

75th NSDC plans being finalized for Diamond Jubilee



The 75th National Square Dance Convention® team under the leadership of General Chairman Gary and Claudia Lester is working diligently to bring you the best National Convention to be held June 24-27, 2026 in Waco, Texas. This year marks a celebration of 75 years of conventions with the NSDC's Diamond Jubilee, which will be recognized and celebrated throughout major convention events. The year 2026 also marks the 250th birthday of the United States of America to be distinguished with a special event Friday night during the convention, so make sure to wear your red, white and blue. While some details, times and locations are still being finalized, there's plenty of general information about the 75th NSDC and its venue, the Waco Convention Center, available on the official convention website, *National Squares* E-Magazine, and Facebook.

All dance events will be held in the Waco Convention Center, located at 100 Washington Ave. in Waco, Texas. Due to the growing size of the convention, the education classes, Sew & Save clinics will be held in the attached Hilton Waco Hotel. Earlier that week Roundalab will be conducting their 45th Annual Convention in the Hilton Waco Hotel. The NCOS training will be conducted in the adjacent Courtyard by Marriott, and the USDA Board meeting will be held in McLennan Hall #3 on Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you've not yet registered for the 75th NSDC's Diamond Jubilee, go to <https://75nsdctx.com/long-form-registration/>. Take time to explore the convention website at <https://75nsdctx.com> where you can find information on guided and self-guided tours of the Waco area, vendor information, campground and hotel details, points of interest and more. Please be aware Arlington/Dallas and Houston are hosting matches for the FIFA Soccer World Cup in June, so book your airline tickets and car rental for the 75th NSDC as early as possible for the best prices.

Grand Square International with the National Square Dance Convention® will conduct the annual GSI/NSDC Callers School at the Hilton Waco Hotel on Sunday then switch to the lower level of the Waco Convention Center for sessions on Monday-Wednesday. The Courtyard by Marriott is the official dance leader hotel for the 75th NSDC. The GSI/NSDC Callers School is free to registered guests at the Waco convention. To register for the school, go to www.gsicallersschool.com or email Tony Oxendine at Tony@TonyOxendine.com space is limited and is almost full.

If you are looking to expand your knowledge and/or dancing skills, the 75th NSDC promises plenty of dance workshops and a plethora of education workshops, including several never-before-offered classes and topics. Make sure to attend the Keynote Address featuring Ted Lizotte, Chairman of the Board for CALLERLAB, as he discusses implementation of the simplified Transitional Implementation Phase of the Program Policy (TIPPP) that develops a streamlined path forward for modern square dancing. He details what it means for both dancers and dance leaders. The Roundtable Discussion, immediately following the Keynote Address, will be led by both Ted Lizotte and Teresa Berger, Executive Director of CALLERLAB, and brings together callers and leaders who are putting the TIPPP Framework into action. Panelists include Jeremy Butler, Mike Seastrom, and Shawn Brown.

Featured opening entertainment at the 75th NSDC includes the traditional country music duo The Malpass Brothers on Wednesday afternoon from 4:30-6:30 p.m. General tickets are \$45 and include dinner, which will be served starting at 4 p.m. Dinner options are barbeque beef or grilled chicken **This event is now sold out.** Other exciting events include an explosive opening ceremony, colorful Parade of States and the Sights and Sounds of Texas fashion show, which is billed as a "not your momma's" fashion event you don't want to miss.

Immediately following are a few key event dates that might help you with planning until the final schedule and Convention Mobile App are released. Please note there are additional activities for solo and youth dancers but information has not yet been revealed. **Event times are subject to change.** Consult the Mobile App, once

available, for the latest information. The Mobile App will be the most up-to-date source of information and will be provided **free** to all registered dancers at Waco. A free class will be held early during the convention to show dancers who need assistance on how to use the App. A general information booth will also be available during convention hours.

75th NSDC KEY EVENT DATES

SUNDAY, JUNE 21-WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

GSI/NSDC Callers School Sunday, Noon-Wednesday, Noon

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

Contra Energizer Trail End Dance (Free) 6:30-8 p.m.
 Roundalab Trail End Dance (\$15) 7-10 p.m.
 GSI Trail End Dance (Mainstream) (\$15) 8-10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Dinner & The Malpass Brothers Show 4:30-6:30 p.m., Begin serving at 4 p.m.
 Opening Ceremony 7-8 p.m.
 Dance w/The Ghost Riders Square Dance Band 8-10 p.m.
 Hi/Lo Rounds Dance 8-10 p.m.
 Advanced Dance 8-10 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

Dancing, Various 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
 Keynote Speaker Ted Lizotte 9-10 a.m.
 Solo Meet & Greet 9-10 a.m.
 Roundtable Discussion 10-11:30 a.m.
 Live Music – Contra 7-10 p.m.
 Live Music - The Ghost Riders Square Dance Band 7-10 p.m.
 Nightly After Parties 10-11 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

Dancing, Various 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
 Bid Session 9-10:30 a.m.
 Mainstream High Energy Squares 1-2 p.m.
 Kaleidoscope Squares 2-3 p.m.
 Competition Squares 3-4 p.m.
 America's 250th Birthday Celebration (red, white & blue) 6-6:30 p.m.
 Live Music – Contra 7-10 p.m.
 Live Music - The Ghost Riders Square Dance Band 7-10 p.m.
 Nightly After Parties 10-11 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Dancing, Various 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
 NEC Reception for Dance Leaders 8:30-10:30 a.m.
 Sights & Sounds of Texas Fashion Show 1:30-4 p.m.
 Closing Ceremony & Parade of States 5-7:30 p.m.
 Live Music – Contra 8-10 p.m.
 Live Music - The Ghost Riders Square Dance Band 8-10 p.m.
 Nightly After Parties 10-11 p.m.