

National Junior Grange



2026 Program Guide

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Greetings Junior Grange Enthusiasts!



This year will mark a few changes within our program that I hope will inspire and create growth not only for our amazing Juniors but for the program as a whole. National Grange President Chris Hamp, National Directors, and advisory teams are working to break down barriers between our programs to create unity among all of our programs and to help Juniors transition into their community Grange.

We have opened new opportunities and guides for the youngest of our members to be able to compete in contests that give them entrance-level projects for community service, advocacy, leadership, public speaking, writing, and legislation. For our older participants, we have created similar guidelines that ensure they are challenged and can grow in their interests.

Part of unifying our programs includes mentorship opportunities for our Youth Ambassadors to pass on their knowledge to our Junior Ambassadors. In an effort to foster leadership and new opportunities for our Juniors, the Ambassador program has been expanded to a regional level, giving opportunities for leadership to up to 2 ambassadors per region. We envision these changes strengthening our Juniors, Youth, and programs as a whole.

This program's thoroughness and the breakdowns for age groups would not have been possible without the hard work and efforts of the National Junior Grange Advisory team. The dedication to keeping our young people involved and helping them learn to make real change in our world is a daunting but not impossible task. This is what we hope to empower our Juniors with.

The advisory board and I understand that all children have different needs, skills, and capabilities. These guidelines are intended to provide structure, but they may not always align perfectly with every child's individual needs or learning style. If you feel an adjustment to the guidelines would better support your child's participation, please let us know what alterations you plan to make.

We welcome thoughtful adaptations and encourage creativity—sometimes the most wonderful ideas come from letting those sparks of imagination kindle.

If at any time program guidelines are unclear, or if you have ideas for future programs, please reach out!

Looking forward to a fruitful year full of curiosity and spark!

Katie Girtler

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katie Girtler'.

National Junior Grange Director

Junior@NationalGrange.org

Makayla Piers, Emily Hartsell, and Gayle Reyburn
National Junior Grange Advisory Board

Dear Junior Grangers,

Have you ever thought about being more involved in the Grange or trying something new? If so, I want to encourage you to apply for Junior Ambassador.

Being a Junior Ambassador is a really cool opportunity to represent Junior Grangers and share what makes the Grange special. You get to meet new people, learn leadership skills, and build confidence while having fun and being yourself.

You do not have to be the loudest person in the room or know everything about the Grange to apply. I was nervous too, but I learned that the most important thing is caring about the Grange and being willing to try. This experience helps you grow, believe in yourself, and realize you can do more than you think.

If you are a little scared or unsure, that is okay. Sometimes the best opportunities come from taking a chance. Applying for Junior Ambassador is a great way to step out of your comfort zone and discover new strengths.

I hope you will consider applying and giving yourself this chance. Junior Grangers like you are the future of the Grange, and your voice truly matters.

Follow along with me this year as your National Junior Ambassador, where I will be giving workshops on activities for everyone to participate in, tips on traveling to Washington DC, and most importantly, a video encouraging and welcoming Junior Grangers to this year's 2026 National Convention in Oklahoma.

Good luck, and I hope to see you apply!

Sincerely, Raegan Hartsell
Junior Granger / National Junior Grange Ambassador

1st Edition
February 2026

This version of the Junior Grange Program Guide replaces all prior versions and will go into effect beginning February 2026.

For any additional updates or for more information visit the National Junior Grange Website at www.nationaljuniorgrange.org

Questions or comments should be directed to:

National Junior Grange Director

Katie Girtler

925-683-8484

junior@nationalgrange.org

Submission information is listed within each project so you can easily print just the project page and have all of the information available for your Junior project meeting.

Submissions are due September 1st, and will be accepted earlier in the year to be held until the time of judging. Each section has its own submission guidelines at the top of the page so please read the directions carefully.

Videos for submissions should be uploaded to YouTube, set to “Unlisted” for privacy and the link shared with the National Junior Grange Director in the “Video Link” box in GrowthZone Submission Forms. If you have any questions on how to do this, please reach out to the National Junior Grange Director at junior@nationalgrange.org.

Notes on how to submit: each project is submitted digitally to the Grange Engage Platform. Many projects can be sent directly through the form, however crafting projects will require scanning or photographing.

Please scan the completed flat art at 300 dpi into your computer. This is in the scan settings on your computer.

