

USDA USA TRAVELER PROGRAM

Since the beginning of the USDA USA Traveler Program seven couples have completed dancing in both 48 and then 50 States. They are the Sheperds (TN), The James' (FL), the Strubs (WI), the Engelhardts (MN), the Zaebsts (OH), the Kuesters (Germany), and the Robeys (FL). Dave and Linda Isom (IN) just completed 48 States.

To date three couples are working on SECOND TIME AROUND. They are the Kuesters from Germany (36), the Robeys from Florida (12), and the Engelhardts from Minnesota (12).

Bars are awarded as follows:

- 12 States - Red Bar
- 24 States - White Bar
- 36 States - Blue Bar
- 48 States - Silver Bar
- 50 States - Gold Bar

The purpose of the program is to “promote visitation between dancers in all 50 states”. The goal is to attend a club dance, a state or national convention, or a local festival in all 50 states. No duplications are permitted and records are kept by the Program chairman. Participants working on the first time around will receive a Badge in addition to the bars as listed above. Dancers must complete the first 50 States before going on to their SECOND TIME AROUND.

Participants who visit 48 states are awarded a free admission to the next National Convention. After visiting 50 States participants are also awarded a free admission to the next National Convention. Participants traveling as a couple only need to fill out one form.

Comments about this program have been completely positive. Everyone has had FUN completing their goals. Here are some quotes from Happy Dancers! “We are strong advocates of the USDA USA Traveler Program and wear our badges and bars with pride.” (Robeys) The Kuesters are still keeping their diary of where they had danced and were complimentary of how callers and clubs would set up a dance for them or provide information so they could complete dancing in a state. “What a great program” and “Thank you USDA for this wonderful program” are often received as written comments.

Forms can be obtained by either downloading from the internet at www.usda.org or by contacting the Program Chairman at: Joy Vaccari, 227 Hughes St NE, Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548, 850-243-9484, usda.usa.traveler@usda.org javajoy2@cox.net