

Massachusetts State Grange PROGRAM HANDBOOK

A Guide to 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Programs



Sponsored by the Massachusetts State Grange
WWW.MASSGRANGE.ORG

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AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

PROGRAM OUTLINE

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. 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

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.

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. Poster Contest

- This contest is open to all Grangers.
- Juniors - 3 youth categories- 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, years of age on or before September 1 of each year. Poster size 12"x18." Any medium may be used: colored pencil, markers, paint, paint markers, etc. Three prizes to be awarded in each age group.
- Adults - 1 adult category to include ages 14 and up. Poster size 20"x30." Any medium may be used as listed above. There will be 3 prizes awarded for this category.
- **Poster Theme 2022** – 150 Years of Grange, Farms, and Agriculture
- **Poster Theme 2023** – Massachusetts Endangered Species
- Each entry must have the entrant's name, age (Junior entrants' only), and Grange listed on the back of the poster.
- **Prizes for each age group-** 1st-\$40, 2nd-\$20, 3rd-\$10
- A Best of Show will be awarded for Juniors and Adults. The poster in each group will be copied and used for promotional materials for the upcoming calendar year. A consent form will need to be signed for release of the poster.
- Deadline for entries is September 15th

C. Plant Growing Contest (in conjunction with the Junior badge).

- All Juniors ages 5- 14 are eligible to compete. Group A ages 5-7, Group B ages 8-11 and Group C ages 12-14. Prizes will be awarded in each group.
- Seeds will be provided by the State Agriculture and Environment Committee. The seeds will all be in the same variety. Directions on growing a plant will be provided with the seeds.
- Each grower will keep a journal of their planting, weekly notes on the plants' growth, notes on pollinators that frequent their plants, and any pests that attack the vines and/or fruit.
- Juniors may submit one fruit for this competition. Juniors are encouraged to submit a photo of themselves with their harvested fruit.
- A "best-looking fruit" should have a somewhat symmetrical shape, very few blemishes, and no soft spots.
- Stems should be cut rather than broken, and at least 3" to 6" in length.
- For 2023- Five potatoes should be presented for judging
- Fruits and vegetables to be judged at State Session.
- **2022-** Pumpkins
- **2023-** Potatoes
- **Prizes for each age group-** 1st-\$40, 2nd-\$20, 3rd-\$10
- Deadline for journal entries is September 15th
- Deadline for fruits and vegetables to be presented is the first day of State Session

D. 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

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

MASSACHUSETTS FFA ASSOCIATION

135 Center Street Dighton, MA 02715
508.737.8110

ACTIVE CHAPTERS



Bristol County Agricultural High School

135 Center Street
Dighton, MA 02715
Phone: (508) 669-6744
www.bcahs.com

Cape Cod Regional Technical High School

351 Pleasant Lake Ave
Harwich, MA 02645
Phone: (508) 432-4500
www.capetech.us

Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School

565 Maple Street
Danvers, MA 01923
Phone: (978) 304-4700
www.essexnorthshore.org

Franklin County Technical High School

82 Industrial Boulevard
Turners Falls, MA 01376 Phone: (413) 863-9561
www.fcts.org

Greater Lawrence Technical High School

57 River Road
Andover, MA 01810
(978) 686-0194
www.glts.net

Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School

750 Winter Street
Framingham, MA 01701
Phone: (508) 416-2100
www.keefetech.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

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 e-mail address is: 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

The Information Committee is a vehicle to facilitate communication. 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. Granges who have questions about setting up their own websites can also contact the webmaster at the above address.

Website Links

The State Grange Website will have links to various other sites. These links may include websites of other Granges on the Subordinate, Pomona, State or National level; entities which the Grange has established a relationship, such as benefit providers, allied organizations; and established organizations traditionally recognized as promoting similar goals. Should you wish to have a link on the website, please email the Webmaster. The Webmaster and other members of the Grange Information Committee do not have any control over the content of those linked websites. The Webmaster will continually review these linked sites for content and if deemed inappropriate will remove them from the website.

Guidelines for Submitting Items to State Grange News and Website

Items may be sent by e-mail for inclusion in the State Grange News and on the Grange website. Articles should be typed using Microsoft Word without any special formatting. Pictures should be saved in a JPEG (.jpg) file format. These items should be attached to an e-mail with “Grange Article” or similar wording as the subject.

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 Networking

The Communication Committee is responsible for spreading the word of Grange events and other relevant information through social media outlets such as Facebook. 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.

Facebook

Facebook is a social media network that allows people to connect with friends and share news, pictures and videos with one another. It also allows users to follow updates and information from their favorite TV shows, celebrities, social causes, politicians, and many more. Facebook users can also play games with their online friends as another way of interacting with each other.

Members and others who wish to follow our Facebook updates should search for the “Massachusetts State Grange” page and click “like”. This will add our posts to your Facebook News Feed. If you’re not currently on Facebook and would like information about how to join, go to www.facebook.com for more information, or contact a member of the Communication Committee and we can help get you started.

We also strongly encourage individual Granges to create their own Facebook page to share information with your members and others in your community. Grange’s Facebook 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, and contact a member of the Communication Committee if you have questions about this information.

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.

Applications for Scholarships and Loans are available from the Secretary of the Board or on the State Grange Website.

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.

Detailed information on rules and policies of the Educational Aid Fund can be found by clicking on the “Educational Aid Policy Document” on the State Grange Website.

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.

HOME & COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

BAKING CONTEST RULES AND INFORMATION

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 # _____

- This contest is open to both Grange members and non-members.
- 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.
- Each entry must have an Official Entry Form and Identification Label attached to the bottom.
- 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 2022

ADULT CATEGORIES:

1. Pumpkin-based Dessert
2. (10) Pieces of Homemade Candy

JUNIORS CATEGORY:

1. (7) Turkey Cookies

BAKE-OFF 2023

ADULT CATEGORIES:

1. Two Crust Pie
2. (7) Brownies

JUNIORS CATEGORY:

1. (7) Decorated Cupcakes

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.
- 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 name 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.
- The top three entries will be kept to display at State Grange Session 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 National Grange for display at National Convention. This entry will not be returned until after 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)

ENTRY CLASS:

- A. ***Afghan (excluding Baby Afghans):** May be made using any yarn product (or product suitable to entry). It can be any pattern and it may be knitted, crocheted, woven, etc. (Min. size 48"x78"; Max. size 52"x84")
- B. ***Doilies:** May be knitted, crocheted or tatted. May use any thread suitable to article. May be any pattern or design (Max. size 14"x14").
- C. ***Embroidery:** Any embroidered item except Counted Cross Stitch. Any embroidery thread may be used. Pillowcases must be submitted as a pair. Pictures may be in frames, but the back of the work must be visible and **NO GLASS**.

