

2 Laurel Place

North Brunswick, NJ 08902-2812

E-mail – CALLERLAB@aol.com

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT CSDT

Q. Will CSDT certification be required for CALLERLAB membership?

A. No, CSDT is a voluntary program. Rather than a requirement of membership, it is a service to the members.

Q. How do we know that schools and other entities will accept the CSDT credential?

A. We don't know absolutely which entities will accept the CSDT. We are planning literature (including this brochure) which will assist certificate holders in explaining the program to people outside of CALLERLAB and the square dance community. That literature will be posted to the web and members of the Caller Training Committee will be made available to speak by telephone to persons and organizations having questions about the CSDT program.

Q. Can't the résumé be faked?

A. The CSDT program uses several different methods for evaluating an individual's qualifications. The application, résumé, and oral board all take different looks at a CSDT candidate. They complement each other and provide a check against the possibility that an unqualified candidate may obtain a CSDT certificate.

Q. How do I prepare for certification if I am not already qualified?

A. If you are not teaching you should form a class or apply to teach a class sponsored by a club or other entity. If you are not prepared to teach yet, you should find an experienced caller who is teaching and is willing to serve as your mentor. You should study our dance programs and materials that describe how to teach them. Please also talk to members of the Caller Training Committee that are familiar with the program for suggestions. The CALLERLAB web site will at some point include information to assist you in preparing for certification. If you have any questions you should direct them to the home office or email your inquiry to CALLERLAB@aol.com.

CSDT Reference List

The following is a partial list of references which are recommended for study, preparation for examination and use for the CSDT Program:

- CALLERLAB Approved Formations
- CALLERLAB Code of Ethics
- CALLERLAB Curriculum Guidelines for Caller Training & Technical Supplement
- CALLERLAB Standard Mainstream Applications
- CALLERLAB Mainstream Definitions
- CALLERLAB Plus Definitions
- CALLERLAB Program List Mainstream Program
- CALLERLAB Program List Plus Program
- CALLERLAB Timing List: Timing the Mainstream Program
- CALLERLAB Timing List: Timing the Plus Program
- SIOASDS Caller Teacher Manual
- SIOASDS Caller Text (1985) (Part 6 at a minimum)
- CALLERLAB Teaching Techniques
- CALLERLAB Teaching Tips for the Mainstream Program
- CALLERLAB Teaching Tips for the Plus Program

CSDT Ethics Pledge

As a CALLERLAB Certified Square Dance Teacher, I pledge:

- That I will adhere to the CALLERLAB Code of Ethics.
- That I will endeavor to teach the CALLERLAB square dance programs in the recommended number of hours and adhere to the CALLERLAB definitions.
- That I will treat students with the respect that they are due.
- That I will provide the best learning environment possible.
- That I will not withhold information from the students which could enhance their dancing and learning experience.
- That I will present to all students a positive image of square dancing.
- That I will provide the best substitute possible if I cannot attend a class.
- That I will provide students with information about other classes and activities in the area if my class fails to remain viable, and further, that I will work to make the transition to the new class as easy as possible