Note on using your cell phone when photographing crafts - Photograph WITHOUT flash, in bright, indirect window light on a table or the floor with the camera as close to the project as possible while still capturing the whole piece. Using a white posterboard as a background works well, too. Projects photographed outside should be taken in a large fully shaded area. Ensure spots of sunlight are not filtering through branches and leaves. Projects like windchimes should be photographed hanging with a wall behind them.

By submitting artwork or photography, creators retain ownership of their work but grant the National Grange a non-exclusive, royalty-free right to use, reproduce, and share the material in publications, marketing, merchandise, and digital media. Creators may continue to use their work without restriction.

State Director Information

In this section you will find information on:

- *Background Checks for Leadership*
- *Junior 1+ Program*
- *State Director Report*

National Grange Child Protection Policy

The National Grange is committed to providing an environment that is safe for all minors, Juniors and Youth, during National Grange events and activities. This National Grange Child Protection Policy (Policy) is designed to protect our young people, instill confidence in those entrusting us with their children, and protect adult volunteers and staff from allegations that may be unwarranted.

The National Grange has ZERO tolerance for abuse of anyone, especially our minor members under the age of 18. The Safe Gatherings requirements below are mandatory and must be met before working with minors under the age of 18 at all National Grange or Regional Grange events and activities. It is recommended that each State Grange follow and adopt this Policy as well.

SAFE GATHERINGS REQUIREMENTS

- Any individual, aged 18 and above, working directly with minors under the age of 18 must complete a safety training course and national background check through Safe Gatherings. All reports are kept confidential by Safe Gatherings.
- The Safe Gatherings training course, background check, and reference checks must be completed and the certificate secured BEFORE arriving at the event or activity where the adult is assisting. It is suggested that adults complete this training at least one month prior to the National Grange or Regional Grange event or activity.
- It is required that the Safe Gatherings training course be completed every two years.
- Participants must submit the certification email to: information@nationalgrange.org. The Safe Gatherings fee must be paid upfront. Reimbursement is provided by the National Grange by submitting proof of passing the course, payment receipt, and the National Grange ACH Form.
- The training can be found at <https://safegatherings.com>.

GUIDELINES and SAFE PRACTICES

When working with minors (youth under the age of 18) or organizing events in which minors are participants, the following guidelines shall be practiced.

General:

- All adults working directly with minors shall secure the Safe Gatherings certification.
- At all National Grange or Regional Grange events or activities, each State Grange must provide its own chaperone(s) for minors.
- There shall be a minimum of two unrelated, non-cohabitating adults present in all settings. Being alone with a child (other than your own) of any age is never appropriate.

- General “Rule of 3” – At least 3 people shall be present at any one time, whether it is youth together or adult chaperones with youth in and around the event or activity.
- Minors shall not be left unsupervised at any time.
- Adults shall use responsible behaviors. Adults shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while working with minors.

Health & Emergencies:

- Each year, minors (ages 0-17) shall have a completed National Grange Medical Permission Form on file with the National Grange prior to participation in any National Grange or Regional Grange event or activity. No adult can treat a child unless consent is given by a parent/guardian.
- At least one adult at the event shall be certified in CPR and First Aid to provide medical care within the scope of their certification. All treatments provided shall be logged and documented.
- In cases of emergency, the minor will be transported by at least two adults to the closest medical facility OR emergency services will be called. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, the chaperones and leaders on site will continue trying to reach the parent/guardian and alternate contact while treatment is initiated.

Ages and Ratios:

- Adults working with minors shall be at least 18 years of age and at least five years older than the minors being supervised.
- A minimum of two unrelated, non-cohabitating adults with each group of minors is required with adult to minor ratios as follows:
 - High School – 2:10 (two adults per every 10 minors)
 - Elementary and Middle School – 2:8 (two adults per every 8 minors)

Driving and Travel Guidelines:

- No adult, unless a parent/guardian, shall transport a minor alone to and from events.
- No minor shall transport other minors, unless related, to and from events.

Rooming Guidelines:

- For overnight events: Minor participants shall be provided their own beds whenever possible and shall always room with participants of the same age range and gender or be provided with individual rooms. Minor participants shall only room with an adult (over the age of 18) if there is dormitory or cabin-style sleeping available and either another participant or two unrelated, non-cohabitating adults share the same space. Dormitory or cabin-style rooms shall house only one gender. Minor participants shall never sleep alone in a room with an adult, unless a parent/guardian.