- D. ***3-Piece Baby Set:** Set may consist of bonnet, jacket, booties, mittens etc.; **THREE** pieces for the same child. May be knitted or crocheted using any suitable pattern & product.
- E. ***Plastic Canvas:** Any item made with any pattern using yarn or thread.
- F. ***Counted Cross Stitch:** Any item using any thread product. NOTE: The back of work **MUST** be seen on all embroidered pieces. Pictures may be on stretcher strips or may be framed and/or matted, but **NO GLASS**.
- G. ***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, belts, etc., are considered accessories.**
- H. ***Latch Hook:** Any item made with any pattern, using any yarn. Maximum size 18” x 18”. Project must be finished (including back). If project is to be hung, it must have a sleeve on the back for hanging.
- I. ***Quilted Wall Hanging:** Piece may be hand or machine quilted, no bigger than 18”x18” and any product may be used for filler. If it is to be hung, add a sleeve on the back. Max. hanging width 24”.
- J. ***Stuffed Toy – must be safe for child under 3:** Toy may be knitted, crocheted, stitched, etc. May be stuffed with any product (i.e. fiber-fills). Toys should be child safe.
- K. ***Baby Afghan:** May be knitted crocheted, woven, etc. and must appear suitable for a baby – choice of color, selection of yarn product, etc.
- L. ***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 – jacket, dress, skirt, slacks, shirt, cape, poncho or vest.
- M. **Misc., Others:** Any other needlework not included in above categories.

STATE CRAFT CONTEST:

Official Entry Form and Identification Label State Craft Contest

Group (with birth date for Juniors) _____

Category _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Grange Member _____ Non-member _____

Entered through _____ Grange # _____

(ATTACH TO BOTTOM OR BACK WITH TAPE OR PIN)

CRAFT CONTEST 2022:

ADULT CATEGORIES:

1. Pair of Potholders
2. Thanksgiving Centerpiece

JUNIORS CATEGORY:

1. Pine Cone Craft

CRAFT CONTEST 2023:

ADULT CATEGORIES:

1. Decorated T-shirt with Agricultural theme
2. Doorstop in any medium

JUNIORS CATEGORY:

1. Garden Sign – any material that can handle the weather. Such as wood, rock, plastic, etc.

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 2021-2023 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-Grangers 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 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.
- *A Case for Smiles: Make pillowcases out of soft, bright cotton or flannel fabric (for directions visit www.conkerrcancer.org/pillowdirections.html) and donate to A Case for Smiles drop-off location or mail to a coordinator (for locations in MA visit www.conkerrcancer.org/regionaldirectory.html).
- *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 Albert J. Thomas Library & Museum in Rutland.
- Educational Aid Fund: Donate money to support the Massachusetts State Grange's scholarship fund.

JUNIOR GRANGE ACTIVITIES

The Junior Grange Projects are open to any Junior Grange member. Leaders can plan to do projects at your meetings or the Juniors can do them individually. Each project must be labeled with the child's name, birth date, and Junior Grange name & number. **Junior Grange projects are due to the State Director by September 15th** (this is a firm deadline except for the **Big E project which is due August 15th**). Remember that the other departments also have projects that can be done. Age groups for judging are: 5-7, 8-10 and 11-14 as of January 1st of the current year. It is important that each project be labeled with a separate label (or marked on the back of each entry).

2022 Junior Projects

Animal project:

Using any medium, make an animal. Include a description of what the animal is and why you chose that animal to make! Size not to exceed 6" X 6" X 6"

Garden scene:

Using a half sheet of printer paper, create a scene incorporating items you would find in a garden. *Don't forget to fill the page!

Using Nature:

Using nature, create a landscape. Design and create a landscape using items from nature. Landscapes not to exceed 8" X 8" X 8"

Recycled Project: Disposable Cup

Create something different using a disposable cup.

Big "E" Project: To Be Announced**2023 Junior Projects****Picture Frame:**

Create a picture frame using any medium. Include your favorite picture! Size not to exceed 8" X 8" X 8"

Family Portrait:

Using a half sheet of printer paper, create a family portrait! You can use any medium to create the scene, the family should be the main focus. Be creative and don't forget to fill your page!

Holiday Decoration:

Make a 3 dimensional decoration to celebrate a holiday of your choice. Size not to exceed 6" X 6" X 6"

Recycled Project: Toilet paper or paper towel tube

Create something using tubes. Decorate with any medium. 4" X 4" X 4"

Big "E" Project: To Be Announced

Keep your eye on the State Grange News for information.

Agriculture Education-Awareness project

To coincide with the State Grange focus of Agriculture Education, each Junior Grange is encouraged to incorporate agriculture into their Junior Grange's program each year. The following are contests that each Junior Grange could enter to compete against other Junior Granges and used as an agricultural learning tool. They will be judged at the state level and fulfill the requirements for the Agriculture Education Award for that Junior Grange. 1st Place- \$50

2022: Ecosystems

1. **RESEARCH:** Define what an ECOSYSTEM is. Research the different types of ecosystems. Read a book or two about ecosystems. (This is a great time to check out resources from your local library.)
2. **RESEARCH:** What careers could you have if you studied ECOLOGY? If you can find someone in your community who works in this field and interview them.
3. **RESEARCH:** Learn about an ecosystem near where you live. Find out about the animals, plants, water and more that are in your ecosystem. What makes it unique?
4. **RESEARCH:** How have humans made an impact (positive or negative) on the ecosystem?
5. **SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW:** Create a poster to inform people how they can help better our ecosystem.
6. **STEM** – Create a pop (soda) bottle ecosystem-There are many different versions of this online- but for most of them you will need: clear 2-3 liter soda bottle, a small plant *annual/house plants work best, 2-3 small fish, aquarium rocks, string, paper coffee filters, and water. Manage your

newly created ecosystem for as long as you can and take notes on what you see happening over a period of one (1) month.

7. **SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW:** draw and label a diagram of the ecosystem you built and explain how the parts of the ecosystem work.
8. **SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW:** Write a paragraph explaining how you had to care for the ecosystem you built versus how people have to care for the ecosystems around them. In this paragraph list 5 ways we can better care for our ecosystem.
9. **TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:** Complete the ECOSYSTEM PASSPORT
10. **SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW:** Take all of the things you learned about ECOSYSTEMS and make a plan on how you are going to inform your Grange/Community to better care for the ecosystems around them.

Submit the following information:

- Title of the book you read
- Pictures of the Ecosystem you built
- Copy of your diagram
- Copy of your poster
- Copy of your paragraph
- Copy of the completed passport
- Pictures of your efforts to bring awareness! (Talking to neighbors, at your Grange meeting, hanging flyers, etc...)

2023: To Be Announced at Family meeting in 2022.

