



# **2024-2025 Program Handbook**

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## Mission Statements

### External Mission Statement:

The Grange brings people together to build stronger communities by encouraging agricultural and environmental sustainability, community service and fostering future leaders.

### Internal Mission Statement:

The State Grange provides educational support, technical assistance and resources to support our Granges and our partners to build stronger communities as well as cultivating leadership opportunities

## Core Values of the Granges in Massachusetts

*Relevancy*  
*Inclusion*  
*Teamwork*  
*Accountability*

# Agriculture and Environment Committee



The Agriculture and Environment Committee is responsible for promoting agriculture education and environmental awareness related programs at the state level and to encourage Granges across Massachusetts and other State Grange Committees to sponsor and establish agriculture education and environmental programs.

## 1. PARTNERSHIPS

The Massachusetts State Grange has developed partnerships with organizations sharing our similar values and principles. These organizations promote agriculture education and concern for the environment through programs and contests. For contact information, please contact the Agriculture and the Environment Committee Co-Directors. Current partnerships include:

- Massachusetts 4-H
- Massachusetts FFA Association
- Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom
- UMass Pollinator and Food Gardens
- UMass CAFE Summer Scholars Program
- Massachusetts Envirothon
- Sustainathon
- UMass Student Farming Enterprise

## 2. AGRICULTURE EDUCATION GRANTS FOR GRANGES

The Massachusetts State Grange provides grants to local Granges across the Commonwealth to implement and conduct programs that promote agriculture education in their local communities. Guidelines will be available on the Massachusetts State Grange website or from any member of the Committee.



### 3. CONTESTS

#### A. State Grange Agriculture Innovator

This award is for an individual who is actively engaged in farming, gardening, agricultural enterprise, or rural development large or small scale such as: a Christmas tree farm, fruit grower, dairy farmer, beekeeper, aquaculture, ag education, etc.

Rules:

- Open to any person, of any age.
- There will be one winner selected and announced at the State Grange session.
- Nominations must be made in writing by a Grange member in good standing and include involvement in:
  1. Community Service-involvement with projects towards the betterment of the community. The nominee may have worked through the Grange or another organization.
  2. Personal Achievement- Awards or honors they received through the Grange or other organizations; personal fulfillment from being a member of the Grange and/or involvement in other activities.
- Deadline for nominations is September 15th.

Award: Winners will be announced at State Grange session.

#### B. Agriculture/Environment Speech Competition

- Age Groups:
  - 14-20
  - 21-30
- The subject of the speech MUST be an agricultural or environmental topic.
- This contest is also open to 4H and FFA members
- Time limit is 3-5 minutes. An impromptu question on the speaker's subject will also be asked at the end of the speech by a judge
- The contestant must provide three copies of an outline of their speech two weeks prior to the contest. Copies must be sent to the Agriculture and Environment Committee Co-Directors
- Appropriately sized visual aids are allowed
- Prizes for each age group will be 1st-\$100, 2nd-\$75, 3rd-\$50
- Contest will be held in conjunction with the State Grange Extravaganza
- This is a state contest only

#### C. Junior Visual Presentation

- All Juniors ages 5- 14 are eligible to compete.
- The subject of the presentation MUST be an agricultural or environmental topic.
- Visual materials (posters, power points, etc) to be included and will be judged as part of the presentation
- Contestant name and topic must be sent to the Agriculture and Environment Committee



Co-Directors two weeks prior to the contest

- Time limit is 3-5 minutes. An impromptu question on the speaker's subject will also be asked at the end of the presentation by a judge
- Prizes for each age group- 1st-\$40, 2nd-\$20, 3rd-\$10
- Contest will be held in conjunction with the State Grange Extravaganza
- This is a state contest only

#### **D. Agriculture and the Environment Program/Activity Report**

- This contest will be for Granges to enter who have held an activity/program that includes one of the partners listed in this section of the Program Book
- The contest year will be considered as September 1st – August 31st
- Each Grange will be limited to one entry per contest year
- Reports should include but not be limited to:
  - What steps were taken in the planning
  - Which partner/partners were included
  - What was the total attendance. Members. Visitors. Community.
  - What sort of publicity was used.
- Deadline for report entries is September 15th
- Winners will be announced at State Session

#### **E. Honorary State Session Delegate**

- The Honorary State Session Delegate will provide opportunities for a State FFA representative and a 4-H Ambassador with an interest in the legislative aspect of the Massachusetts State Grange to see the inner workings of committees and the grassroots legislative policy development effort at the Massachusetts State Grange session.
- Each youth will serve on one of the session committees reviewing resolutions. Participants will watch the delegate body act on resolutions and other aspects of the session. Full participation as befits a delegate is strongly encouraged.
- An individual may participate in the program a maximum of one time.
- As guests of the Massachusetts State Grange, room cost will be paid for the participant, plus one parent/legal guardian if required due to age requirements. Tickets to scheduled banquets/meals will also be provided.
- Transportation will be the participant's own responsibility.
- Applications must be submitted to the Agriculture and the Environment Director(s). Applications will be reviewed by the Agriculture and the Environment Committee and the State Executive Committee in making the selection of participants.
- Please include letters of recommendation from your Chapter/Club Director.
- Applications can be obtained from the Agriculture and Environment Committee Director(s) or from the State Grange website.
- Honorary Delegates will be assigned a mentor from the State Grange to assist and guide the participants during the session.
- Participants will be expected to attend all aspects of the session except for those activities which require full membership.

- Any participant who fails to comply with the guidelines will be expected to pay their own expenses.
- The deadline for application submission will be August 1st.

#### 4. GRANGE FAIRS AND RIBBONS

- Granges are encouraged to have Grange fairs. If a Grange would like help in starting a fair, please contact the Agriculture and Environment Committee.
- Grange ribbons are available from the Fair Coordinator.



**MASSACHUSETTS FFA ASSOCIATION**  
**135 Center Street Dighton, MA 02715**  
**508.737.8110**

#### *ACTIVE CHAPTERS*

Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical H.S.  
 57 Old Muggett Hill Road  
 Charlton, MA 01507  
 Phone: (508) 248-5971  
[www.baypath.net](http://www.baypath.net)

Greater Lawrence Technical High School  
 57 River Road  
 Andover, MA 01810  
 (978) 686-0194  
[www.glts.net](http://www.glts.net)

Bristol County Agricultural High School  
 135 Center Street  
 Dighton, MA 02715  
 Phone: (508) 669-6744  
[www.bcahs.com](http://www.bcahs.com)

Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School  
 750 Winter Street  
 Framingham, MA 01701  
 Phone: (508) 416-2100  
[www.keefetech.org](http://www.keefetech.org)

Cape Cod Regional Technical High School  
 351 Pleasant Lake Ave  
 Harwich, MA 02645  
 Phone: (508) 432-4500  
[www.capetech.us](http://www.capetech.us)

Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative  
 174 Brush Hill Ave  
 W. Springfield, MA 01089  
 Phone: (413) 735-2200  
[www.lpvctec.org](http://www.lpvctec.org)

Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School  
 565 Maple Street  
 Danvers, MA 01923  
 Phone: (978) 304-4700  
[www.essexnorthshore.org](http://www.essexnorthshore.org)

Minuteman Career & Technical High School  
 758 Marrett Road  
 Lexington, MA 02173  
 Phone: (781) 861-6500  
[www.minuteman.org](http://www.minuteman.org)

Franklin County Technical High School  
 82 Industrial Boulevard  
 Turners Falls, MA 01376 Phone: (413) 863-9561  
[www.fcts.org](http://www.fcts.org)



Monument Mountain Regional High School  
600 Stockbridge Road  
Route 7  
Great Barrington, MA 01230  
Phone: (413) 528-1401  
[www.mmrhs.bhrsd.org](http://www.mmrhs.bhrsd.org)

Mount Everett Regional School  
P.O. Box 219  
Sheffield, MA 01257  
Phone: (413) 229-8734  
[www.sbrsd.org](http://www.sbrsd.org)

Norfolk County Agricultural High School  
400 Main Street  
Walpole, MA 02081  
Phone: (508) 668-0268  
[www.norfolkaggie.org](http://www.norfolkaggie.org)

Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School  
240 Sykes St  
Palmer, MA 01069  
Phone: (413) 283-9701  
[www.pathfindertech.org](http://www.pathfindertech.org)

Silver Lake Regional High School  
132 Pembroke Street  
Kingston, MA 02364  
Phone: (781) 585-3844  
[www.slrhs.slrds.org](http://www.slrhs.slrds.org)

South Shore Vocational Technical High School  
476 Webster Street  
Hanover, MA 02339  
(781)878-8822  
[www.ssvotech.org](http://www.ssvotech.org)

Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School  
80 Locust Street  
Northampton, MA 01060  
Phone: (413) 587-1414  
[www.smithtech.org](http://www.smithtech.org)

Taconic High School  
96 Valentine Road  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
Phone: (413) 448-9600  
[www.taconic.pittsfield.net](http://www.taconic.pittsfield.net)

Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School  
220 Sandwich Road  
Bourne, MA 02532  
Phone: (508) 759-7711  
[www.uppercapetech.com](http://www.uppercapetech.com)

Westfield Technical Academy  
33 Smith Ave  
Westfield, MA  
Phone: (413) 572-6533  
[www.wta.schoolsofwestfield.org](http://www.wta.schoolsofwestfield.org)

**For 4-H Chapter information.**

**Meg McDermott  
Director,**

**UMass Extension 4-H Youth Development Program**

**100 Venture Way, Suite 334**

**Hadley, MA 01035-9462**

**413-565-2646**

**[memcdermott@umass.edu](mailto:memcdermott@umass.edu)**

**<https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h>**





# Connections Committee



## Communications

### Massachusetts State Grange News

The Massachusetts State Grange News is the official publication of the Massachusetts State Grange, and is published monthly. News deadline is 20th of the month. If you have an event occurring after that date, but before the 28th of the month, just let the editor know so that room can be left.

Pictures: Please try to use the smallest pixel setting on your cameras. It makes pictures easy to send. The JPG format works best.

