

Showmanship Approaches

by Tim Marriner

Different approaches to showmanship are necessary for various events. One must have the flexibility to entertain the dancers regardless of the venue. Here are some different types of events that are associated with our activity.

1. Visitation Tips
2. Demonstrations
3. One Time Party Dances
4. Introduction to Square Dancing
5. New Dancers Sessions
6. Club Dances
7. Guest Dances
8. Festival Weekends
9. State Conventions
10. National Conventions

No matter what the event is, the dancers are present to enjoy the fun and fellowship of our activity; and the caller must be prepared to entertain.

There are many outside variables that affect a performance. The craft of our trade is being able merge all of these elements to provide a positive dancing experience. Here are some elements that can vary the style of showmanship utilized to differentiate between the above events.

1. Music
2. Voice
3. Choreography
4. Ability
5. Age of group
6. Duration of event
7. Shared program
8. Hall/Room set up
9. Stage area
10. Food breaks/Door prizes

Bottom line is, the dancers must have a positive dancing experience to facilitate a return appearance.