- Sleeping rooms are only for the participants assigned to those rooms. Event leadership shall keep a written record of all individual participants by room.
- Sleeping rooms shall not be a gathering place for other participants.
- There shall be a process in place for a nightly check-in and assurance that all participants are in their assigned room for the night. Check-ins shall be done in person, not by message passed through another participant or by phone or text.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Each participant (minors, youth, and young adults) must sign the National Grange Code of Conduct each year prior to attending any National Grange or Regional Grange event or activity. Parents/guardians shall be given a copy. The National Grange Code of Conduct can be found on the National Grange website. Please submit completed National Grange Code of Conduct documents to junior@nationalgrange.org.

Junior +1 Program

Purpose of the 1+ Program

The Junior 1+ program is a class of membership opened by the National Delegate in 2013. The 1+ program allows your Grange to build a Junior Grange program one member at a time. These individual members become the core group to build a chartered Junior Grange Program. Many children have not had the opportunity to participate in the Junior Grange program because their Grange does not have the required number of children to charter or maintain a charter of a Junior Grange. Junior Granges may be chartered with 13 or more children aged 5-14. With permission of the State Grange President, Junior Granges can be chartered with only 7 children in this age group. In the State of California, the Junior 1+ program does not support charters.

The 1+ Program allows children (age 5-14) the opportunity to become an individual Junior Grange member within a Community Grange. The children do not have a vote in the Grange, but are eligible to participate in all Regional, State, and National programs, contests, and activities on an equal status with members of the chartered Junior Granges. This would also include the National Grange Youth Fair program where the program has been adopted within a State.

Sponsorship

For the 1+ Program, the Community Grange will:

- Appoint a Junior Grange Leader
- Assist with securing a meeting space
- Maintain Junior funds separately but under the Treasury of the Community Grange
 - Granges may dedicate specific fundraising projects for the Junior Grange Program
- Occasionally, provide meeting time for the individual Junior Grange member(s) to report on their projects
- Organize a chartered Junior Grange when there are sufficient individual members to meet that requirement. The individual members shall automatically become members of the newly organized/reorganized Junior Grange. (Please refer to National Grange By-Laws, section 4.6.2 for complete details)

How to become a 1+ Program Junior Member

- An individual child, age 5-14, will complete a Junior Grange membership application and submit it to the sponsoring Grange.
- The Junior Grange applicant shall be sworn in and welcomed by the President of the Community Grange. This is completed by using the Obligation Ceremony for Individual Junior Grange Membership, printed in this program book.
- Once obligated, the Community Grange secretary will enter the new Junior Grange member on the rolls of the Grange.

- Minimum application fee for Junior Grange members are \$1.00 (bylaws dues 4.8.1b) and are subject to change per individual State Grange policies.

Administration:

Leaders

- **Qualifications**
 - Community Grange member, in good standing
 - Background clearances
 - Check with your State Grange Office for current requirements
- **Leaders will need:**
 - National Junior Grange Program Book
 - State Program Book(s)
 - Access to Junior Grange Passport programs
 - To be in constant communication with State Junior Leaders regarding activities and individual Junior Grange membership within the Community Grange

Reporting Membership Status

- The Junior Grange member is to be reported by the Community Grange on the provided lines within the quarterly reports and then submitted to the State Grange having jurisdiction.

Obligation Ceremony for Individual Junior Grange Membership-1+ Program

National Junior Grange 1+ Program Adopted: September 2014

Upon submission of a Junior Grange application and election to membership by the Community Grange members, the individual Grange member will be obligated to membership using the following procedure:

*Community Grange Officers Participating: President, Lady Assistant Steward, Assistant Steward
During the appropriate agenda item for Obligating new members, the President will say*

President: *(from their Station)*

“Worthy Assistants, please escort our newly elected Junior Grange candidate(s) to the Altar for the Junior Grange obligation.”

LAS and AS will conduct the Junior Grange candidate(s) to the Altar, asking the candidate(s) to stand in the center, facing the Altar and the President. The assistants stand next to the candidate(s), forming a semi-circle with the candidate(s) in the center. The President will approach and stand between the Altar and his back to the Graces stations.

Lady Assistant Steward:

“Worthy President, it is my pleasure to introduce to you: (give names of candidates), who have been elected to the Junior Grange membership in our Grange. They are presented here to receive the Obligation and words of counsel from you.”

President:

The Grange is a family organization, welcoming all generations in its Halls and meetings. My young friends, is it your wish to join us as members of this Grange? If so, please say ‘It is.’

Candidates: “It is.”