Granges have been encouraged to have a designated reporter to send info to the SGN. The State Grange News email address is: [stategrangenews@massgrange.org](mailto:stategrangenews@massgrange.org)

### Website / Electronic Communication

The MSG website is a communications tool for the Grange. It serves four distinct audiences: current Grange members, non-members, Granges on all levels throughout the state, MSG officers and committees. Information can only be made available via the website if you provide it to us. The Committee cannot be the ones responsible for generating all information. It is imperative that Grange members participate in submission of noteworthy articles and news to both the "News" and the Website. State Grange website items should be emailed to [webmaster@massgrange.org](mailto:webmaster@massgrange.org). Granges who have questions about setting up their own websites can also contact the webmaster at the above address.

### **Ownership of Information & Acceptable Use**

Information submitted for publishing in the State Grange News or on the Website must be Grange/Granger original work. Reprints of any item (news articles, photos or other information) is prohibited unless specific written consent is obtained by the original author and submitted to the State Grange News Editor or Webmaster. All information posted and/or published by the MSG in any form, whether in print or electronically, shall remain the property of the MSG. This shall include any website based or email communications generated by MSG officers and committees on its behalf. Any use of such information, including any list of e-mail addresses, for purposes other than the official business of the MSG, its committees, and Pomona and Subordinate Granges is prohibited.

### **Social Media**

The Connections Committee is responsible for spreading the word of Grange events and other relevant information through social media outlets such a Facebook and Instagram. This online resource provides another way to reach a large number of individuals. Rather than asking individuals to view our website, social media networks allow us to share information through locations online where people regularly visit. This allows us to get the word out faster to a larger audience.

We strongly encourage individual Granges to create their own Facebook and Instagram page to share information with your members and others in your community. Grange Facebook/Instagram pages should NOT be set up in the same manner that individual people's accounts are created. For a copy of the State Grange's Social Media Policies and instructions for properly setting up a Grange Facebook page, please see the State Grange website at [www.massgrange.org](http://www.massgrange.org), and contact a member of the Connections Committee if you have questions about this information.

If you wish to submit a post to be put on State Grange social media, we ask that you adhere to the following guidelines”:

- Highlight events and contests related to your committee.
- Send Photos separately from the text of the Post (not as a pdf with the picture as part of the page)
- Let us know if there are specific #hashtags or links that need to be included.
- Keep text as succinct and to the point as possible. Social Media doesn't like long walls of text.
- It is asked that all Committees send information about their upcoming events a month before the event occurs. This is so we can make sure the information is circulating with enough time for people to respond to it.
- All information for posts must be sent to [stategrangenews@massgrange.org](mailto:stategrangenews@massgrange.org) with a note that it is for social media and not the SGN or directly to Social Media Manager, Lauren Vaill at [lauren@thevails.com](mailto:lauren@thevails.com).

Reminder: The things you post on social media are representative of you and by extension, the State Grange. If you post something specifically about the Grange, especially publicly, please keep it positive. We are trying to promote a united front and negative comments are hurtful to everyone involved. Social Media is not a vacuum, there are repercussions to everything posted there.



## **Membership**

The Membership Committee is developing programs and resources for Massachusetts Subordinate Granges with the goals of promoting our Granges within our respective communities. We are concentrating our efforts within the following areas:

1)Membership Service: Identifying the needs of members and recommending the development of services to meet those needs.

2)Increasing Membership. Recommending means for increasing membership in Massachusetts Subordinate Granges. Working to revitalize 2 Granges and organizing 1 Grange each year.

3)Keeping Membership Informed: Working to make prospective and current members aware of the resources, services, and membership benefits of the Grange.

4)Welcoming New Members. Recommending ways to acknowledge new members and to encourage participation in Grange programs and activities.

4)Identifying Non-member Needs and Perceptions. Gathering information on and analyzing nonmembers' needs and perceptions of the Grange. Recommending ways in which to meet these needs to attract non-members to join the Grange.

### **Massachusetts State Grange Recruiter of the Year Award**

Each Grange in Massachusetts is eligible to nominate one member for the Recruiter of the Year Award to recognize the member who has brought the most members into the Grange. To be eligible for the award, you must do the following:

- Each Grange may only submit one name per year
- Recruit at least 5 new members, not reinstated, into your or another Grange between July 1st and June 30th.
- Submit a letter with the names, Grange, and joining dates of all new members recruited signed by the Secretary of the Grange and bearing the Grange seal to Christopher Szkutak, 56 Rumonoski Drive Northbridge MA 01534 by August 1st. Nominations postmarked after August 1st will not be considered.

The top three members who have recruited the most new members will be recognized with a ribbon at State Grange Session.

### **Membership Booth**

All Granges can contact Christopher Szkutak (crszku10@gmail.com) to request the membership booth for a fair or event. Please make the request more than a month in advance so that all materials can be transported in a timely manner.



# Educational Aid Fund

The Massachusetts State Grange Educational Aid Fund offers scholarships and loans to members in good standing who are pursuing post-secondary education. The scholarships are made possible by donations from Junior, Subordinate and Pomona Granges, or by individuals. The interest paid on the loans and the interest earned on the investments of the Fund are used to grant scholarships.

Each year the Board of Trustees determines an amount available for scholarships based upon the income earnings of the invested funds. Scholarships are awarded each July to students enrolled in full-time study who have been members for at least one year in a Massachusetts Subordinate Grange on the date of the application. Any Patrons who have been awarded a First Scholarship may apply for a Subsequent Scholarship for a two-year college program and up to three Subsequent Scholarships for a four-year program, provided that the other requirements of full-time study and continued Grange membership are met.

All donations to the Educational Aid Fund, as well as completed Loan and Scholarship Applications, should be sent directly to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Educational Aid Fund.

Current policy information and scholarship and loan applicants are available at [massgrange.org](http://massgrange.org).

## **Scholarships**

Scholarships are available to full-time and part-time students. To be considered for a full-time Scholarship, applications with all required supporting documents must be mailed and postmarked by June 25 to be considered for a scholarship award for the academic year beginning in the fall of the same year. Applicants applying for their first scholarship from the Fund must use the Full-Time Scholarship Application. Those applicants who have received previous scholarships from the Fund must use the Subsequent Scholarship Application. Both forms are available on the State Grange Website.

Students attending school part-time may apply for a scholarship using the Part Time Scholarship Application available on the State Grange Website. The deadline for part-time scholarship applications is September 1 annually. Applications may be submitted at any time and will be acted upon at the next meeting of the Trustees of the Educational Aid Fund.

No Patron is entitled to more than four scholarships (full and/or part time) in a lifetime.

## **Loans**

Loans of up to \$500 per academic year, for up to four years, are available to student Patrons. No interest is charged during the period of schooling and for six months following graduation. Repayment of the loans must commence 6 months following completion of schooling at an interest rate of 4% per year, charged monthly.

## Special Awards

### ***The Thomas F. Severance Award for Outstanding Grange Service***

Brother Thomas F. Severance served the Grange in many different capacities beginning when he joined in 1955. Tom began his service to the Massachusetts State Grange as a member of the Conservation and Ecology committee in 1973. He also served as a Deputy before being elected Gatekeeper in 1980. Following historical tradition, Tom worked his way up the chairs and was elected Master of the Massachusetts State Grange in 1993, serving until 1997. At the time of his passing in 2011, Tom was a member of the State Grange Executive Committee and held the National Grange position of High Priest of Demeter. Over the years, Tom served on many Grange committees and worked to support many State Grange functions.

Each year up to four Thomas F. Severance Awards for Outstanding Grange Service are also available. Students apply for these awards by completing the Thomas F. Severance Awards for Outstanding Grange Service Application available on the State Grange Website. These awards are competitive and no student may receive more than one Severance Award.

### ***The William H. Eaton Memorial Scholarship***

Brother William H. Eaton was a dedicated Grange member from when he joined the organization in 1956 to his passing in 2014. Bill held many Grange offices, including Chaplain and Secretary, was very active in the Home and Community Service Committee for many years, worked on Grange exhibits at the Marshfield Fair each year, and enjoyed visiting shut-in Grange members during the holidays.

The William H. Eaton Memorial Scholarship is funded by Brother Bill's generous donation to the Massachusetts State Grange. Full-time scholarship applicants pursuing study in the fields of agriculture, conservation or environmental science may elect to be considered for this Scholarship. Awards are competitive and are based on academic achievement and community involvement. No student may receive more than one Eaton Memorial Scholarship. Applicants wishing to be considered for this Scholarship must indicate their interest on the scholarship application; no additional form is necessary.

### ***The Harry Lucas Community Service Excellence Award***

Brother Harry Lucas was a long-time, dedicated member of Essex Grange. He attended Grange meetings regularly until his death in 1992 at the age of 93. He was a generous man and community service was very important to him. Following his passing, Essex Grange established a scholarship using the funds that Brother Lucas left to the Grange; that scholarship was continued by West Boxford Grange after Essex Grange closed. This scholarship has been continued by the Massachusetts State Grange following the closure of West Boxford Grange.

Up to four awards will be available per year to students who have demonstrated excellence in service to their local community. Students apply for these awards by completing the Harry Lucas Community Service Excellence Award Application. These awards are competitive and no student may receive more than one Lucas Award.



# Home and Community Service Committee



## BAKING CONTEST RULES AND INFORMATION

The contest will be judged in four age groups. Age is determined as of January 1st of the current year.

Group A Ages 5-8 (Junior Contest)

Group B Ages 9-13 (Junior Contest)

Group C Ages 14-19 (Adult Contest)

Group D Ages 20 and over (Adult Contest)

\*Junior members over 13 are eligible to enter the Junior contest in Group B

Official Entry Form and Identification Label Baking Contest

Group (with birth date for Groups A-C) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Grange Member \_\_\_\_\_ Non-member \_\_\_\_\_

Entered through Grange # \_\_\_\_\_

Each entry must have an Official Entry Form and Identification Label attached to the bottom.

- This contest is open to both Grange members and non-members. This excludes State H&CS members from entering.
- The contest location, date, and time to be announced.
- No package mixes allowed.
- Each entry must include the recipe used, highlighting any local ingredients used.