2022-2023 Junior Contests

State Junior Public Speaking Contest

Open to Junior Grange Members ages 5 – 14 years of age

Categories:

Impromptu – The contestant will draw 2 topics from a mystery bag and select one of those topics to give their speech on. Length: Minimum of 1 minute and no more than 3 minutes.

Short Story – The contestant may present a short story or poem of their choosing. Length: Minimum of 1 minute and no more than 3 minutes for their story.

Prepared Speech – Deliver a speech using the National Junior Grange theme for the year or any topic of their choice. Length: Minimum 3 minutes and maximum 7 minutes.

One first place state winner from each category may represent their state at the National Convention.

State Junior “Sign-A-Song” Contest

Open to Junior Grange Members ages 5 – 14 years of age

Categories: **Novice**, **Hobbyist** (has competed twice before), and **Group** (2 or more people signing)

One first place state winner from each category may represent their state at the National Convention.

National Grange Junior Department also has other projects/contests. Information can be found under the Junior Section of the National Grange website at:

<https://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org/>

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.

Leadership, Agriculture Education and Community Service Certificates

These certificates will be awarded to the each Junior Grange at State Session based upon the information provided in their annual reports. The State Annual Reports are due to the State Directors by September 15th.

Any Grange that is interested in sponsoring a Junior Grange in your area, contact the Junior Director for information.

If interested in seeing what is happening with Junior Grangers throughout the state, please join the Massachusetts Junior Grange Leader's Facebook Page!

Massachusetts State Junior Pin Program: The Massachusetts State Grange has given the approval to create our own statewide pin program! There are currently 12 pins available for Juniors to earn! Each month, a different pin will be showcased on the Massachusetts Junior Grange Leaders page on Facebook! Any suggestions for new pins should be sent to the State Junior Grange Director. A description of the pins and order forms are available on the Leaders facebook page.

+1 Junior Grange Program Guidelines for 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:

- a) **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.
- b) Full membership to the Junior Program is attained by the candidate upon conferral of the Junior Grange Obligation Ceremony or Junior Degree.
- c) 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) and/or Junior activities at State Session 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 at 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, 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.

LECTURER’S PROGRAM

Kristin Paulson, *State Lecturer*

67 Ridge Rd. Upton, MA 01568 ~ 508-282-0769 ~ lecturer@massgrange.org

Dates To Keep in Mind:

(Please note some dates may change. Dates and details will be confirmed in the State Grange News)

January 10, 2022 Lecturer’s Quarterly Report due

March 29, 2022 Grange Showcase Extravaganza - at Boylston Town House ~ 599 Main St, Boylston, MA – 1:30 p.m.

April 10, 2022 Lecturer’s Quarterly Report due

July 10, 2022 Lecturer’s Quarterly Report due

September 15, 2022 Documentation for Grange Hero Award due to State Lecturer

September 15, 2022 Grange Visitation Forms due to State Lecturer

September 15, 2022 Photography, Art, and Creative Writing entries and Annual Reports

October 10, 2022 Lecturer’s Quarterly Report due

January 10, 2023 Lecturer’s Quarterly Report due

Springtime, 2023 Grange Showcase Extravaganza – date, place, time TBD

April 10, 2023 Lecturer’s Quarterly Report due

September 15, 2023 Documentation for Grange Hero due to State Lecturer

September 15, 2023 Grange Visitation Forms due to State Lecturer

September 15, 2023 Photography, Art, and Creative Writing entries and Annual Reports due

October 10, 2023 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 PRIME will help you to remember the elements of a good program: Participation, Recreation, Inspiration, Music, and Education. One program does not have to contain all five 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 people to share talents and expertise on various topics. Attentive and involved members will continue to return for more.

I encourage Lecturers to work with their Grange Designated Reporter or Grange Publicity Chairman who would contact the State Grange Communications Committee at: stategrangenews@massgrange.org. Inform the State Grange about your Grange meetings & events by the 20th of the prior month, so that your event could appear in *The State Grange News* and on the Mass. State Grange website calendar. (If no one can help you, this “Publicizing Duty” will be your responsibility.)

Lecturers or other designated persons should 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. Grant information and applications can be found at: <http://massgrange.org/agricultural-education.html>.
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/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.agreenenergyllc.com/> (MA farms with methane digesters)
- <http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-massachusetts> (Environmental Protection Agency)
- <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/boards-commissions/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.mass.gov/portal/health-safety/> (environmental and health concerns)
<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)
<http://www.doe.gov> (Department of Energy)
<http://www.masshort.org/> (Massachusetts Horticultural Society)
<http://www.mava.us/Directory/AgriculturalVocationalSchools.aspx> (List of agricultural schools in MA)

- 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:
 - Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources Phone: 617-626-1700
 251 Causeway St., Suite 500, 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: 413-577-0788 / 800-374-4446
 Slobody Bldg., Suite A4, 101 University Drive, Amherst, MA 01002
 - Soil and Plant Tissue Testing Laboratory Phone: 413-545-2311
 West Experiment Station, Univ. of MA, 682 Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01003
 - Nutrition Education Program Project Office Phone: 413-538-9053
 7 Hadley Street, South Hadley, MA 01075
 - 4-H Program Office Phone: 413-448-8285
 78 Center Street, Suite 206, Pittsfield, MA 01201
 - Nutrition Education Program Phone: 413-737-0236
 c/o MCDI, 140 Wilbraham Avenue, Springfield, MA 01109
 - Central Area
 - UMass Extension Central Region Office Phone: 508-831-1223
 237 Chandler Street, Worcester, MA 01609
 - 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 Phone: 508-668-9793
400 Main Street, Walpole, MA 02081 Phone: 781-769-8355
 - 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
- Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom Phone: 508-443-1703
249 Lakeside Avenue, Marlborough, MA 01752 info@aginclassroom.org
- 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
- Partner with other community organizations to sponsor a project/event

4- H Clubs/FFA	Woman's Club
Garden Club	Conservation Commission
Agricultural 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 <http://www.centralmassgrown.org/>
 - Western area <http://www.farmfresh.org/food/farms.php?zip=01370>
 - Western area <http://www.ourfamilyfarms.com/about-us.html>
 - Southeastern area <http://www.farmfresh.org/food/farms.php?zip=02571>
 - Northeastern area <https://northeastharvest.com/>

STATE PROGRAMS FOR 2022

1. Agriculture Education

Increase the awareness and knowledge of agriculture and related fields for your members and the community as suggested above. Guidelines and suggestions for a program on pollinators and on backyard gardening are available from the State Lecturer.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Healthy Living/Keeping our Health & Homes in good order

Provide programs on such topics as good nutrition, exercise, safety in our homes, fire safety, and other topics from the local board of Health or local police & fire departments. Have someone from those departments come & speak to the Grange.

5. Grange Activities and Traditions

Provide activities/events where members can share Grange traditions with members of the neighboring Granges and your own community. Suggestions include: annual field day, public suppers, square dances, card parties, bingo/game night, fairs, Big E team, etc. Perhaps your Grange family can begin a new tradition.

