

Youth Dance Weekend 2008

Discussion on how to get contra dancers involved in other forms of dancing

*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 TO GET CONTRA DANCERS INVOLVED IN OTHER FORMS OF DANCING?

- During breaks allow time for other types of dances to take place – a small sampler
- people like to rest during breaks!
- it can just be a demonstration
- Have a short waltz/scandi/swing dance workshop before a contra or during the break
- Don't disparage other dance forms, like ECD
- Have other kinds of dance at dance weekends. Especially when not in the same time slot as a contra. (e.g., swing in one hall, ECD in another, latin in the third)
- Play up the cultural/dressing up aspects of ECD, SCD (Scottish), etc. Maybe
- sneak an ECD, etc. into a night o' contra?
- Especially for ECD – play up ALL aspects of dance -> music, community, dancing, exercise, "it's like Jane Austen", etc. – not just the dance part
- People who do multiple types of dance should encourage their friends to try the other kinds of dance and show them how fun it can be. and not all those kinds of dance have to be incorporated into a contra dance event – contra dances for contra dancing!
- Offer a FREE workshop to learn some basics or get a taste of Morris, ECD, Rapper, whatever it may be. Get CDSS to loan some swords or sticks.