- Please send or bring your items to be judged in disposable containers or on a disposable plate covered with a plastic bag or wrap.
- All items will be auctioned off at the end of the contest unless otherwise requested.
- All proceeds from the auction will be donated to Grange projects.
- Contestants permit the MA State Grange to use photos, name, and recipe for publicity.
- The judges' decision is final.
- Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each class and category.
- A contestant may enter only ONE ITEM PER CLASS

### **BAKE-OFF 2024**

#### ADULT CATEGORIES:

1. Corn Bread
2. (7) Tarts (any type)

#### JUNIOR CATEGORY:

1. (7) Whoopie Pies

### **BAKE-OFF 2025**

#### ADULT CATEGORIES:

1. Dump Cake (frosted or decorated)
2. Imposter Cake (a cake that looks like something else)

#### JUNIOR CATEGORY:

1. TBA

## **NEW ENGLAND NEEDLEWORK CONTEST and STATE CRAFT CONTEST RULES AND INFORMATION**

***State Needlework Contest*** will be judged in three age groups. *Age is determined as of January 1st of the current year.*

Group A Ages 5-8 (Junior Contest)

Group B Ages 9-13 (Junior Contest)

Group C Ages 14 and over (Adult Contest)

***\*Junior members over 13 are eligible to enter the Junior contest in Group B***

- Grange members and non-members may enter. This excludes State H&CS members from entering.
- Professional needlework designers or teachers or anyone earning their living in a needlework related field may not enter.
- Asterisk (\*) denotes items for New England Needlework Contest at the Big E. The first-place winners in these categories will be going to Regional Judging and displayed in the New England Grange Building during the Big E.

- The New England Needlework Contest Categories and Rules are subject to change yearly. Contact a committee member for a copy of the latest contest brochure (should be available at State Session).
- Size requirements (if any) will be provided in the New England Needlework Contest Brochure.
- A contestant may submit as many entries as have fulfilled the following requirements but may enter only ONE ITEM PER CLASS.
- Work must be entirely that of the contestant.
- Entries must have been completed within the contest year (August 1-July 31).
- Each entry must have a completed Official Entry Form and Identification Label that corresponds with the contest and attached as indicated.
- Judging will take place in August or September. Date and location to be announced.
- Contestants permit the MA State Grange to use photos and names for publicity.
- The judges' decision is final.
- Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each class or category.
- First place winning entries in the New England Needlework Contest will go on to the Big E and will not be returned until the end of State Grange Session.
- A Best of Show will be selected by the Judges and sent to the National Grange for display at the National Convention. This entry will not be returned until after the National Convention.

### **NEEDLEWORK CONTEST:**

Official Entry Form and Identification Label Needlework Contest

Class \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grange Member \_\_\_\_\_ Non-member \_\_\_\_\_  
 Entered through Grange # \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this article fulfills all requirements Outlined in the Official Rules of the Contest.

***(PLACE IN PLASTIC BAG AND PIN TO ITEM WITH SAFETY PIN)***

### **ENTRY CLASS:**

- **\*AFGHAN:** An afghan may be made using any yarn product. It can be any pattern and it may be knitted, crocheted, woven, etc. (Min. width 45 inches and max 60 inches Min. length 60 inches and max 75 inches).
- **\*DOILIES:** May be knitted, crocheted, or tatted. May use any thread suitable to article. May be any pattern or design (Max. size 18x18 inches).
- **\*EMBROIDERY:** Any embroidered item except counted Cross Stitch. Any embroidery thread may be used. (Back of work must be visible.)
- **\*3 PIECE BABY SET:** May consist of a sweater plus, booties, skirt, mittens, or pants to make a 3-piece suit. May be knitted or crocheted using any suitable pattern and product.



- **\*PLASTIC CANVAS:** Any item made with any pattern using yarn or thread.
- **\*COUNTED CROSS STITCH:** Any item using any thread product. NOTE: The back of the work MUST be seen on all embroidered pieces. Pictures may be on stretcher strips or may be framed and/or matted, BUT NO GLASS.
- **\*ADULT GARMENT:** Entry may be knitted or crocheted using any pattern and any suitable product. A garment is something worn on the body, sweater, dress, cape, poncho, vest, etc. Items not covered in this class, such as hats/caps, mittens/gloves, scarves, socks, collar, belt, etc., are considered accessories.
- **\*LATCH HOOK:** Any item made with any pattern, using any yarn. The width must be a min of 18 inches and max of 24 inches and with a max length of 45 inches. Project must be finished (including back). If a project is to be hung, it must have a sleeve on the back for hanging.
- **\*QUILTED WALL HANGING:** Piece may be hand or machine quilted, no bigger than 36x36 inches and any product may be used for filler. If it is to be hung, add a sleeve on the back.
- **\*STUFFED TOY:** Toy may be knitted, crocheted, stitched, etc. May be stuffed with any product (i.e. fiber-fills). Toys must be child safe.
- **\*BABY AFGHAN:** Baby afghans may be knitted, crocheted, woven, etc. and must appear suitable for a baby - choice of color, selection of yarn product, etc. suitable for a baby. Max size 35x40 inches.
- **\*CHILD OR ADULT GARMENT SEWN:** Entry must be a sewn garment for a child or adult using your own design or a pattern and use a suitable product for age. Must be completely finished and must state size. A garment is something worn on the body (i.e. jacket, dress, skirt, slacks, shirt, cape, poncho, or vest.)
- **Misc., Others:** Any other needlework not included in above categories.

### Craft Contest

\*One teacup and one saucer. Teacup does NOT have to be glued to the saucer. Any design is permitted. Each state sends the first-place winner only to the NEGB.

### STATE CRAFT CONTEST:

Official Entry Form and Identification Label State Craft Contest

Group (with birth date for Groups A-B) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Grange Member \_\_\_\_\_ Non-member \_\_\_\_\_

Entered through Grange # \_\_\_\_\_

(ATTACH TO BOTTOM OR BACK WITH TAPE OR SAFETY PIN)



## **CRAFT CONTEST 2024:**

### **ADULT CATEGORIES:**

- Agriculture Craft must use something from agriculture (i.e. grain/seed, old tools, etc.)
- Christmas Stocking

### **JUNIOR CATEGORY:**

- Christmas Ornament

## **CRAFT CONTEST 2025:**

### **ADULT CATEGORIES:**

- Coasters (set of 4)
- Cutting Board, no larger than 11"x9"

### **JUNIOR CATEGORY:**

- Bird Seed Ornaments

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS**

Through community service, a Grange becomes a relevant, caring and involved part of its community. Community Service is an important part of our Vision for the Grange. Grange members, working together to meet a community need, make their community a better place to work and live, while strengthening the Grange itself. Every Grange has projects that they carry out to benefit their community. The Goal for 2024-2025 is for each Grange to review the needs of its community and to select one or more projects that will help meet the identified needs.

All Granges are asked to report projects they have undertaken and success they have achieved. Report forms and details will be mailed to each Grange with September 15th as the deadline to return the completed reports. The First Prize will be \$100; Second Prize will be \$75; Third Prize will be \$50; and Fourth Prize will be \$25. The prize money is made available by the National Grange.

Reports should include, but are not restricted to, the following details:

- Information for one year (Sept. 1 – Aug. 31)
- How and why was the project(s) selected?
- What was the project(s) and the success achieved?
- How did the Community benefit from the project(s)?
- How many Grange members participated in the project(s)?
- Volunteer hours by Grange members.
- How did other organizations or non-Granger's work on your project(s)?
- How did your Grange gain visibility through this project (publicity)?
- Sum of donations made to the community.
- Sum of donations made to Grange appeals.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS:

Asterisk (\*) indicates that patterns or directions are available. Please contact a committee member for this information.

***See what is needed in your area. Contact other local organizations and agencies to partner together on projects to serve your community.***

- Agriculture Education Programs: Provide public educational programs on topics from gardening to cooking, baking or canning to composting and anything in between.
- Agriculture Education Books: Donate books on gardening, canning, preserving, composting, or other agriculture related topics to your local public library, school library, childcare facility, senior center, or other place of your choosing.
- Foster Care Program: ***Contact your local Department of Children and Families (DCF) office to find out what they need.*** (i.e. Diapers, Hygiene Kits, Backpacks, Gift Cards, etc.)
- Words for Thirds: Purchase dictionaries from [www.thedictionaryproject.org](http://www.thedictionaryproject.org) to donate to third grade students at your local schools.
- \*Comfort Caps for Cancer Patients: Make soft, reversible hats out of fleece and donate to a local hospital or cancer center.
- \*Premie Hats: Knit or crochet premie size hats and donate to a local hospital or birthing center.
- \*Lap Robes: Knit, crochet or quilt lap robes and donate to a local nursing home, VA hospital or senior center.
- \*Ditty Bags for Wheelchairs or Walkers: Make bags to be used on wheelchairs or walkers and donate to a local nursing home, VA hospital or senior center.
- \*Ryan's CASE for SMILES (*formally Connker Cancer*): Make pillowcases out of soft, bright cotton or flannel fabric visit <https://caseforsmiles.org> for more details. Massachusetts Chapter visit their website at <https://caseforsmiles.org/boston/> or email [ryanscaseforsmilesbos@gmail.org](mailto:ryanscaseforsmilesbos@gmail.org).
- \*Mittens, Hats and Scarves: Purchase or make mittens, hats and scarves and donate to your local schools, DCF office or childcare facility.
- Stuffed Toys: Purchase or make child-safe stuffed toys and donate to your local fire, police, EMS, childcare facility, DCF office or hospital.
- Secret Pal for Nursing Home. Check to see if seniors with no-one/visitors would like visits from a Grange member, sent cards or given small gifts for the holidays.
- Habitat for Humanity: Volunteer to help with a local Habitat for Humanity project.
- Donate items or volunteer at local food pantries, senior centers or homeless shelters.
- Volunteer to clean up the grounds of a local park or playground.
- Participate in local roadside clean up or donate bags to an organization that does it in your area.
- Help plan and sponsor a community fair that includes children.
- Big E – New England Grange Building: Volunteer to help or donate needlework/craft items to be sold in the New England Grange Building.
- Big E – Massachusetts State Grange Food Booth: Volunteer to help during the Big E.
- Hearing Aid Fund: Donate to the Massachusetts State Grange Hearing Aid Fund.