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4. Support Local Food Banks or Department of Children & Families (DCF)

Provide a program on Hunger or the need for Foster Parents. Hold a fundraiser to support these charities, hold Food or Toy Drives, have a speaker from their organization come & talk & receive your donations.

5. Grange History

Have a Grange history night, showcasing your local Grange history. Have an anniversary party (possibly during April Grange Month) and invite your state and local representatives to your celebration.

NATIONAL GRANGE LECTURER'S PROGRAM

Learn about National Grange Programs and Contests at: <https://www.nationalgrange.org/lecturers-programming/>
Get Contest Forms here: <https://www.nationalgrange.org/contests-programs-forms/> Here is a good contest that even small Granges can enter: <https://www.nationalgrange.org/grange-in-action/> The Grange In Action program is designed to encourage all Granges to be active in their communities and complete events or projects. Any Grange that does not complete the application for Distinguished Grange can participate in this program. Check out the National Grange newsletter called The Patrons Chain at: <https://www.nationalgrange.org/news/weekly-e-newsletter/>

Booster/Membership Night

The purpose of the Booster/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 nonmember, 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

(Please read carefully as some contest rules and categories have changed.)

There Are Four Age Divisions For All Contests:

Adults: 22 years & up

Youth: 14 to 21 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: 1] Vocal, 2] Instrumental, 3] Variety Act, and 4] Vocal / Instrumental Combo.

- 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. Taped accompaniment for vocal acts must be instrumental with only minor additional background voice. No taped accompaniment for instrumental acts.

- d. The act should be at least 2 minutes long, but no longer than 6 minutes. After allowing for a one minute Grace Period (at 7 minutes), two points per minute or portion thereof will be deducted from the total points or all performances going overtime.
- e. **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**
- f. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded.
- g. The act deemed to be the representative to the National Grange Evening of Excellence will also represent Massachusetts in the NE Regional Talent Showcase, if held.
- 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. Photography Contest – There are six categories in the Photography Contest: a) Agriculture, b) Animals, c) Flowers, d) Landscape, e) Patriot; and f) People.

The 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; however; the “Best of Show” entry which will be sent to National Grange for judging must have been taken by a Grange member.

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. Any photo editing must be noted on back of entry.
- h. Simple mat board or firm backing is required for all photographs. (**NO frames**)
- i. Size of entry, **including matting or backing**, must not be smaller than 5” x 5” or larger than 11” x 14”.
- j. **No labels, titles, or captions** should be on the front of each entry.
- k. 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:

____ Agriculture

____ Animals

____ Flowers

____ Landscape

____ Patriotic

____ People

How Photo was Edited _____

Division: _____ Adult _____ Junior 5-9 _____ Junior 10-14 (**Jr. Birthday as of Jan. 1st**)

[I give permission to use this Photo in any MA State & National Grange publications or Grange virtual media:___Yes / __No]

3. **Art Contest** –There will be four categories: 1) Animals, 2) Flowers, 3) Landscape and 4) People in the following mediums: a) Oils and Acrylics; b) Watercolors; c) Charcoal or Pencil Drawing, d) Pastels. Artists may enter any or all of the three categories using the same medium. Also, you may submit one entry for this category: 3-Dimensional Sculptures (such as, but not limited to, wood carving, papier-mâché, plaster, and metal).

The 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.

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, except a kit is allowed for the sun catcher.
- 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. Participants may only enter one photo per category.
- 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 of entry, including matting or backing, must not be smaller than 5” x 5” or larger than 11” x 14”. 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 for the 3-D sculpture category, 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

Category: ____ Animals ____ Flowers ____ Landscape

____ People ____ 3-D Sculpture

Division: _____ Adult _____ Junior 5-9 _____ Junior 10-14 (**Jr. Birthday as of Jan. 1st**)

[I give permission to use this Photo in any MA State & National Grange publications or Grange virtual media:___Yes / __No]

4. **Creative Writing Contest** (*entries due by September 15th of the Contest Year*)

All divisions are open to both Grange members and non-members who are sponsored by a Subordinate Grange. There are 4 Age Divisions: Adults: 22 yrs & up, Youth: 14 - 21 years, and Juniors: 10 to 14yrs or 5 to 9 yrs, as of January 1st of the contest year. Label the back of entry with the creator's name, Grange or sponsoring-Grange, Junior age category (if applicable).

Label the back of entry with creator's name, Grange or sponsoring-Grange, Junior age category (if applicable).

- a. **Poetry** - The Adult 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

2022 – Topic: “**Life in a Pandemic**”

2023 – Topic: “**The Joys in my Life**”

Juniors: The Junior poems have a minimum of 8 lines and a maximum of 12 lines in length.

2022 - “**Things that make me glad, sad and/or mad**”

2023 – “**My best friend**”

- b. **Essay** – The Adult 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.

2022 – Topic: “**Ups and Downs**”

2023 – Topic: “**I’m a Grange because...**”

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

2022 – Topic: “**My Favorite Book is _____ because**”

2023 – Topic: “**When I grow up, I want to _____**”

- c. **Create-a-Recipe** – Include a minimum of 8 ingredients and a minimum of 6 steps for preparation.

Criteria for judging: depiction of theme, creativity, organization

2022 – Topic: “**Building Friendships**”

2023 – Topic: “**Growing my Grange**”

For Juniors: Include a minimum of 5 ingredients and a minimum of 3 steps for preparation.

2022 – Topic: “**Learning a New Game or Sport**”

2023 – Topic: “**Being a Good Student**”

- d. **Create-a-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 cut and pasted with materials found in the home rather than commercially prepared)
- 2) Hand-stamped and/or decorated (with materials from craft stores)

Adult Subjects:

2022 a) Happy Holliday b) Happy Birthday

2023 a) Congratulations b) Veterans' Day

Junior Subjects:

2022 a) Happy Birthday b) Happy Thanksgiving

2023 a) Happy Valentine's Day b) Thank you

e. Complete Program

ANYONE may create a complete program on any topic. Criteria for judging: creativity, interesting theme-related material, varied components to engage the audience.

- 1) Must be your original work (gather information and put it in your own words)
- 2) Be mindful of copyrighted material (give credit appropriately when using a poem, quote, etc.)
- 3) Must be 20 – 35 minutes in length
- 4) Include all elements of PRIME (in any order)
 - **Participation** (involve your Grange and/or Junior Grange members in the program)
 - **Recreation** (games, jokes, activity, humorous skit, exercise, etc.)
 - **Inspiration** (uplifting poems, stories, speakers, quotations, etc.)
 - **Music** (can be sung, instrumental, recorded, etc.)
 - **Education** (factual or informative material, speakers, visual presentations, etc.)

