

# Youth Dance Weekend 2008

## Discussion on how to start a dance

*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!

### **STRATEGIES FOR STARTING A DANCE?**

- On college
- campuses start a club to get funding. Recruit friends, make
- announcements – classes, newspaper, dance groups, other clubs.
- Create a great elevator speech. Have the dance somewhere very
- visible where people will just wander by – and then come in because
- it is (ideally) free.
- Perform in
- public or at a dance event with different types of dance
- Try to get
- college to sponsor vans to local dance(s)
- If it's all
- young beginners (ex: college) do some fun easy kiddie
- contra-ish dances in addition to real contras. People want to have
- fun and not think the whole time.
- Make colorful
- poster (with crayons!)
- Advertise to
- school activities board as an "alcohol free event"!
- Move the town
- contra dance to within walking/biking distance of campus
- Organize a
- "field trip" to an established dance as a seed, make it regular
- and use the momentum to organize once a core group is "hooked"
- Pool
- resources/people from several nearby schools to have a bigger dance

- instead of several small ones.
- If a college
- club without a lot of experienced dancers, host other related/folk
- events to increase interest without the problem of a bad experienced
- to not-experienced ratio (ex: folk sing/shapenote, etc...)
- Make
- movie/culture references. Jane Austen, English folk (Morris, etc.)