- Health Project: Donate to the Massachusetts State Grange Health Project – donations can be earmarked for a specific place (i.e. NEADS, Beverly School or Clarke School) or the general fund (the committee chooses where to send the donations).
- Pennies-A-Day Fund: Donate to the State Graces' Pennies-A-Day Fund, which helps to support the Thomas/Vaill Library & Museum in Rutland.
- Educational Aid Fund: Donate money to support the Massachusetts State Grange's scholarship fund.

# Junior Grange



The Junior Grange Projects are open to any Junior Grange Member. Leaders can plan to do the projects at your meetings, or the Juniors can do the projects individually. Each project must be labeled with the child's name, birth date, as well as the Junior Grange name and number. Junior Grange Projects are due to the State Grange Director by September 1st. The deadline for the BIG E Projects is August 15th.

Remember all the other departments also have contests that can be done with due dates. Age group for judging are 5-7, 8-10 and 11-14 as of January 1st of the current year.

## 2024 Junior Projects

**NATURE WEAVE:** Crafts from the back yard. Take a walk and pick up sticks for the frame, leaves and flowers. You will also need twine, string, or yarn. Sturdy thick tape, (masking tape), paint and brushes if you wish to paint the sticks, runny glue and scissors.

**WASHI TAPE AND WATER COLORS:** Take a piece of poster board and put tape in any decoration you want but leaving spaces and lightly paint the spaces between the tape. Let it dry and then pull the tape off and see your design.

**PAPER PLATE DREAM CATCHER:** Cut the center of a 6" paper plate. Punch out holes to put the string through. (8 to 12) holes. You will also need string or yarn, and anything else that you want to use to decorate it. But don't make it too heavy.

RECYCLING PROJECT: Use a half & half or milk carton. Craft into a bird feeder with anything else you would like, stickers, little rocks, but paint the carton first.

NATURE'S JOURNAL: From seed or bud to flower. We want to know what it is, how you discovered it, and watched it grow. You can include either photos or drawings.

- Ages 5 to 8 at least 2 pages
- Ages 9 to 14 at least 4 pages.

BIG E PROJECT: TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER. KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE STATE GRANGE NEWS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

STATE GRANGE PUBLIC SPEAKING AND SIGN A SONG RULES TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

### **2025 Junior Projects**

SHADOW BOXES: Collect anything that you want to put in your shadow box.

SMALL TERRACOTTA POTS: You will need small sticks, rocks, old buttons of any size, paint and brushes, make them upside down.

GLASS JAR LIGHTS: Reuse jars. First clean them and then you can paint on the outside lightly so the light can glow through stickers, then put a tea light to put in the bottom of it.

STICK FAMILY: Find sticks to make up your family, you will also need string or yarn to put them together and little eyes.

RECYCLE PROJECT: Make a car or truck from a milk or half & half carton. For the wheels use the bottle caps of water or soda bottles, you will need 8 of them. Also you will need 2 sticks to go through the carton to make the wheels go round. Then add decorations of your choosing.



## **Junior Grange Ambassador**

The Junior Ambassador Program was set up to recognize the achievements of our Junior Grangers and give them the opportunity to represent all Junior Grangers across the state. One Junior Granger is chosen each year. To apply, fill out the simple application (all Junior Leaders should have a copy) and submit it to the State Junior Grange Director. Application deadline is September 30th.

## **Junior Grange +1 Program Guidelines for the MA State Grange**

If a Junior Grange is not available, an individual between five and fourteen years of age may be proposed as a candidate for membership as an individual Junior member of a Subordinate Grange and therefore become a member of the MA State Junior Grange by doing the following:

1. Submit a Junior Grange application signed by the child's parent or guardian for Junior membership through a vote of the Subordinate Grange to the State Junior Director accompanied by the \$1 application fee plus \$2 Junior annual dues.
2. Full membership to the Junior Program is attained by the candidate upon conferral of the Junior Grange Obligation Ceremony or Junior Degree.
3. Junior Grange Leader: the Subordinate Grange shall appoint a Junior Leader to meet with the Junior Grange member(s) once per month. The Junior Leader must be a Fourth Degree member. If the Junior Leader is not the parent or guardian of the child, the Junior Leader must complete a State Grange CORI form and submit to the State Secretary for processing and approval.

### **Duties of the Subordinate Grange's Junior Leader:**

- Meet once per month with the Junior member(s).
- Using the list below of requirements for the State Junior Grange Members and the State Grange Program Handbook, provide appropriate activities to be done during the Subordinate meeting and/or at home between meetings.
- Keep Junior member(s) informed of upcoming Junior events and deadlines.
- Using the "Report of State Junior Grange Member" form, keep track of the progress of the Junior member(s) and submit to the State Junior Director in September of the current year along with \$2 annual Junior Grange dues.
- Encourage Junior Member(s) to attend the State Junior Day (usually held in June) to experience an actual Junior Meeting and the Junior Grange Ritual.
- State Junior Grange members are required to complete at least 3 individual Projects from the following list and to report their accomplishments to the State Junior Director through their Subordinate Junior Leader in September using the "Report of State Junior Grange Member" Form.

- Work on at least one Community Service Project (either with your Subordinate Grange or other organization).
- Work on a least one individual Community Service Project.
- Earn at least one Pin from the State Junior Pin Program.□ Entry in one or more State Junior Projects (refer to State Program Handbook).
- Entry in one or more State Junior Contests (i.e. public speaking, sign-a-song and Junior Ambassador).
- Entry in one or more National Junior Projects (refer to National Program Guide).
- Entry in one or more projects/contests sponsored by any State Committee (other than the Junior Committee).

**State Junior Grange members are required to complete at least 3 individual Projects from the following list and to report their accomplishments to the State Junior Director through their Subordinate Junior Leader in September using the “Report of State Junior Grange Member” Form.**

- Work on at least one Community Service Project (either with your Subordinate Grange or other organization).
- Work on a least one individual Community Service Project.
- Earn at least one Pin from the State Junior Pin Program.
- Entry in one or more State Junior Projects (refer to State Program Handbook).
- Entry in one or more State Junior Contests (i.e. public speaking, sign-a-song and Junior Ambassador).
- Entry in one or more National Junior Projects (refer to National Program Guide).
- Entry in one or more projects/contests sponsored by any State Committee (other than the Junior Committee).

**Once a Subordinate Grange attains 13 Junior Members, they are required to apply for a Junior Charter.**

More information about National Grange Contests and Programs for Juniors can be found at [www.nationaljuniorgrange.org](http://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org)



# State Lecturer's Program



**DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:** (Please note some dates may change. Dates and details will be confirmed in the State Grange News)

January 10, 2024 Lecturer's Quarterly Report due & eligible to "Win a Program"  
April, 2024 Grange Showcase Extravaganza – date, place, time TBD  
April 10, 2024 Lecturer's Quarterly Report due & eligible to "Win a Program"  
June, 2024 Northeast Lecturer's Conference – date, place, time TBD  
July 10, 2024 Lecturer's Quarterly Report due & eligible to "Win a Program"  
August 1, 2024 Documentation for PATRON Award due to State Lecturer  
September 1, 2024 Grange Visitation Forms due to State Lecturer  
September 1, 2024 Photography, Art, and Creative Writing entries and Annual Reports due  
October 10, 2024 Lecturer's Quarterly Report due  
January 10, 2025 Lecturer's Quarterly Report due  
April, 2025 Grange Showcase Extravaganza – date, place, time TBD  
April 10, 2025 Lecturer's Quarterly Report due  
August 1, 2025 Documentation for PATRON Award due to State Lecturer  
September 1, 2025 Grange Visitation Forms due to State Lecturer  
September 1, 2025 Photography, Art, and Creative Writing entries and Annual Reports due  
October 10, 2025 Lecturer's Quarterly Report due

## **LECTURER'S DUTIES**

Your main responsibility is to plan and present interesting programs. Organized and well-planned programs make your literary time run smoothly. The acronym RIME will help you to remember the elements of a good program: Recreation, Inspiration, Music, and Education. One program does not have to contain all four elements to be successful; however, when looking at your total program for the year, try to achieve a balance between these components. Your Installation charge emphasizes education. It should be the major portion of each program, not necessarily the longest or only part. Everyone should have the feeling he/she learned something new or heard something different and interesting. Always have a "back-up" in your bag in case the planned program does not materialize.

Get to know your members: what they like, how they would be willing to participate, and their talents. Encourage (not push) people to share talents and expertise on various topics. Attentive and involved members will continue to return for more.

It is also your duty to work with a publicity chairman to inform the local paper of programs of interest to the community as well as submitting articles to The State Grange News at [stategrangenews@massgrange.org](mailto:stategrangenews@massgrange.org) . File quarterly and annual reports to the State Lecturer in a timely manner.

## **STATEWIDE COMMUNITY FOCUS: AGRICULTURE EDUCATION**

### **Massachusetts State Grange Agriculture Education Program**

#### *Planning Outline*

In order to plan a community-focused agriculture education program at your Grange, follow the steps below to get started.

1. Form a committee to plan the program
  - Select members who will be able to assist in planning the program so that all of the work does not fall on one member.
  - Consider partnerships between the Lecturer and Agriculture Committee, for example.
2. Select a topic of interest to your community
  - When selecting a topic for your agriculture education program, think about the interests and needs of your community. Select a topic that will be of interest to the largest number of people in your area.
3. Consider partnering with other community organizations and events
  - If your town has an active Agriculture Commission, 4-H group, or other agriculturally-focused organization, consider partnering with them to host the program.
  - If your Grange holds other public events, such as suppers or an open house, consider scheduling the agriculture program in conjunction with this type of event. This can help bring non-members into the hall and increase attendance at your event.
4. Carefully plan the timing of your event
  - Consider the topic of your event and think about what time of year is best for that topic. For example, if you were planning a program on starting a home garden, it would be best to plan it during the winter so that people can use the information when they plan for their spring planting.
5. Develop a budget and plan for your expenses
  - Think about all of the parts of the program that will cost money, such as:
    - Speaker fees
    - Refreshments
    - Door prizes and giveaways
    - Printing for handouts and advertising
  - Plan ahead to ensure funds are available, and consider applying for the State Grange's Agriculture Education Grant Program to help pay for these expenses
6. Finding the right speaker
  - Find a speaker who has expertise in the subject area of your program. Be sure to find someone who can plan a presentation and engage with the audience by answering their questions on the subject.



