



# Massachusetts State Grange

OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM

## OLIVER HUDSON KELLY PUBLIC SPEAKING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This outstanding program helps to build leadership and self-confidence in all those who participate by developing a skill that is important both in and out of the Grange. The age of the contestant as of January 1 determines the age group. Because props are allowed (must be appropriately sized for the room) at the regional and national public speaking contest, will also be allowed for the state contest.

There will be three categories along with the three age divisions as follows:

**For 2024:**

Youth: 14-20 years of age  
Young Adult: 21-30 years of age  
Youth Alumni: 31+ years of age

**For 2025:**

Youth: 14-20 years of age  
Young Adult: 21-25 years of age  
Adults: 26+ years of age

The three categories:

**1. Prepared Speech:**

- a. Time limit is 3-5 minutes, on a topic of the speaker's choice. An impromptu question on the speaker's subject will also be asked at the end of the speech by the judge.
- b. The contestant must provide three copies of an outline of their speech **two weeks prior** to the state contest. Copies must be sent to the Youth Directors.
- c. State winners must agree to represent the state at the Northeast Regional Youth Conference.
- d. No props or costumes.

**2. Impromptu Speech:** An impromptu speech is delivered without preparation or thought ahead of time. No note cards can be used, and topics are generally drawn.

- a. Participants will draw two topics, select their choice of the two and return the other one.
- b. Competition will be held at the State and Regional levels - **You need not have participated in a state competition in order to participate in the Regional Conference.**
- c. Your response must be at least 1 minute long but less than 5 minutes.
- d. Time keeper will hold up hand when the 1-minute mark has been reached and then at the 4:30 minute mark has been reached so speaker knows when he/ she can stop.

**3. Grange Commercial:** A Grange commercial is an advertisement promoting the Grange.

- a. Participant(s) must film and edit themselves doing a commercial for the Grange.
- b. There can be up to five people in the commercial and the commercial should last between 30 - 60 seconds.
- c. The participants must include a written script.

**Award:** State winners receive cash prizes. The top winners will have an opportunity to compete on the regional level.

**Deadline:** Those members wishing to participate must inform the MA State Youth Advisor, Theresa Kenney at [tkenney2023@gmail.com](mailto:tkenney2023@gmail.com) of their intention to participate in the contest **at least two weeks prior to the State Contest.**