

From the Youth Desk

by Max Newman, CDSS Youth Projects Intern

Happy spring—a time which makes us young and inspires a lot of dancing and singing! But while I ponder the metaphorical implications of the season, let me also tell you a bit about what's been going on with CDSS on issues youth and intergenerational and what you should be looking out for.



advice. For inspiration, take a look at some of the projects we've assisted:

- Virginia Dance Leadership Conference for callers and organizers (see article on p. 12)
- Toronto Women's Sword team trip to the Half Moon New York Sword Ale
- Young People's Sacred Harp Convention in Massachusetts
- Youth Scholarships for the Set For Spring English Country Dance Weekend in Texas

The Youth Intern

I've had the pleasure of visiting events in eleven states (and counting!), encountering scores of great people and great ideas, and communicated with even more folks through phone and email. To follow what I'm up to, visit www.cdss.org/youth and the Youth Intern Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/cdss.max.

Starter Kits

Many people have expressed to me how unique and useful an online resource the Starter Kits are, for both new and established communities. Check them out. Share them. Link to them. They are still growing; if you'd like to contribute some ideas (big or small), then we'd love to have your input.

Camps and Scholarships

CDSS is offering another great slate of summer camps, with exciting (and intergenerational) staff and courses for musicians, callers and dancers. Those of you who have been to camp know what a valuable experience they can be. Encourage someone you know to visit camp for their first time. Young people especially should know there is scholarship money available—over \$20,000 last year—to help enable them to take part. Visit www.cdss.org/summer-programs-2010.html for up-to-date info.

Grants and Insurance

If you have an idea that needs help getting off the ground, CDSS can help with grants, group insurance (see Jeff's Group Corner column) and

- Fiddle and Dance Project, which offers free music programming to underprivileged students and their families in Rhode Island
- Sound Operators course at the Stellar Days and Nights in Colorado
- Group insurance for a techno contra in North Carolina
- Musicians Workshop in Arkansas (see article on the next page)
- Mentoring for musicians and callers, for groups and individuals, young and old

These represent just a few of the possibilities available to enrich and promote our traditions. The next deadline is July 1. See www.cdss.org/outreach for application info. Linda Henry, our Outreach Manager, is especially interested to talk with folks interested in putting together regional leadership conferences. Contact her at outreach@cdss.org.

As always, I look forward to your suggestions, questions and ideas, as well as hearing about the successes and challenges in your community. Please don't hesitate to get in touch—max@cdss.org or 413.268.7426 x 114—if you would like advice on strategies to encourage youth participation and leadership, promote intergenerational communities, or information about applying for a grant. Thanks!

Check out www.cdss.org/youth and www.facebook.com/cdss.max to find out what Max is up to, links to the Starter Kits, and more!