- Consult local organizations to find qualified speakers on your topic. Consider reaching out to your Agriculture Commission, a local Master Gardener organization, or other such organization that can provide lists of potential speakers.
  - Consult the Resources section below to find additional resources for finding quality speakers on a variety of topics.
7. Be sure to plan for handouts and other takeaways
- Your attendees will benefit most when they leave with something in their hands that reminds them of the program.
  - This helps them remember what they have learned and helps them remember the Grange
  - Be sure your handouts include contact information for your Grange for those who may be interested in attending a meeting and/or joining the Grange
  - Select takeaways that are related to the theme of the program. For example, if doing a program on pollinators consider having plants that attract pollinators as door prizes. For a program on planning a garden, consider having seed packets as handouts and include a label with Grange contact information.
8. Plan for a balance between speakers and interactive activities
- Attendees enjoy taking part in programs. It is best to plan a program that involves the audience to some degree.
  - Once your speaker is selected, talk to him or her about possible activities that could be incorporated into the presentation. This could include hands-on activities, such as planting a seed, or interactive discussions.

## Resources

Websites offer information and sources of speakers. Many of these sites provide additional links to specific topics.

- Workshops and Seminars
- <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/> (MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources site leads to a multitude of topics and contact people/speakers)
- <http://www.aginclassroom.org/> (Ag in the Classroom)
- <http://nesfp.nutrition.tufts.edu/> (New Entry Sustainable Farm Project – Tufts University)
- <http://www.mass.gov/agr/massgrown/index.htm> (Faces of Ag - people who are active in the industry or have made a significant contribution to supporting agriculture)
- <http://agpollinators.org/resources/speakers-bureau/> (Adrienne Moller, cranberry bog owner)
- <http://www.mass.gov/massachusetts-food-policy-council.html> (MA Food Policy Council)
- <http://mfbf.net> (MA Farm Bureau Federation)
- <http://mass4h.org/> (4-H)
- <https://www.ffa.org/> (Future Farmers of America)
- <http://ag.umass.edu/about/umass-extension-your-community> (Extension Service)
- <http://www.capecodextension.org/> (Cape Cod Extension Service)
- <http://extension.umass.edu/nutrition/> (nutrition programs)
- <http://www.environmentmassachusetts.org/> (Environmental issues in MA)
- <http://www.environmentalleague.org> (Environmental organizations in MA)
- <http://www.eco-usa.net/orgs/ma.shtml> (MA Environmental projects)
- <http://www.nofa.org/> (Northeast Organic Farm Association)
- <http://www.fightbac.org/> (Partnership for Food Safety Education)
- <http://www.foodsafety.gov/> (Government Food Safety information)

- <http://www.recalls.gov/> (for the latest food safety alerts and recalls)
- <http://www.ams.usda.gov> (American Marketing Service)
- <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/> (National Institute of Food and Agriculture)
- <http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/> (Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion)
  - Sponsor a Farmer's Market <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/markets/farmers-markets/>
  - Look into starting a Grange Fair <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/markets/fairs/>
  - If not already established, organize an Agricultural Commission in town or advocate for 'Right to Farm' Bylaw <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/land-use/right-to-farm-by-law>
  - Get involved with Massachusetts Farm to School Project <http://www.massfarmtoschool.org/>
  - Contact statewide agencies for information and assistance with possible presenters:
    - Northeastern Region
      - Nutrition Education Program Greater Boston Office Phone: 617-628-5607  
56-R Roland Street, Boston, MA 02129
      - 4-H Program Middlesex Office Phone: 781-891-0650  
240 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA 02452
      - Nutrition Education Program Office Phone: 978-689-4744 Family Service Bldg., 430 North Canal St. #2, Lawrence, MA 01840
    - Southeastern Region
      - Nutrition Education Program Office Phone: 508-513-3473  
34 School Street, Mezzanine, Brockton, MA 02301
      - Nutrition Education Program Office Phone: 508-675-7315  
422 Mariano Bishop Blvd., Fall River, MA 02720
      - Plymouth County Extension Phone: 781-293-3541 High St., Box 658, Hanson, MA 02341
      - 4-H Program Office for Bristol & Norfolk Counties 400 Main Street, Walpole, MA 02081 Phone: 781-769-8355  
Phone: 508-668-9793
- Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources 100 Cambridge Street., 9th floor, Boston, MA 02114
- Extension Service Offices
  - Western Region:
    - UMass Extension & Center for Agriculture State Offices Phone: 413-545-4800  
319 Stockbridge Hall, 80 Campus Center Way, Amherst, MA 01003
    - 4-H Program Western Region Office Phone: 413-545-2646  
100 Ventura Way, Suite 334, UMass, Hadley, MA 01035-9462
    - Soil and Plant Tissue Testing Laboratory Phone: 413-545-2311  
Univ. of MA, 161 Holdworth Way, Amherst, MA 01003
    - Nutrition Education Program Project Office Phone: 413-545-4800  
319 Stockbridge Hall, 80 Campus Center Way, Amherst, MA 01003
  - Central Area
    - UMass Extension Central Region Office Phone: 508-831-1223  
237 Chandler Street, Worcester, MA 01609



- UMass Cranberry Station Phone: 508-295-2212 1 State Bog Road, P. O. Box 569, E. Wareham, MA 02538
- Cape Cod Cooperative Extension Phone: 508-375-6690 Deeds & Probate Bldg., P O Box 367, Railroad Ave, Barnstable, MA 02630
- Agricultural Vocational Schools
  - Bristol County Agricultural High School  
Phone: 508-669-6744  
135 Center Street, Dighton, MA 02715
  - Essex Agricultural & Technical Regional High School Phone: 978-774-0050  
562 Maple Street, P. O. Box 362, Hathorne, MA 01937
  - Norfolk County Agricultural High School  
Phone: 508-668-0268  
400 Main Street, Walpole, MA 02081
- Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom  
Phone: 508-336-4426
- Massachusetts Horticultural Society  
Phone: 617-933-4900  
900 Washington St., Wellesley, MA 02482
- Environment Massachusetts  
Phone: 617-747-4400  
44 Winter Street, Suite 401, Boston, MA 02108
- Environment Massachusetts  
Phone: 617-747-4400  
44 Winter Street, Suite 401, Boston, MA 02108
- Partner with other community organizations to sponsor a project/event
  - 4- H Clubs/FFA
  - Garden Club
  - Agricultural Commission
  - Woman’s Club
  - Conservation Commission
  - Farmer’s Market
- Offer hands-on experiences by organizing a day-long bus trip to two or three different types of farms or related projects. Websites for lists of farms and their products:
  - Hampshire County  
<https://visithampshirecounty.com/eat/farms>
  - Central area  
<https://www.centralmassgrown.org/>
  - Western area  
<https://www.ourfamilyfarms.com/about-us.html>
  - Southeastern area  
<https://www.localharvest.org>
  - Northeastern area  
<https://northeastharvest.com/>

#### **STATE PROGRAMS FOR 2023- 2024**

- Agriculture Education
  - Increase the awareness and knowledge of agriculture and related fields for your members and the community as suggested above.
- Participation within the Community
  - Work as a group leading an activity/event or participate in an event led by the town or other community organization, for example, Old Home Heritage Day, provide a water stop during a Triathlon, have a float in a parade, volunteer at a fair, etc.
- Support Military/Veterans and Families
  - With the many past conflicts and constant turmoil in the world, it is fitting to remember the sacrifices these men and women have made, and continue to make, to ensure our freedom. Programs highlighting the history, music, and service of each branch of the military, inviting various organizations (American Legion, VFW, Vietnam Veterans, Marine Corp League, DAV, etc.), and comparing the service performed in different countries are some ways to honor and recognize the Veterans.

- Support Local Food Banks or Department of Children & Families (DCF)
  - Provide a program on Hunger or the needs for Foster Parents. Hold a fundraiser to support these charities, hold Food or Toy Drivers. DCF workers always need Gift Cards from Fast Food restaurants, so they can give the kids a quick meal. Have a speaker from their organization come, talk and receive your donations.
- Grange History
  - Have a Grange history night, showcasing your local Grange history. Have an anniversary party, some Granges are celebrating their 150th Anniversary (possibly during April Grange Month) and invite your state and local representatives to your celebration.

### **STATE PROGRAMS FOR 2024 – 2025**

- Agriculture Education
  - Increase the awareness and knowledge of agriculture and related fields for your members and the community as suggested above. Information about supporting your local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) and on backyard gardening are available from the State Lecturer.
- Participation within the Community
  - Work as a group leading an activity/event or participate in an event led by the town or other community organizations, for example, staffing a town celebration, provide a water stop during a 5K race, have a float in a parade, volunteer at a fair, host a candidate night, etc.
- Mental Health
  - To remove the stigma behind mental health and education on mental health invite your local Board of Health members, Council of Aging, crisis intervention, local police department and urgent care centers or find information on the National Grange website etc.
- Exploring New Grange Possibilities
  - Programs could include a scrambled Officers Night, a new activity and or community service project, applying for grants or grant writing, or how to write resolutions, etc.
- Our Environment
  - Explore ways we can save our environment. Invite a local meteorologist, energy companies, solar panels companies, explore the pros and cons of alternative energy sources or sponsor a local Envirothon team.

### **MEMBERSHIP NIGHT**

The purpose of the Membership Night is to provide a day or nighttime meeting and/or activity to promote the Grange, getting your name out into your community, and hopefully encourage new members to join the Grange as well as reach out to former or non-active members to reconnect. This may be done on a Grange night at a regular meeting, a special meeting, an open meeting, or at another time other than your regular meeting night.



Some activities which could be included in this “meeting” are an awards presentation, a special entertainment or speaker, a picnic, supper, or other type of activity of your choosing. Whatever your committee plans, make sure to advertise the event (posters, newspaper blurbs or ads, use local TV, invitations, etc.) prepare your hall or meeting place, decorate it appropriately, prepare refreshments, set up displays about the Grange and its work in your community, and greet everyone at the door.

### **GRANGE MONTH**

The Grange should be proud of its heritage as the oldest agricultural organization in the United States. April is set aside to celebrate the Grange and what it does every day for the community. It would be a good time to award certificates for community service and years of membership, have displays in your local library showcasing what you have contributed to your community, hold open meetings with local officials, or any activities which bring your community into your Grange. Be creative, be friendly, be proud to be a Grange member, and advertise the events in your community.

