

## **Evergreen Square Dance Council**

### **Guidelines for Awarding and Retrieving Club Friendship Banners**

#### **Purpose:**

To suggest guidelines for visitations among square dance clubs within the Evergreen Square Dance Council as well as clubs located in neighboring councils. These guidelines are designed to promote a sociable and welcoming atmosphere and to encourage a feeling of friendship between all square dancers and round dancers.

#### **Visitations**

- Participating clubs have several "Friendship Banners" that may be given by the host club to visiting clubs.
- Spread your club visitations around, including neighboring councils' clubs, as opposed to over-patronizing a select few clubs.

#### **Notification**

- The visiting club notifies the host club of the potential visitation at least one week prior to the date of the dance. (This allows the host club time to prepare and prevents "surprise" visitations.)
- Banners will not be awarded/retrieved without prior notification of the visitation.
- When notifying the host club, the visiting club provides the name and phone number or email address of the visiting club's contact person.

#### **Awarding and Retrieving Friendship Banners**

- To obtain another club's banner or retrieve your own banner, the visiting club must attend a regular dance of the host club with at least one full square representing your club.
- To obtain a host club's banner and also retrieve your own banner at the same time requires at least two full squares from the visiting club.
- Retrieve your own club's banner before accepting a banner from the club being visited. If you already have a Friendship Banner from the host club, do not accept a second banner from that club until the first has been retrieved. (This assumes that no club has in their possession more than one banner from the same club at any one time.)
- A host club's representative presents the Friendship Banner to the qualified visiting club.
- No banners may be retrieved or awarded at special dances such as an anniversary dance or a New Year's Eve dance.
- An awarded banner may be returned to its original club owner after 12 months. This may be done as a part of a visit to one of their club dances.

## Displaying Banners

- Banners that have been taken from other clubs are displayed at all regular dances.
- Maintain and display a record of host club banners and which visiting clubs have them so host club can retrieve them in a reasonable amount of time.
- Banners from clubs that have been disbanded are not displayed. These banners are returned to the officers of the disbanded club or to the council of which the club was a member. **Exception:** Banners may continue to be displayed if they were presented to a club as an act of friendship and the disbanded club requests that their banner continue to be displayed.

## Other

- "Thief and Retriever" fun badges may be purchased for club members participating in club sponsored visitations that qualify for receiving/retrieving a Friendship Banner. Some badges are designed to reflect the number of times members have participated.
- NEVER take a host club's official banner.