

Angeling For Tech Squares

Experienced dancers who dance the class tips are commonly referred to as angels. You don't have to be a perfect dancer to be an angel; you just need to be friendly to those in the class and to be supportive of the caller. Below are some basic guidelines to keep in mind when you dance as an angel.

--Be welcoming and friendly. New dancers are often self-conscious while learning new skills, especially in a large group. Being patient, upbeat and positive with class members and each other adds to the success of each class

--Be available. If you choose to angel a class tip, come down onto the dance floor and ask a class member to dance, then square up as quickly as possible. Class members can be shy and inexperienced at finding partners, so it's important that we are proactive in asking them to dance.

--Strive for a minimum of 4 club members per square. Having enough angels in each square helps the caller and the class. If a class member is sitting out because there is not a free spot, a club member may be asked to move from the square so the class member can dance. The Class Coordinator will try to oversee these situations but, to avoid delay, angels should be aware of what is happening and volunteer a spot if appropriate.

--Ask the Class Coordinator for help if you notice a troubling partnering combination or if you feel your square could benefit from a different arrangement. Likewise, if asked, please tell the Class Coordinator if you would prefer not to be separated from your partner or moved from the square.

--Be aware of your own dance skills. If you have not square danced for some time and you have forgotten how to do most of the calls, we ask that you not find a class member as a partner; this is particularly important in later weeks when the harder calls are being taught. Talk with the Class Coordinator if you have concerns about this.

--Trust the caller. As much as you'd like to help, please let the caller do the teaching during the tip. Class members should be listening to him and not relying on the angels in the square.

--Please don't push new dancers through the figures. Allow class members some reaction time to do the calls. This enables the learners to dance for themselves and shows them which figures they need to work on. Be gentle in your guidance, as pushing people sends the message that you don't have confidence in them. Making mistakes is part of learning.

--Keep flourishes in check until they are taught to the class. Flourishes will be introduced to the class by the Class Coordinator, who will let the club know what has been taught so the class can practice them safely with the angels.

We value our angels, so thank you for being here!