### **COMMUNITY CITIZEN AWARD AND AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE**

The Community Citizen Award is to be presented by a Subordinate/Community Grange to a non-member, individual or group in your community for their outstanding achievements in your community.

The Award for Public Service is to be presented by a Pomona Grange to a member or non-member, individual or group, for his/her/their outstanding achievements within your community.

These awards are available from National Grange Headquarters, 1616 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-4999 or <http://www.grangestore.org/>.

### **CONTESTS**

There Are Four Age Divisions For All Contests:

Adults: 26 years & up

Youth: 14 to 25 years

Juniors: 10 to 14 years as of January 1st of the contest year

Juniors: 5 to 9 years as of January 1st of the contest year

1. **State Talent Contest** – There will be four classes in the State Talent Contest, held during the Grange Showcase Extravaganza: Vocal, Instrumental, Vocal/Instrumental Combo, and Variety Acts.
  - a. Participants do not have to be Grange members to participate in the State Contest. **However, the Representative to the National Grange Evening of Excellence must be a Grange member.**

- b. There is no restriction on the number of persons taking part.
- c. Any person who is a paid to perform or is a Lecturer's Coordinating Committee member is not eligible to participate.
- d. Taped accompaniment for vocal acts must be instrumental with only minor additional background voice. No taped accompaniment for instrumental acts.
- e. The act should be at least 2 minutes long, but no longer than 5 minutes. Two points per minute or portion thereof will be deducted from the total points for all performances going overtime.
- f. Scorecard: The following scorecard will be used:
  - Stage Presence - 15 points
  - Appropriateness of Dress or Costume - 5 points
  - Preparation and Skill of Presentation - 60 points
  - Suitability of Number - 15 points
  - Audience Appeal - 5 points
  - Total Points 100 points
- g. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded.
- h. **A person chosen to be the representative to the National Grange Evening of Excellence shall not be eligible to represent Massachusetts for the next three years.**

2. **Junior Grange Talent Contest** – There will also be a Talent Contest for Junior Grange members. All Junior ages will be set as of January 1st of the contest year. Rules are the same as for the State Talent Contest, including the time limitations. An adult may serve as accompanist to a vocal act. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded.

3. **Photography Contest** – (entries must be postmarked by Sept. 1st of the contest year)

There are six categories in the Photography Contest: a) People; b) Landscape; c) Barns; d) Animals; e) Flowers; and f) Clouds –(i.e. storms, sunrise/sunsets etc.)

Criteria for judging: a) Composition and arrangement, b) Interest, c) Presentation and d) Technique. Prizes for first, second, and third place winners in each category will be cash and ribbons.

Participants do not have to be Grange members. This contest is also open to Juniors and will be judged in two divisions: Ages 5-9 and Ages 10-14 (as of January 1st).

**Rules:**

- a. Only **original, non-copyrighted** prints are accepted for judging.
- b. Photographer must select the category for his/her entry.
- c. A photograph may be entered in only one category. Participants may enter all categories using different photographs.
- d. Participants may only enter one photo per category.
- e. Entries must have been taken between September 1st and August 31st of the contest year.



- f. Print may be made by a commercial process, but must have been taken by the entrant personally.
- g. Nude photos, photos generated by computers, or computer enhanced photographs are NOT accepted.
- h. Any photo editing must be noted on back of entry.
- i. Simple mat board or firm backing is required for all photographs. (NO frames)
- j. Size of entry, including matting or backing, must not be smaller than 5" x 5" or larger than 11" x 14".
- k. No labels, titles, or captions should be on the front of each entry.
- l. A copy of the entry form below must be on back of each entry.

Please include the following information on all photography entries:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Grange Name and Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Member \_\_\_ Non-member \_\_\_

Category: Photographer must select category that applies:

\_\_\_ People \_\_\_ Landscape \_\_\_ Barns \_\_\_ Animals \_\_\_ Flowers \_\_\_ Clouds

How Photo was Edited \_\_\_\_\_

Division: \_\_\_ Adult \_\_\_ Youth 14-25 \_\_\_ Junior 5-9\* \_\_\_ Junior 10-14\*

(\*Jr. age as of January 1st \_\_\_\_\_)

#### 4. **Art Contest** – (entries must be postmarked by Sept. 1st of the contest year)

There are three categories: 1) Landscape; 2) Flowers; 3) Animals and/or People in the following mediums: a) Oils and Acrylics; b) Watercolors; c) Charcoal or Pencil Drawing; d) Pastels; e) Mixed Media. Artists may enter any or all of the three categories using the same medium.

Criteria for judging: a) How well the artist used the medium selected; b) Craftsmanship and skill; c) Composition, presentation of subject; d) Originality; and e) Theme and its treatment.

Prizes for first, second, and third place winners in each category will be cash and ribbons. As with Photography Contest, there will only be two divisions of Junior exhibitors.

#### Rules:

- a. This contest is open to both Grange members and non-members. Non-members must be sponsored by a Subordinate Grange.
- b. All entries must be the original work of the exhibitor.
- c. All entries must be completed between Sept. 1st and Aug. 31st of the contest year.
- d. Age for Junior contestants will be as of January 1st.
- e. Entries are judged according to the medium used.
- f. Charcoal and pencil entries must have been treated for permanency to stop smudging.
- g. Nude entries will not be accepted.

- h. Size for all classes: Artwork must not exceed 24" x 36" including the frame. There is no minimum size, as miniatures will be accepted in all categories.
- i. All entries must be framed or have a firm backing, or be self-standing so that they can be displayed properly.
- j. Computer enhancement of artwork and/or art generated by using computer printers is not permitted.
- k. A copy of the entry form below must be on the back of each entry or on the bottom of sculptures.

Please include the following information on all art entries:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Grange Name and Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Member \_\_\_ Non-member \_\_\_

Artist must select the medium that applies:

\_\_\_ Oils and Acrylics \_\_\_ Charcoal or Pencil \_\_\_ Watercolors \_\_\_ Pastels \_\_\_ Mixed Media

Category: \_\_\_ Landscape \_\_\_ Flowers \_\_\_ Animals and/or People

Division: \_\_\_ Adult \_\_\_ Youth 14-25 \_\_\_ Junior 5-9\* \_\_\_ Junior 10-14\* (\*Jr. age as of January 1st \_\_\_\_\_)

#### 5. **Creative Writing Contest** ~ (entries must be postmarked by Sept. 1st of the contest year)

All divisions are open to both Grange members and non-members who are sponsored by a Subordinate Grange. Label the back of entry with creator's name, Grange or sponsoring-Grange, Junior age as of January 1st category (if applicable).

**Poetry** - The poem must have at least 4 lines in each stanza, with a minimum of 4 stanzas and a maximum of 8 stanzas. Criteria for judging: theme, creativity, composition

- 2024 – Topic: "My favorite Memory"
- 2025 – A "G" rated Limerick – Topic your choice

**For Juniors:** The poem must be a minimum of 8 lines and a maximum of 12 lines in length

- 2024 – "A Biographical Poem about yourself"
- 2025 – An Acrostic poem example: your name or other topic

**Essay** – The prescribed page limits are no more than three 8 ½" X 11" pages, double spaced. Criteria for judging: depiction of theme, supporting details, organization, word choice.

- 2024 topic is "My favorite place to go for peace"
- 2025 topic is "If I knew then what I know now, what I would do differently"

**For Juniors:** The prescribed page limit is a minimum of one 8 ½ by 11 page, double spaced.

- 2024 topic is "The best gift I ever received"
- 2025 topic is "My favorite teacher"



**Create-a-Note Card** – Size of cards will be no larger than 5 ½ x 8 ½. One card per category per person. Must be made by person submitting the card. Criteria for judging: Creativity, Composition, and Eye Appeal.

Categories:

1. Handmade (drawn by hand or painted and not commercially prepared)
  2. Hand-stamped and/or decorated (cut and pasted with materials found in the home rather than commercially or craft store)
- Adults 2024: a) Congratulations; b) Veterans Day
  - Juniors 2024: a) Birthday; b) Mother's Day
  
  - Adult 2025: a) Thinking of You; b) Holiday
  - Juniors 2025: a) Birthday Party Invitation; b) Valentine's Day

**Virtual Book Club** – The Virtual Book Club will be held via a Zoom link. Read the book choice listed below by the allotted date, then email the State Lecturer with your name and email address to obtain the Zoom link to [lecturer@massgrange.org](mailto:lecturer@massgrange.org)

- 2024 – Book – “The Hotel Nantucket” – by Elin Hilderbrand "After a tragic fire in 1922 that killed 19 year old chambermaid, Grace Hadley, The Hotel Nantucket descended from the gilded age gem to a mediocre budget-friendly lodge to inevitably an abandoned eyesore – until it's purchase and renovation from top to bottom by London billionaire, Xavier Darling. Xavier hires Nantucket sweetheart Lizbet Keaton as his general manager, and Lizbet, in turn, pulls together a charismatic, if inexperienced, staff who share the vision of turning the fate of the hotel around. They face challenges in getting along with one another (and with the guests), in overcoming the hotel's bad reputation, and in surviving the (mostly) harmless shenanigans of Grace Hadley herself – who won't stop haunting the hotel until her murder is acknowledged."
  - Read the book by: March 19, 2024 – Zoom date: March 22, 2024
  
- 2025 – Book – Title to be announced

## **RECOGNITION AWARDS**

### **1. Agriculture Education Honor Roll (recognition for Granges)**

Subordinate and Pomona Granges that report programs, activities, and events on the Lecturer's Quarterly Reports will be named to the Lecturer's Honor Roll and recognized at State Session.

## 2. **PATRON Award** (presented to individual members)

Members who show Passion, Activity, Tradition, Recruitment, Originality, and Networking and meet the following criteria from September 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 will be presented the Award at the 2024 State Session and those meeting the criteria from September 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 will receive the award at the 2025 State Session. A member may receive the award more than once. Criteria to qualify for the Patron award:

- Passion – visit at least three other Subordinate Granges
- Activity – participate in at least two Grange activities and one Grange-sponsored contest
- Tradition – attend at least 75% of your Subordinate Grange meetings
- Recruitment – recruit at least one new or reinstated member
- Originality – present a program with at least 3 elements of RIME (recreation, inspiration, music, education)
- Networking – publicize at least one of your Grange activities or events

The documentation form to show how you accomplished each item can be obtained from the Subordinate, Pomona, or State Lecturer or downloaded from the State Grange website. Completed documentation forms must be submitted to the State Lecturer by August 1st.

