

Youth Dance Weekend 2008

Discussion on how regional/national organizations can help foster youth involvement

*Original Post: <https://youthdanceweekend.org/resources/bread-butter/>
(Reposted on the CDSS website with permission)*

FROM THE YDW ORGANIZERS:

During Youth Dance Weekend 2008 we had a great discussion about a wide range of issues related to youth involvement and leadership in dance and music. We brainstormed a long list of questions together, wrote them up on large sheets of paper all around the room, and then spent a while walking around and writing down our individual ideas and suggestions.

The exercise was meant to start discussion about these various topics. There are a lot of great ideas here, and not everyone agrees about every answer. Some of the topics overlap in interesting ways. We hope you'll take what you can from this brainstorm, try it out in your community, and keep talking with others about what works. You can leave comments at the bottom of each topic page, where it says continue the conversation...Enjoy!

HOW CAN REGIONAL/NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HELP FOSTER YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN TRAD MUSIC AND DANCE?

- \$ – one of the biggest barriers for students
- Network, connect dancers/dances/bands/callers in greater area
- Produce documentary video(s) pitched for people who don't know what contra is, and put them on YouTube – this would help with explaining what it is, and how much fun it can be
- Atlanta dance did this – it's on YouTube
- Host youth events!
- Have demonstrations at high schools and colleges, during orientation
- Branch it up to Canada too!
- Hire young callers and musicians
- Hire quality young callers and musicians
- Play up the music aspect, not just the dance. Host workshops?
- In publications spotlight young performers, thus making them better known and more young folks will read publications.
- Organizations need to be more visible. CDSS is unknown in some circles.