

What is “Proper Square Dance Attire?”

When you attend square dances or see flyers for dances, you will often see the words “Square Dance Attire Required to Dance.”

According to the United Square Dancers of America, Inc., there is no hard, fast, written definition of “Proper Square Dance Attire.” Generally, however, the following dress code applies to national square dance conventions. The Kansas Square Dance Association also uses this code. This is from USDA “Square Dance Attire.”

Men and Boys

Long sleeved shirts and long pants are a must. A bolo or square dance tie is recommended. Western style shirts are recommended. No short sleeves, T-shirts or shorts are permitted on the dance floor.

Women and Girls

Women may wear the traditional square dance skirts, square dance dresses, or prairie skirts. If you are wearing a short skirt, you should also wear crinolines and pettipants. No pants, shorts, or T-shirts are allowed on the dance floor.

What other suggestions are there for clothing?

Both men and women should wear comfortable shoes with leather soles. Some dancers like western boots. Women may want to wear shoes with low to medium heels.

For women, “Mary Jane” style shoes are popular, as are dressy walking shoes such as Easyspirit®.

Skirts may be the traditional style skirt, or the longer prairie-style skirt. Calf length or longer, skirts should have enough fullness for ease of movement while dancing. Petticoats work well with the longer prairie skirts. “Broom” skirts or gored skirts also work well.

Men or women may want to add vests and scarves. Men may also want western belts and collar tips.

Common sense, comfort, and the desire to look good on the floor should be your guide to square dance attire.



What is the dress policy of Happy Time Squares?

Happy Time Squares calls for “Appropriate square dance attire preferred as defined by the KSDA.”

While the club prefers square dance attire, we recognize that there may be occasions when you do not have the opportunity to change to square dance attire. You will still be able to dance.

Why wear Square Dance Attire?

Square dance attire adds to the ambience of a dance. It’s fun to dress up for an evening of dancing. Square dance attire is lively and swirling skirts are attractive. Also, many women state that the skirts and crinolines help with balance while twirling or swinging.

Square dances are special occasions, and square dance attire adds to that feeling.

Questions?

If you have questions about this or any other matter, contact any officer of Happy Time Squares.

Where can I buy square dance clothing?

Prairie style skirts are available at a variety of department stores. Members have bought skirts at Kohl's, Penney's, Wal-Mart, Burlington Coat Factory, Coldwater Creek, and Shepler's. Men may find western-style pants and shirts at such places as Shepler's, Nigro's, and Vanderbilts.

There is a square dance shop in Croco Hall during dances. Also, there will be square dance shops at the KSDA Convention.

Elsewhere on Happy Time Squares web site are several links to on-line stores, as well as physical stores that specialize in square dance apparel.

What are Happy Time Squares' Club Colors?

Happy Time Squares has designated colors to wear on special occasions, such as anniversary dances, or to travel dances. Club colors are a red top, black skirt, and yellow belt for women; and a red shirt, black slacks or jeans, and yellow scarf for men.

A group of Happy Time Squares members really looks great in these colors. However, you do not have to wear our club colors if you do not have them. They are never required.

History of our club colors:

Several years ago one of the members had a retired city bus that dancers rode to out-of-town dances. The bus was red, black and yellow.

When we were determining club colors, we liked the colors of the bus and adopted those colors as our own. The bus is gone, but the colors remain!

The bright yellow represents the club's promise of "Happy Times." This color is also represented in our club logo "HT".



Square Dance Attire



Happy Time Squares Lawrence, Kansas