## 3. **Certificates of Recognition** (awarded to Subordinate & Pomona Lecturers)

Lecturers who submit all Quarterly Reports during the year are eligible to receive certificates in recognition for programs presented that reflect any of the National and State Programs outlined on the previous pages. Annual Reports summarizing the year must be postmarked by September 1st to be considered for judging. A packet of report forms for the year are given out at State Session. If additional copies are needed, contact the State Lecturer or download them from the State Grange website.

## 4. **Outstanding Grange Award**

Subordinate or Pomona Grange that submit a one page report describing each of following Programs: a) Agricultural Fair or Festival; b) Quilts of Valor or Veterans program; c) Subordinate Citizen of the Year or Pomona Public Service Award.

The following information must be included with your report.

Type of event a) Ag Fair or Festival \_\_\_\_ b) Quilts of Valor or Veterans program \_\_\_\_  
c) Citizen or Public Service Award \_\_\_\_

Meeting date & place: \_\_\_\_\_

Award presented: \_\_\_\_\_ To whom: \_\_\_\_\_

Publicity (if any) \_\_\_\_\_ Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

Invited organizations: \_\_\_\_\_ Dignitaries present \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. **Grange Visitation Awards** (presented to Subordinate Granges)

Whether it is a surprise visit or a planned one, having neighboring Patrons at a meeting is always exciting. Benefit is noted to both the visited and the visiting Grange. Attendance is increased to share in the program and activities, reports of committees inspire others to try something new or a little different, and the fellowship is long-lasting. A card on which more than one visitation can be recorded is available from the Lecturer and the State Grange website. With each visit, have the card signed by the President/Master, Lecturer, or Secretary of the Grange being visited. Send the completed cards to the State Lecturer by September 1st. Prizes based upon the size of the Grange will be awarded at State Session.



# Thomas/Vaill Library Museum



The Thomas/Vaill Library Museum in Rutland, MA, serves as a meeting place for many State Grange committees as well as acting as the official archive for historical materials relevant to the Grange in Massachusetts.

## **Historic Records**

All Granges, open and closed, are welcome to store their records here. Our archive contains a wealth of information about Granges and members across the state, as well as information about the State and National Grange. The more Granges that store their information here, the easier it is for members to find the information they are seeking. We request that Granges that choose to donate their historical records to another organization, such as a local library or historical society, let us know the location of these records so that we know where to refer individuals who are doing research on those Granges.

## **Information Requests**

Members and non-members doing research on topics such as genealogy or local history who wish to obtain information from our archive should contact the Historians.

## **Historical Tours and Programs**

The Library Museum is open by appointment only. Granges or individuals wishing for a tour of the Museum or access to research materials in the archive should contact the Historians to schedule a time. Granges interested in having the Historians put on a program about Grange history at one of their meetings should contact the Historians to discuss their availability.

## **Donations, Artifacts and Regalia**

Donations of historical artifacts are always appreciated. The Library Museum is unable to store large items in our archive (such as Grange signs and furniture). All regalia donated must be in useable condition as these items are frequently given to Granges in need of specific items. If your Grange is in need of any regalia items, please contact the Historians to inquire about the current availability of such items.

## Pennies-a-Day

We strongly encourage Granges to support the Pennies-a-Day fund. This fund is used toward the upkeep of this important building. In addition to housing our historical records and archive, the Library Museum provides State Grange Committees with a place to meet. It is important that this building be kept in good repair, clean and safe for our members and records. Donations to Pennies-a-Day make this possible.

## Use of the Building

Any State Grange committee wishing to meet there must contact the Historians to schedule the use of the building. The building is equipped with internet and technology equipment to host a Zoom meeting. Those wishing to host a Zoom meeting will need to bring their own laptop.

# Veterans Committee



## Resources

Is your Grange looking for ideas for projects, donations, names of veterans in your area to honor, or speakers for programs? This list may be helpful in finding information and making a contact, locally and beyond:

- Local resources
  - Veterans Agent (look on your town's website or call the town clerk for contact information)
  - Veterans Administration
  - American Legion Post
  - VFW Post
- Veterans organizations across the state
  - Bilingual Veterans Outreach Centers of Mass Inc. (Springfield & Pittsfield) <http://bilingualvets.org>
  - Boston Vet Center <https://www.va.gov/boston-vet-center>
  - Brockton Vet Center <https://www.va.gov/brockton-vet-center>
  - Cape Cod Vet Center <https://www.va.gov/cape-cod-vet-center>
  - Disabled American Veterans (DAV) <https://www.davma.org>
  - Heidrea for Heroes (Plymouth) <https://heidrea4heroes.org>
  - Leominster Veterans Center <https://www.leominster-ma.gov/235/Veterans-Center>
  - Lowell Vet Center <https://www.va.gov/lowell-vet-center>
  - Massachusetts Military Support Foundation (Sandwich & Springfield) <https://mmsfi.org>
  - Nathan Hale Veteran Outreach Centers (Plymouth & Middleboro) & Three Harts Farm Veterans Growing Opportunities <https://www.thenathanhaleveteransoutreachcenter.com>
  - New Bedford Vet Center <https://www.va.gov/new-beford-vet-center>
  - New England Center & Home for Veterans (Boston) <https://www.nechv.org>
  - New England Paralyzed Veterans of America (W. Roxbury) <https://www.pvanewengland.org>
  - Project New Hope Inc. (Worcester & Westfield) <https://www.projectnewhopema.org>



- Springfield, MA Vet Center  
<https://www.va.gov/springfield-ma-vet-center>
- Veterans, Inc. (Worcester)  
<https://www.veteransinc.org>
- Veterans Transition House (New Bedford)  
<https://www.vetshouse.org>
- Worcester Vet Center  
<https://www.va.gov/worcester-vet-center>

### Quilts of Valor

- **Presentation at State Session:** Veterans, both Grange members and non-members, are awarded quilts on Friday.
  - Nominate a veteran to receive this honor by submitting his/her name and branch of service to Janet Segur (jsegur55@gmail.com or 508-886-2341)
  - Quilters willing to share their talents by making a quilt, review the QoV Foundation guidelines from its website <https://www.qovf.org/make-a-qov/> and notify Janet.
- **Presentations by Subordinate and Pomona Granges:** You are encouraged to conduct your own Quilts of Valor presentations on the local level. Grange members who would not be able to attend State Session and non-members from your community would be honored to be recognized.
  - If there are no quilters in your Grange, the Quilt of Valor state coordinator for Massachusetts, Theresa Perreault, will supply quilts, given plenty of notice. If you would like assistance in organizing a presentation, contact Janet or Theresa [theresa.perreault@QOVF.org](mailto:theresa.perreault@QOVF.org) (508) 864-3944. This venture requires quite a bit of planning, but the results are well worth the effort.
  - Contact Theresa or Janet to obtain an official QoV certificate for the recipient which includes his/her name and branch of service. The recipient's name will be recorded with the National QoV Foundation.
  - The National Grange has a partnership with the QoV Foundation. For additional resources, visit <https://www.nationalgrange.org/quilts-of-valor-foundation-partnership>

### Ongoing Projects

- Compile a list of veterans within our membership. Names of veterans and active-duty military, along with the service branch in which they served will be helpful in our committee's quest to honor them. Please send a list via email to the Director (jsegur55@gmail.com) or mail to 26 Glenwood Pl., Rutland, MA 01543. Thank you to those Granges who have already submitted names. Updates are always appreciated.
- Seek out a veteran program/project with an agricultural connection. We continue to explore possibilities in search of an organization to support. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

# Youth Committee



## Youth Activities

### Public Speaking Contest

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 in 2024 following National Grange:

Youth: 14 – 20 years of age

Young adult: 21-30 years of age

Adults: 31+ years of age

In 2025, in line with National Grange contests, the age ranges will be:

Youth: 14-20 years of age

Young Adult: 21-25

Adults: 26+

The three categories:

- Prepared Speech:
  - 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.
  - 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 Director.
  - No props or costumes.



- 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.
  - Participants will draw two topics, select their choice of the two and return the other one.
  - Competition will be held at the State level.
  - Your response must be at least 1 minute long but less than 5 minutes.
  - 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.
- Grange Commercial: A Grange commercial is an advertisement promoting the Grange.
  - Participant(s) must film and edit themselves doing a commercial for the Grange.
  - There can be up to five people in the commercial and the commercial should last between 30 - 60 seconds.
  - The participants must include a written script.

Award: State winners receive cash prizes. Top winner will have an opportunity to give their speech at National Grange. Deadline: Those members wishing to participate must inform the State Youth Director of their intention to participate in the contest at least two weeks prior to the State Contest.

### **State Sign-A-Song Contest**

The Sign-A-Song Contest promotes the use of non-verbal skills of communication. This contest will be held in conjunction with the Public Speaking Contest.

- Novice—one who is beginning to learn sign language, has had no more than three sign language classes and has entered the Sign-A-Song Contest no more than two years.
- Hobbyist – one who signs on an occasional basis and strictly for fun. One who has entered the Sign-A- Song Contest more than two years.
- Group – two or more people signing.
- Expert – one who signs professionally. Ineligible for Best of Show, but looking for opportunity to encourage others to participate.

Rules:

- Open to any Subordinate Grange member, who has been a member for at least one year (There is a separate contest for Juniors).
- The Participants must provide three copies of the words to their song two weeks prior to the contest.
- Participants must furnish their own music.
- Anyone who is a professional instructor, or receives money for signing, may only enter in the expert category.
- Signers use total communication techniques: Sign language, facial expressions, mouthing words for lip reading, finger spelling if appropriate, and body movement.
- Participants must be Grange members.
- Props and costumes are permitted, rhythm is optional.
- Only one song may be signed during the competition performance.
- Participants must sign their own name and song title.

- Participants must inform the audience and judges what type of sign language they will be using. (Pidgen, ASL, ESL, etc.)
- State winners must agree to represent the state at the Regional Competition.