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. Outstanding Grange Award

Subordinate & Pomona Granges that submit a one page report with pictures describing one of the following Programs: a) Agricultural Fair or Festival, b) Veteran of the Year Award, c) Citizen of the Year Award (or Public Service Award)

The following information must be included in your report with one or more picture(s) of the event.

Type of event: a) AG Fair or Festival _____ b) Veteran Award _____ c) Citizen or Public Service Award _____

Meeting Date & Place: _____

Award presented: _____ To whom: _____

Publicity: _____ Attendance: _____

Organizations invited: _____ Dignitaries present: _____

3. Visitation Prize (awarded to Granges) Use the Visitation Ticket Form.

4. Your Grange Annual Report will be judged. Ribbons and Prizes will be award.

Annual Reports summarizing the year must be postmarked by September 15th to be considered for judging. A packet of report forms for the year are given out at the MA State Session. If additional copies are needed,

contact the State Lecturer or download them from the State Grange website:
<https://www.massgrange.org/lecturer-s-corner>.

5. Grange Hero Award (presented to individual members)

Members become Grange Heroes by meeting the following criteria during the period of one year [from last September 1st until August 31 of the current year]. Use the Documentation Form* to show how you accomplished the criteria. All winners will be presented the Award at the current MA State Session. A member may receive the award more than once.

Criteria to qualify for the Grange Hero award:

Grange attendance: Attend at least 75% of your Subordinate Grange meetings (9 out of 12 meetings).
Virtual counts!

Recruit new member: Recruit at least one new member for your subordinate Grange. (Reinstating old member counts.)

Activities: Participate in 2 Grange-sponsored activities [Big-E Booth] & 2 MA State Grange-sponsored contests.

Networking: Cultivate Connections by inviting FFA, 4-H, Garden Club, Historical Society, or local organization to take part in one of your Grange meetings or events. [Or take part as Grange Representative in theirs.]

Grange Participation: Join a Junior Grange [or donate to MA Junior Grange] & visit 2 Granges (Not your own).

Education: Initiate or Participate in the “Word for Thirds” Dictionary project in your Grange **or** present an Agricultural Educational Program at your Grange meeting & invite the Public.

***The Grange Hero Award documentation form** to show how you accomplished each above item can be obtained from the State Lecturer or downloaded from the State Grange website:
<https://www.massgrange.org/lecturer-s-corner>.

Please note that some items require the signature of the Master or Lecturer, so plan ahead. Completed documentation forms must be submitted to the State Lecturer by September 15th.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

The legislative director of the Massachusetts State Grange is charged with the responsibility of coordinating the legislative affairs of the members of the Massachusetts State Grange in conjunction with the National Grange at the level of our federal government and the legislative affairs at both the State and local level.

Part of that responsibly is to ascertain the primary concerns of the Massachusetts Grange members and the concerns of our neighbors and fellow residents of our Commonwealth and our local communities. Of particular concern are issues that affect the quality of life for rural and suburban families and their communities and to act as a voice or a channel of communications for that voice with the elected and appointed members of our national, state and local governments.

The second part of that responsibility is to maintain a vigilant eye and ear to pending legislation that might be of special concern to Grange members, to encourage them to employ the Grange meetings as a forum for discussion and debate on these issues and help them formulate resolutions to be submitted to the State and National Granges. The programs of the Lecturers in each Grange can be very instrumental in achieving this purpose also, so it is highly recommended that a collaborative association between the subordinate Lecturer and the Legislative and Agriculture committee chairman be fostered.

The Legislative Director, together with the Agriculture and Environment Committee and the Home and Community Service Committee, and guided by the input of the delegates to the Massachusetts State Grange Session, has developed a similar Legislative Handbook specifically focused on the concerns of the Grange and our neighbors in Massachusetts.

In order to continue to edit and update it in the future, all members are encouraged to communicate to the State Legislative Director what you consider to be the most important social and political issues our community faces today and what legislation you think would be appropriate to address those issues.

The Legislative Department also offers a number of workshops that can be used by Lecturers. They include, Lessons on Civics, Resolution Writing, Working with Legislators and Public Officials, Connecting with Organizations in Your Grange, or on additional topics as requested by the Grange. Grange Lecturers interested in having the Legislative Director come to give one of these workshops should contact legislation@massgrange.org.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

2022-2023

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:

- ✓ **Membership Service.** Identifying the needs of members and recommending the development of services to meet those needs.
- ✓ **Increasing Membership.** Recommending means for increasing membership in Massachusetts Subordinate Granges.
- ✓ **Keeping Membership Informed.** Working closely with the Communications Committee and other committees to make prospective and current members aware of the resources, services, and membership benefits of the Grange.
- ✓ **Welcoming New Members.** Recommending ways to acknowledge new members and to encourage participation in Grange programs and activities.
- ✓ **Identifying Non-member Needs and Perceptions.** Gathering information on and analyzing non-members' needs and perceptions of the Grange. Recommending ways in which to meet these needs to attract non-members to join the Grange.

FOR ALL CONTESTS SPONSORED BY THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Each entry must be original and created between September 1 and August 31 of the contest year. Please include the following information with each entry:

Name: _____ (For group entries, include all names)
Complete Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____ Grange Name and Number: _____
Member _____ Non-member _____ Age if Youth (18 and under) _____ Adult _____

**** If photos are included in any submission for public view, such as a Grange Hall photo, a flier or news story, a photo release form for each person in photos must also be provided.**

Contest entries can be submitted electronically or by postal mail. Submit all entries by **September 15th** to: Roland Giguere at rolandgig@gmail.com or mail to Roland Giguere, MA

State Grange Membership Director, 40 Little Mohawk Road, Shelburne, MA 01370.

If you do not know how to send an electronic message to submit the contest entry or need additional assistance, please contact any of the members of the Membership Committee: Roland Giguere at (413) 475-0520, Tracee Perkins at (508) 259-7702 or Caroline LaCroix at (508) 947-1904.

Prizes will be awarded at the State Grange session.

➤ **GRANGE HALL PHOTO CONTEST (2022 and 2023)**

The Membership Committee would like to showcase all of our beautiful Grange halls across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Photo contest entries will be featured in a photo calendar created by the Membership Committee. Grange hall photos must be original and taken by the person submitting the entry. The photo should feature the exterior of the Grange hall only. The photo contest is open to Grange members and non-members. The photos will be judged in two age groups: under 18 years old and Adult. Photos must be taken between August 31st and September 1st, of the current year. ****Submit photo releases as required.**

➤ **PROMOTIONAL FLIER CONTEST (2022 and 2023)**

Create and submit a promotional flier for an existing Subordinate/Community Grange. This could be submitted by an individual or group and does not need to be for your own Grange. It could include text, photos, artwork, etc., and must include current information and a contact. Consider size and format for best presentation. It will be judged on its ability to attract the attention of non-members and to entice them to want to know more about, and be a part of, that Grange. **Submit five (5) physical copies by August 31. **Submit photo releases as required.**

➤ **GRANGE LOGO CONTEST (2022 and 2023)**

This is a new contest. The Membership Committee is conducting a logo contest for each program year. The logo will be featured on a number of promotional items. The logo should include a catchy phrase accompanied by artwork. This contest is open to all Grange members. Note that this logo is not intended to replace any existing Grange logos.

