

NSSA Program Leadership



Keith Belton (CSJ) – is one of the co-founders of the NSSA and serves as the executive director. Keith, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., has been active in the stepping community for more than 15 years. Keith led the research on stepping trends in 2009, the development the NSSA membership guidebook, and the creation of the judges training workshop. Additionally, Keith has served as the committee chair for the Music City Step Fest, the NSSA's annual flagship national youth step show case event, since 2006.



Tyjuana Phillips (CSJ, CSI) – serves as a Director of Step Instruction for the NSSA. For the past 5 years, Tyjuana has been the step mistress (lead choreographer) for the nationally recognized Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.- (Nashville Alumnae Chapter) step team. Tyjuana also served as coach for the Nashville youth step team that won the 2007 Tennessee State High School Championship. She has also judged youth and Greek step shows. Tyjuana is the lead Step Instructor for the NSSA's youth "Step Camps" which occur each summer and co-wrote the judges training curriculum.

** CSJ – Certified Step Judge, CSI – Certified Step Instructor*

"Disney Performing Arts has been pleased to partner with the NSSA for the last three years on the Disney STEP Classic. We have worked together to promote quality and consistency of step education. At Disney STEP Classic the step team participants work with knowledgeable NSSA judges and participate in enriching workshops and clinics where they gain valuable insight on how to take their performance to the next level."

- **Kevin Harry**, Managing Director, Walt Disney World,
Lake Buena Vista, FL

*Contact the NSSA to schedule a workshop in your area.
Our workshops are taught by NSSA Certified Instructors and Judges.*



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Raising the awareness
and appreciation of the
stepping art form.

The National Step Show Alliance (NSSA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2005 with a mission to grow the appreciation of the stepping art form, support national collaboration and uniform event standards, and preserve its history. The NSSA works to build a structure within the youth and Greek stepping segments.

"State of Stepping": NSSA Research & Development

Annually, there are over 600 competitive step show events across the United States. In the fall of 2008, the NSSA undertook a research project to identify national stepping trends. The NSSA committee found over 40 different sets of rules, judging criteria, and event management standards.

Recognizing the inconsistency, the NSSA established a rules and protocol committee. The aim was to develop a single standard of rules – that could be used nationally. By the fall of 2009, a structure had been created for both a youth segment (under 19) and a college (aka "Greek") segment. Through the process the NSSA developed:

- A "Dictionary" of Stepping Terminology and Formations
- National Rating System for Events and Step Teams
- A training curriculum and workshops to certify step instructors and judges
- An annual Stepping Conference - held each summer
- Youth Step Leagues – for the high school and middle school stepping community
- Coach of the Year Recognition Award (Youth Segment)

"Working with the NSSA has improved our Homecoming step show in regards to applying the unified rules, recruiting knowledgeable judges, and incorporating better logistics. The students can compare their score ratings from our step show to other step teams to determine where they stand nationally."

Stepping has been popular with students as a community service outlet, too. Fisk's Greek members are working with nearby middle school step teams through the NSSA's Step UP Program."

- Jason Meriwether, Dean of Students, Fisk University,
Nashville, TN

NSSA Workshops

The NSSA has two workshops designed to engage individuals who enjoy stepping and would like to be more versed in the art form.

Step 101: Stepping Fundamentals Workshop

Put on your comfortable shoes and get ready to step! The NSSA's Stepping Fundamentals Workshop is designed to provide instruction regardless of a person's current level of stepping knowledge or experience. The workshop instructs current step team members in areas that will improve technical proficiency & choreography and help individuals new to stepping learn the fundamental concepts of stage positioning, transitions, and choreography.

Step 201: Key Elements for Step Show Judging*

The Judging Elements workshop provides a detailed breakout of the NSSA rules, procedures, and processes. The workshop:

- Reviews of NSSA Step Show Rules – Youth & Greek
- Reviews of Step Formations and Compulsory Step Executions
- Highlights the NSSA Team Rating System
- Details the roles of the lead judge, panel judge, runner, scorekeeper, and timekeeper
- Provides Mock Sample Judging opportunity – from Video (DVD) Step Performances
- Highlights "Shadow Judging" and Scoring Accountability

**Attending this workshop fulfills the requirement to gain or renew NSSA Judge Certification.*



"The NSSA scoring system is detailed, straight-forward, and easy to understand. I have been stepping for 10 years and judging step shows for the past 4 years, so I was not sure how beneficial the workshop would be for me. The workshop's video breakout sessions about the key elements to judging a team's performance were very helpful and made for lively conversations. I like that with a NSSA sanctioned event – whether it is in Raleigh, Nashville, or Dallas - will be judged by the same standards."

- Tony Warrick, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc, Raleigh, NC