Awards: State winners receive a cash award. Pre-Registration: Those members wishing to participate must let the State Youth Directors know of their intention at least two weeks prior to the Contest.

## **Bowling Contest**

The Bowling Contest will be held in the Spring.

### Rules

- Each team must have five players
  - Junior - Junior players must not be over 14 years of age on the day of the competition. Junior Granges that are large enough will be allowed to enter two teams. Awards: Each Junior player will receive a medal for participation.
  - Subordinate: Players must consist of at least one (1) male and one (1) female. Each team must be composed of Subordinate Grange members belonging to not more than two (2) Subordinate Granges in one Pomona Area. Teams should have a designated captain. Note: There will be no age limitations on the team members; youth members are all encouraged to participate but are not necessary for the formation of a team. Awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, high single male & female and high triple male & female trophies will be awarded.
  - Pomona: Players must consist of at least one male and one female. Each player must be a member of that Pomona Grange. Team should have a designated captain. Awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, high single male & female and high triple male & female trophies will be awarded.
- Each player can only bowl for one team. Affiliate members may bowl with an affiliate Grange team.
- One (1) male and one (1) female spare will be allowed for each team. If a member is unable to finish the contest, the spare is then able to bowl the next string and MUST finish the contest.
- Matches begin promptly at the designated time. Any player arriving after the sixth box must wait until the next string to bowl. A regular may not replace a spare after the string has started.
- If a team member is absent, and no spare is available, the absentee will be the equivalent of the lowest score on the opposing team.
- Each Pomona and Subordinate team should have a score keeper. The score keeper does not have to be Grange member. Each Junior team must have an adult score keeper. The score keeper and team captain must report for instruction at the previously announced time.
- The match is decided by the total pin fall of three (3) strings. Junior teams will only bowl two (2) strings.
- PBA rules will be observed. Pick up a rulebook where you bowl if you have any specific questions.



**Deadline:**

- Teams must register with the State Youth Director (deadline date will be determined and sent to all Granges once contest date is set). Those teams that do not register before the tournament date will have an additional \$20 fee upon registration (if there are enough lanes available to accommodate them). Send the name of the captain and team members to the State Youth Director.

**Cost:**

- The cost will be included in the communication to all Granges once the committee confirms this with the Bowling Alley. Please make checks payable to the Massachusetts State Grange and send to the Youth Directors by the registration deadline or bring exact cash the day of the tournament.

**Bowl Across the Commonwealth**

- The State Youth Committee will work each year to coordinate a statewide event to raise money for a worthy cause. The Bowl Across the Commonwealth program is designed to provide Granges with a way to involve members in raising money through a bowling tournament. If your Subordinate or Pomona Grange is planning on participating in the bowling tournament, you might think about participating in this program. The object is to collect pledges for each string bowled, with all pledges going to a worthy cause. Pledge sheets can be obtained from any Youth Committee member, or State Youth Directors and will be included in the communication to all Granges. Granges not sending a bowling team may still make a donation by sending a check to the State Secretary earmarked "Bowling."

**Youth/Young Adult Ambassadors & National Grange Leadership Team**

The purpose of the Massachusetts Youth Ambassadors is to provide an opportunity for Youth – selected to represent their State at National Grange Convention – to build their individual leadership potential, to broaden their view of the Grange by experiencing a National Convention. To receive educational training to use in Massachusetts, and to build relationships with Grangers throughout the nation by having fun.

Each state may send up to four (4) representatives from their states that meet the following criteria:

**Eligibility and Requirements:**

- Youth and Young Adult Ambassadors must be 16 and 25 years of age, having observed their 16th birthday, but not their 26th birthday by December 31st of the year they attend the National Convention. If under the age of 18 they must have their parent's consent to participate.
- Ambassadors must have been a Grange member in good standing for a minimum of one (1) year at the time they attend National Convention.
- Ambassadors may only run for National Grange Leadership Team once as a youth participant and once as a young adult participant.

- An interview will be conducted to determine Ambassador/ Young Patron/ Young Couple title potential coordinated by the State Youth Director. Candidates need to contact the State Youth Directors for interview date.
- A written test will be given covering Grange knowledge. Sample tests are available from the State Youth Director for studying. This test will be distributed the same day as the interview and will be a closed book test.
- Applications are available from any Youth Committee member, or the State Youth Director.
- A letter of recommendation from the Subordinate or Community Grange must accompany the application, preferably from the President or Secretary.
- Winners will be expected to represent Massachusetts at the Northeast Regional Youth Conference, attend especially the youth activities and involvement during the Annual Session of the Massachusetts State Grange (October) and the National Convention (November) following the end of their term as Ambassador/ Young Patron/ Young Couple. These title holders will also be members of the Youth Committee during their term.
- The Youth Director and Committee will help the winners complete their applications for the National Grange Leadership Team.

**Award:**

Winners will receive a sash to wear for their term (to be returned at the end of their term). State Ambassadors will receive travel expenses paid to the National Grange Convention, where they will represent the Massachusetts State Grange. Winners will receive a monetary cash award as well.

**Deadline:**

Applications must be turned in to the State Youth Directors by October 1st.

**Outstanding Young Adult**

This award is presented to an individual who is actively involved with Grange, on a Subordinate, Pomona, or State level. An individual, a Subordinate Grange, or a Pomona Grange can make nominations.

- Members must be between 14 to 35 years of age when nominated.
- Grange membership requirement – one year minimum prior to nomination.
- This entry must be made by nomination.
- The following information must be provided with a nomination.
  - Name of nominee, address, Subordinate Grange, Pomona Grange, and degrees held.
  - List offices and committees served on.
- Describe three major Grange activities and accomplishments.
- List school, church and community organizations.
- List Grange contests or awards won.
- There will be one winner selected and announced at the State Grange Session.

**Award:**

Winners will receive a sash to wear for their term (to be returned at the end of their term).



Deadline: October 1st to the State Youth Director.

### **Outstanding Granger**

This award is presented to an individual who is actively involved with Grange on a Subordinate, Pomona or State level. The nominee must be over the age of 35. An individual, Subordinate or Pomona Grange can make nominations.

Eligibility:

- Members must be over the age of 35.
- Grange membership requirement - two year minimum prior to the closing date of the contest.
- This entry must be made by nomination.
- The following information must be provided with nomination:
  - Name of nominee, address, Subordinate Grange, Pomona Grange and degrees held
  - List offices and committees served on
  - Describe three major Grange activities and accomplishments
  - List church and community organizations
  - List Grange contests or awards won
- There will be one winner selected and announced at the State Grange Session.

Award: Winners will receive a sash to wear for their term (to be returned at the end of their term).

Deadline: October 1st to the State Youth Director.

### **Grange Couple**

This award is presented to a couple who is actively involved with Grange on a Subordinate, Pomona or State level and who are over the age of 35. This couple's contribution to Grange should be outstanding and worthy of State recognition. An individual, Subordinate or Pomona Grange can make nominations.

Eligibility:

- Grange membership requirements - two year minimum prior to the closing date of the contest year.
- Contest year will cover the period from September 1st of the past year to September 1st of the present year.
- This entry must be made by nomination.
- The following information must be provided with the nomination:
  - Name of nominees, address, Subordinate Grange, Pomona Grange and degrees held
  - List offices and committees served on
  - Describe three major Grange activities and accomplishments
  - List home, school, church and community organizations
  - List Grange contests or awards won.
- There will be one winner selected and announced at the State Grange Session.

Award:

Winners will be announced at State Session and presented with sashes to wear for their term (to be returned at the end of their term).

Deadline: October 1st to the State Youth Director.

### **Most Creative Youth Night Program**

The purpose of this contest is to promote creativity and spark enthusiasm of the youth, as well as encourage all Granges to have Youth Nights. The program should be educational, interesting and involve the members.

- Category 1: Any Subordinate and/or Pomona Grange Youth Chairman, Youth Committee members or Grange member who created the Youth Night Program (ages 14 to 35).
- Category 2: Any Subordinate and/or Pomona Grange "Youth at Heart" - Youth Chairman, Youth Committee members or Grange member who created the Youth Night Program (Age 36 and up).

All entries will be judged on:

1. Creativity - 25 points
2. Educational Value - 20 points
3. Neatness of report - 5 points

Winners will receive a prize.

The Youth night Program should be submitted in a folder. The Grange name and number and the names of the members who prepared the program shall be on the outside of the cover. The folder should contain a list of all the youth in attendance. The folder can also contain any pictures, descriptions and materials used for the program. All entries are due to the State Youth Directors by September 1st.

### **Massachusetts State Grange Mentor Program**

The purpose of this program is to encourage an adult member of the Grange to mentor a Youth member by:

- Encouraging attendance at regular meetings
- Accompanying them to visit neighboring Granges
- Answering questions, they may have about Grange
- Encourage participation in Grange meetings,
- such as helping with programs or taking an office
- Encouraging socialization with all Grange members
- Encouraging participation in Youth and State activities



Nomination: Can be made by any Grange member by submitting a letter detailing the person's relationship with the youth member and how they have achieved the above goals. The contest year will be from October 1st through September 30th. Nominations are due to the Youth Directors by October 10th.

Recognition: Plaque and \$100 cash prize to be awarded at State Session.

### **National Grange Youth Programs**

National Grange has developed many new programs which are listed below. If you are interested in any of these, contact the Youth Directors or go to the National Grange website [www.nationalgrangeyouth.org](http://www.nationalgrangeyouth.org).

- Grange Youth Pillars
- Youth Advocacy Project
- State Legislative Experience
- Grassroots Activism Scholarship
- John Trimble Legislative Experience
- National Grange Youth Officer Team
- National Grange Youth Officer Team T-Shirt Design Contest
- Youth and Young Adult Ambassador Program
- G.R.O.W. Club
- Wib & June Justi Community Service Award
- Junior Mentor Award
- Grange Baseball
- National Public Speaking Contest
- National Sign A Song Contest
- Parliamentary Procedure Contest

Note: Programs and policies in this handbook may change at any time. Changes will be announced in the State Grange News and updates to this book can be found on the State Grange website, [www.massgrange.org](http://www.massgrange.org). Please contact the Committee Directors with any questions.

**MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE NEWS**

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