➤ **PLACEMAT CONTEST (2022 and 2023)**

This is a new contest. The Membership Committee is conducting a placemat design contest for each program year. Design a placemat on an 8 ½ X 11 sheet of paper. The design can include, but is not limited to, the use of the seven sided Grange symbol, narrative, photos, artwork or anything else the artist deems suitable. The design should be legible and it could be customized to showcase your Community Grange or designed for use by any Community Grange. The contest is open to all Grange members. The winner will receive a limited quantity of paper placemats printed with their winning entry. It is the desire of the Membership Committee that these placemat designs could be used by any Community or Regional Grange who might be interested in producing placemats for use at a Grange function such as a public supper.

➤ **PROMOTIONAL EVENT CONTEST (2022 and 2023)**

Plan and hold a promotional event for a Subordinate/Community Grange. This could be submitted by an individual or group and does not need to be for your own Grange. This could take many forms, so be creative. The report should include any planning, advertising, set up, execution and follow-up. Judging will consider the amount of non-member contact and any resulting new members. **You must inform the MA State Grange Membership Director with enough notice**

of the date and place prior to the event to allow our representative to attend. Submit a final report in physical form by September 15th. ** Submit photo releases as required

➤ **STORY OR INTERVIEW CONTEST (2022 and 2023)**

Submit a story or interview that was published or aired about a Subordinate/Community Grange. This could be submitted by an individual or group and does not need to be about your own Grange. You must have been instrumental in some way in the publication or airing of the story or interview. A newspaper article or magazine story can fall into this category. A radio or television interview would also fall into this category. Perhaps a story or interview or feature on an on-line website would qualify. Judging will consider the content, the format, the size of the readership or listening audience and other considerations that promote the Grange at any level.

**** Submit a copy of the publication, or a digital recording on a flash drive of the program or interview, along with when and where it was aired. ** Submit photo releases as required.**

ALBERT J. THOMAS LIBRARY/MUSEUM

The Albert J. Thomas 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 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.

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

The Library Museum is open by appointment only. Any State Grange committee wishing to meet there must contact the Historians to schedule the use of the building. Granges or individuals wishing for a tour of the Museum or access to research materials in the archive should also contact the Historians to schedule a time.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

R. O. S. E. Award - Recognition of Service Excellence

This award will be given to an individual for outstanding service to the Grange. The purpose of the award is to recognize a Granger who has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the Grange in Massachusetts through their hard work and dedicated service. The recipient will be chosen by the Massachusetts State Grange Executive Committee. This award will be presented at the State Grange Session.

Master's Award of Excellence

This award will be presented to members for outstanding service to their Grange and their community. Names are to be sent to the State Master. A certificate will be issued to the recipient. This award is available to any Subordinate or Pomona member.

SECRETARY INFORMATION

Quarterly Reports

All Quarterly reports are due at the close of each quarter (September 30, December 31, March 31 and June 30). The Grange Master or next ranking officer, as well as the Grange Executive Committee or Secretary must sign reports, and the Grange seal must be affixed to the report.

1. ***Subordinate Grange Secretary Quarterly Report*** The white copy is sent to the State Secretary and the Subordinate Secretary retains the yellow copy for the Grange records. This report and check made payable to the Massachusetts State Grange must be forwarded to the State Secretary *no later than 5 days following the close of the quarter.*
2. ***Subordinate Grange Executive Committee Quarterly Report*** – The white copy is sent to the State Master *no later than 5 days following the close of the quarter.* The Subordinate Secretary retains the yellow copy for the Grange records.
3. ***Subordinate Grange Secretary Quarterly Pomona Report*** – The white copy of the Pomona Quarterly report is sent to the Pomona Secretary and the Subordinate Secretary retains the yellow copy for the Grange records.

Annual Reports

All Annual reports are due at the close of the year (June 30). The Grange Master or next ranking officer, as well as the Grange Executive Committee or Secretary must sign reports, and the Grange seal must be affixed to the report

1. ***Pomona Grange Secretary Annual Report*** – The green copy is sent to the State Secretary and the Pomona Secretary retains the yellow copy for the Grange records. This report and check made payable to the Massachusetts State Grange must be forwarded to the State Secretary *no later than 15 days following the close of the year.*
2. ***Pomona Grange Executive Committee Annual Report*** – The green copy is sent to the State Master and the Subordinate Secretary retains the yellow copy for the Grange records. This report must be forward to

the State Master *no later than 15 days following the close of the year.*

3. Junior Grange Annual Report – The pink copy is sent to the State Secretary and the Junior Leader retains the yellow copy for the Grange records. This report must be forwarded to the State Secretary *no later than 5 days following the close of the year.*

4. Junior Grange Report – The report is sent to the State Master and the Junior Leader should retain a copy of the Grange records. This report must be forwarded to the State Master *no later and one month after the close of the six months ending June 30 and December 31.*

All quarterly and annual reports are required by Grange Law and Subordinate and Pomona Grange Secretary's, Grange Masters and Grange Executive Committees have the responsibility to ensure these reports are accurate and that the reports are submitted timely. These reports help the State and National Grange keep track of membership as well as the reports are a means by which the State and National Grange receives funding.

Applications For Membership Recognition

Subordinate Secretaries should review their membership records at least twice a year and “Applications for Membership Recognition” should be sent to the State Secretary. Grange members deserve recognition for their service to the Grange in a timely manner.

Note: The National Grange will not issue certifications more than 90 days ahead of the anniversary date. The only exception are illness or relocation and requests for early issuance must be made in writing and attached to Form M

1. Golden Sheaf (50 years), Diamond Certificate (75 years) and 80 or 85 year letters

- a. Use gold form (Form M)
- b. Complete all required information, affix the Grange seal, sign and send to the State Secretary. The “**mail membership recognition to**” address is the Subordinate Secretary.
- c. For Golden Sheaf applicants only, a check payable to the National Grange for **\$10.00 each plus shipping as follows:**

1 certificate	\$4.00	8-9 certificates	\$10.00
2-4 certificates	\$7.00	10-12 certificates	\$12.00
5-7 certificates	\$9.00	13-24 certificates	\$15.00
25 & up certificates	\$20.00		

Fees plus shipping charges must accompany each Golden Sheaf application. There is no charge for Diamond Certificates, 80 year or 85 year letters.

- d. The State Secretary will sign, date, and record the information and then forward the application(s) to National Grange. The State Secretary faxes a copy of the application to the State Master.
- e. National Grange sends the Golden Sheaf certificates and/or seals to the Subordinate Secretary.
- f. Subordinate Secretary should allow a minimum of four weeks for processing.
- g. Refer to the above paragraph regarding National Grange policy for issuance.

2. Silver Star Certificates (25 years) and 55, 60, 65, or 70 year seals

- a. Use the pink (Form O)
- b. Complete all required information, affix the Grange seal, sign and send to the State Secretary. The State Secretary faxes a copy of the application to the State Master.
- c. Refer to the above paragraph regarding National Grange policy for issuance.
- d. Subordinate Secretary should allow a minimum of four weeks for processing.
- e. Silver Star certificates are processed and sent from the State Secretary to the Subordinate Secretary. Seals are sent from the State Master to the Subordinate Secretary.

3. *Non-Consecutive Membership Certificate (25 years) or more*

- a. Use the tan form
- b. Complete all required information, affix the Grange seal, sign and send to the State Secretary.
- c. Refer to the above paragraph regarding National Grange policy for issuance.
- d. Subordinate Secretary should allow a minimum of four weeks for processing.
- e. Non-Consecutive Membership certificates are processed and sent from the State Secretary to the Subordinate Secretary.

Jewels

National Grange carries jewels for 25, 50 and 60 years of membership. Contact the National Grange, 1616 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-4999 for a price list. ***Veteran's Jewels are available from the State Secretary and is for 50 or more years of continuous membership in Massachusetts Granges.***

- a. Use blue form
- b. Complete all required information, affix the Grange seal, sign and send to the State Secretary.
- c. Send a check made payable to the Massachusetts State Grange for \$22.00 for each jewel application.
- d. The Veteran's jewel is meant to accompany the Golden Sheaf certificate so send both applications at the same time to the State Secretary.
- e. Subordinate Secretary should allow a minimum of four weeks for processing.

Records (Secretary and Treasurer)

Records of meetings are permanent and must be recorded in a suitable record book. Treasurer's records are also permanent and must be kept in a suitable book. Secretary and Treasurer books are available from National Grange or any office supply/stationery store. Please note that notepads or spiral-bound notebooks are not permanent. If the records are typed or computer generated, accumulate several years and then bind the pages. Always use permanent black ink.

Communications

Open all letters and envelopes when received and advise the Grange Master or appropriate committee if immediate action is needed between meetings. When request for information or questionnaires are received from the State or National Grange, please complete and return the information immediately, thus enabling the State and National Grange to operate in an efficient manner.

Resolutions

Resolutions are due on or before August 1st. Please use one sheet of paper per resolution and title each resolution. Send the resolution to the State Secretary as an e-mail attachment. Any Secretary, who does not have access to a computer, may still send a paper copy of the resolution to the State Secretary.

Annual Word

The key and cipher for the Annual Word will be sent to each Subordinate Secretary and Junior Leader upon receipt of the December quarterly report and dues, plus any outstanding quarters. Pomona Secretaries will receive both the key and cipher in late December as their annual report and dues are scheduled to be sent in for June 30 of that year.

Annual Membership Card

Annual membership cards may be purchased by Subordinate and/or Pomona Secretaries for their members

in good standing. The cards provide proof of membership. The membership cards are available from the State Secretary or the National Grange Sales, 1616 H Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20006-4999. To place an order by phone, call (888) 447-2643 or on the internet www.nationalgrange.org.

Directory

The Massachusetts State Grange Directory is the property of the State Grange, subsequently no one may use the directory for solicitation purposes, financial, or political use without the express permission of the State Grange Executive Committee. Directory updates forms are mailed in June and must be returned by July 15. The Secretary of the Massachusetts State Grange maintains a mailing list of all members and will annually send a list to each Subordinate Grange. Subordinate Secretaries should update the mailing list and promptly return it to the State Secretary. Address and name changes can be submitted at any time to the State Secretary. Please complete and immediately return all directory/ mailing list updates for your Grange.

Supplies

All Secretary materials are distributed at the State Session in October and are given to your delegate or your deputy if a delegate is not present at session. If you do not receive the packet within a month of the State Session, contact either your delegate or your deputy. Manuals, digests, record books, and other supplies are available from National Grange. Contact the National Grange, 1616 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-4999 or call (888) 447-2643 or on the internet www.nationalgrange.org for a price list. Some supplies are also available through the State Secretary's office. An order form is included in the packet from State Session.

Checks Payable to Massachusetts State Grange

All checks must be payable to the Massachusetts State Grange and earmarked to where the donation or payment is to be credited. Send all checks to the State Secretary EXCEPT your Grange's donation to the Massachusetts State Grange Educational Aid Fund. See Education Aid Section of this program for more information.

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/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=626&dnum=All>
- Brockton Vet Center <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=627&dnum=All>
- Cape Cod Vet Center <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=5618&dnum=All>

- Disabled American Veterans (DAV) <https://www.davma.org/>
- Heidrea for Heroes (Plymouth) <https://heidrea4heroes.org/>
- Lowell Vet Center <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=5436&dnum=All>
- Nathan Hale Veteran Outreach Centers (Plymouth & Middleboro)
<https://www.thenathanhaleveteransoutreachcenter.com/>
 - One of its projects: Three Harts Farm Veterans Growing Opportunities (Plymouth)
<https://www.facebook.com/ThreeHartsFarm/>
- New Bedford Vet Center
<https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=5437&dnum=All>
- New England Center & Home for Veterans <https://www.nechv.org/>
- New England Paralyzed Veterans of America <https://www.newenglandpva.org/>
- Project New Hope Inc. <https://www.projectnewhopema.org/>
- Springfield, MA Vet Center
<https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=633&dnum=All>
- Veterans, Inc. (Worcester) <https://www.veteransinc.org/>
- Veterans Transition House (New Bedford) <https://www.vetshouse.org/>
- Worcester Vet Center <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=635&dnum=All>

Quilts of Valor

Presentation at State Session: Veterans, both Grange members and non-members, are awarded quilts on Friday afternoon.

- 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 (508) 864-3944. This venture requires quite a bit of planning, but the results are well worth the effort.

- Report veterans you honor with a Quilt of Valor through the website <https://www.qovf.org/report-a-quilt-of-valor-award/> or through the State Coordinator. Check off 'Grange' on the report.
- The National Grange has a partnership with the QoV Foundation. For additional resources, visit <https://www.nationalgrange.org/quilts-of-valor-foundation-partnership/>

Future Project(s)

The Committee is in the process of researching an appropriate veteran project(s) to support. More details to come.

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 as follows:

Youth: 14 – 21 years of age

Young adult: 22 – 35 years of age

Youth Alumni: 36+ years of age

The three categories:

1. **Prepared Speech:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deadline: Those members wishing to participate must inform the State Youth Directors 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.

- A. **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.
- B. **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.
- C. **Group** – two or more people signing.

- D. **Expert** – one who signs professionally. Ineligible for Best of Show, but looking for opportunity to encourage others to participate.

Rules:

1. Open to any Subordinate Grange member, who has been a member for at least one year (There is a separate contest for Juniors).
2. The Participants must provide three copies of the words to their song **two weeks prior** to the contest.
3. Participants must furnish their own music.
4. Anyone who is a professional instructor, or receives money for signing, may only enter in the expert category.
5. Signers use total communication techniques: Sign language, facial expressions, mouthing words for lip reading, finger spelling if appropriate, and body movement.
6. Participants must be Grange members.
7. Props and costumes are permitted, rhythm is optional.
8. Only one song may be signed during the competition performance.
9. Participants must sign their own name and song title.
10. Participants must inform the audience and judges what type of sign language they will be using. (Pidgen, ASL, ESL, etc.)
11. 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:

1. Each team must have five players
 - a. **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.
 - b. **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.
 - c. **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.
2. Each player can only bowl for one team. Affiliate members may bowl with an affiliate Grange team.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. **Each Pomona and Subordinate team should have a score keeper.** The score keeper does not have to be a 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.
7. The match is decided by the total pin fall of three (3) strings. **Junior teams will only bowl two (2) strings.**

8. 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 Directors (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 Directors.

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."

State Youth Ambassador/ Young Patron/Young Couple Program

The purpose of the Massachusetts Youth Ambassador/ Young Patron Program 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.

Eligibility and Requirements:

1. Youth Ambassadors must be 16-21 years of age, have observed their 16th birthday, but not their 22nd birthday by December 31st of the year they attend the National Convention. These individuals must also be single, never been married, and have no children.
2. Young Patron and Young Couple must be between the ages of 22 – 35, having observed their 22nd birthday, but not their 36th birthday by December 31.
3. Ambassadors/ Young Patrons/ Young Couple must have been a Grange member for a minimum of one (1) year.
4. Ambassadors/Young Patrons/ Young Couple must attend their regional conference the year they apply. They must also participate either in the Sign-A-Song Contest or Prepared Speech Contest.
5. Ambassadors/Young Patrons/ Young Couple must attend a State Session in the past two years.
6. An interview will be conducted to determine Ambassador/ Young Patron/ Young Couple title potential coordinated by the State Youth Directors. Candidates need to contact the State Youth Directors for interview date.
7. A written test will be given covering Grange knowledge. Sample tests are available from the State Youth Directors for studying. This test will be distributed the same day as the interview and will be a closed book test.
8. Applications are available from any Youth Committee member, or the State Youth Directors.
9. A letter of recommendation from the Subordinate or Community Grange must accompany the application, preferably from the Master or Secretary.
 - a. Winners will be expected to represent Massachusetts at the Northeast Regional Youth Conference (July), 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.

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

1. Members must be between 14 to 35 years of age when nominated.
2. Grange membership requirement – one year minimum prior to nomination.
3. This entry must be made by nomination.
4. The following information must be provided with a nomination.
 - a. Name of nominee, address, Subordinate Grange, Pomona Grange, and degrees held.
 - b. List offices and committees served on.
 - c. Describe three major Grange activities and accomplishments.
 - d. List school, church and community organizations.
 - e. 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 Directors.

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:

1. Members must be over the age of 35.
2. Grange membership requirement - two year minimum prior to the closing date of the contest.
3. This entry must be made by nomination.
4. The following information must be provided with nomination:
 - a. Name of nominee, address, Subordinate Grange, Pomona Grange and degrees held
 - b. List offices and committees served on
 - c. Describe three major Grange activities and accomplishments
 - d. List church and community organizations
 - e. 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 Directors.

Mr. and Mrs. Grange

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:

1. Grange membership requirements - two year minimum prior to the closing date of the contest year.
2. Contest year will cover the period from September 1st of the past year to September 1st of the present year.
3. This entry must be made by nomination.
4. The following information must be provided with the nomination:
 - a. Name of nominee, address, Subordinate Grange, Pomona Grange and degrees held
 - b. List offices and committees served on
 - c. Describe three major Grange activities and accomplishments
 - d. List home, school, church and community organizations
 - e. 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 Directors.

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:

1. Grange membership requirements - two year minimum prior to the closing date of the contest year.
2. Contest year will cover the period from September 1st of the past year to September 1st of the present year.
3. This entry must be made by nomination.
4. The following information must be provided with the nomination:
 - a. Name of nominees, address, Subordinate Grange, Pomona Grange and degrees held
 - b. List offices and committees served on
 - c. Describe three major Grange activities and accomplishments
 - d. List home, school, church and community organizations
 - e. 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 Directors (youth@massgrange.org).

MSGYLA - Massachusetts State Grange Youth Leadership Association

The Massachusetts State Grange Youth Leadership Association (MSGYLA) was organized in the mid-1970's for the purpose of being a 'training' Grange for youth to hold a Grange office that they might not have held before. The MSGYLA is also an opportunity to focus on parliamentary procedure and leadership skills. This upcoming year, the MSGYLA will focus on a community service project that can be statewide. A letter will be sent to each

Grange and an article will be in the State Grange News to let everyone know of upcoming meeting dates and events. Also follow the State Youth Committee on face book "Massachusetts State Grange Youth Program" where you will find up-to-date information on all MAGYLA meeting dates as well as other youth activities being planned by the State Youth Team.

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:

Creativity - 25 points

Educational Value - 20 points

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:

1. Encouraging attendance at regular meetings
2. Accompanying them to visit neighboring Granges
3. Answering questions, they may have about Grange
4. Encourage participation in Grange meetings, such as helping with programs or taking an office
5. Encouraging socialization with all Grange members
6. 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.

Program

Grange Inter-State Youth Exchange

Washington DC Experience

Grange Grassroots Activism Scholarship

Youth Community Service Award/Application
Junior Mentor Award/ Application
Youth Membership Recruitment Award
Distinguished Youth Program/Applications
(State and Subordinate/Pomona)
Grange Baseball
Regional Public Speaking Competition
Regional Sign-A- Song Competition
Parliamentary Procedure Contest
NEW Grange Debate
Grange Display Contest
NEW G.R.A.N.G.E. Youth Pillar Project
NEW G.R.A.N.G.E Pillar Project
Inspiration Calendar
National Grange Youth Officer Team
Guidelines and Application
John Trimble Youth Legislative Experience
Guidelines & Application
Horizon Leadership Ambassador/Young
Patron Guidelines and Application
National Grange Youth
Leadership Team
G.R.O.W Club Travel Scholarship
(online application only)
G.R.O.W. Club Academic Scholarship
NJHA & Grange Youth Horticulture
Identification Judging Contest
National Grange Child Protection Policy