President: *(Direct these words to the parents/guardians of the Junior Grange member(s) facing where they are seated in the Hall)*

“To the parents and guardians of our Junior Grange candidates, your support and guidance is most important of all. We commend you for your foresight in allowing your children to become Grange members. We ask for your continued encouragement and assistance in their participation and growth in the Grange.”

President: *(Face the Candidates at the Altar)*

“With your election to membership in this Grange, it is my pleasure to give you the Junior Grange Pledge. The Pledge is a simple promise which you freely give to become part of the Grange Family and to live a good life. In turn, the members of this Grange promise to help and support you as you grow into future leaders in your schools and communities.”

“Please place your right hand over your heart. I will give the Pledge so that you may clearly understand it.”

(President gives the entire Pledge slowly and distinctly)

“I Promise – that I will obey – all the rules of the Order, -- and will treat – my fellow members – with respect. – I will try to follow – the good advice – of my parents and teachers – and will do my best – to avoid bad company – and harmful habits.”

President:

“I welcome you as members of this Grange. Remember, promises are an important commitment. As part of your Grange Family, we promise to encourage you as you continue to grow and learn. We ask you to contribute to our meetings by sharing your discoveries with us. In this way we may learn from you. We want you to know about the Grange; its past, its present, and, most of all, how you can influence its future.”

“When you turn 14 years old, you will graduate from the Junior Grange Program and once again stand at this Altar, taking the next Pledge as a Community Grange member. From this time until then, you have our promise to encourage you along life’s journey.”

“We extend to you a heartfelt Welcome to our Grange.”

“Worthy Assistants, please escort our new members to their seats, introduce them and return to your stations.”

The Assistants will pass by the President, who will shake each members’ hand as they pass. After the last member has passed by, the President will return to his Station.

The Assistants will escort the new members to their seats, introduce them, and return to their Stations.

State Director Report

Local Leaders

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

SUBMISSION: <https://grange.biz/JuniorDirectorReport>

State Director Report should be submitted via the online form and will include the number of Junior Grange Members, including 1+ members. You will also be required to list the Junior Leaders' information, the programming you are using or submit an outline that plans for the participation in any local, regional, State, or National Junior Grange Program and MEMBERSHIP: Outline membership promotion efforts by the Junior Grange members and leaders.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier

Submit your State Director Report at <https://grange.biz/JuniorDirectorReport>

Programs

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

In this section, you will find information on:

- *Regional Ambassador Program*
- *Junior Mentor Award*
- *Passport Program*

Regional Junior Ambassador Program

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

Submission: <https://grange.biz/JuniorAmbassador>

A leadership opportunity for young people to represent the Grange, serve their communities, and promote agriculture and civic engagement.

The National Grange Junior Department is transforming the traditional Junior Ambassador Program into a Regional Program. This program is aimed at growing and developing stronger leaders across all Grange Regions.

Up to two Regional Junior Ambassadors may be selected in each region. These Ambassadors will be catalysts for the development of Junior programming in those regions and will become the National Grange Junior Team. They will work closely with the National Junior Director, Junior Advisory Council, and Junior directors/state presidents across their region to bring programming, leadership development, and education to the states they represent.

Region Breakdown

EASTERN- Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., New Jersey

GREAT PLAINS- Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado

MIDWEST- Ohio, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin

NORTHEAST- Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts

WESTERN- California, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada

Eligibility

- Must be between the ages of 11-14 years, having observed their 11th birthday, but not their 15th by December 31st of the year they attend the National Session.
- Must be a Junior Grange member for a minimum of 3 years.
- Applicants must be able to attend the National Convention to represent their state during Junior Grange activity days (Thursday-Saturday) at their own costs. (check if state grants are available)
- Applicants must have a parent or guardian to attend the National convention with them.
- Good standing in their local Grange.
- Interest in agriculture, community service, and leadership.

Selection Process

- Application submission.
- Interview with the regional committee.
- Appointment for a **1-year term**.

Ambassador Responsibilities

- Represent the Grange at events, fairs, and meetings across the region.
- Lead or support one community service or ag-literacy project.
- Promote Junior-age involvement in Grange programs.
- Maintain positive communication and monthly updates to the National Grange Junior Director.
- Create or help to create social media content about programming and work being done that will be posted by the National Junior Grange Director with parent or guardian permission.

Training Provided

- Orientation on Grange values and expectations.
- Public speaking and leadership training.
- Legislative Advocacy training
- Guidance on media etiquette and event representation.

Recognition

- Certificates and pins.
- Spotlight in newsletters and/or social media.
- Swag
- Moment to share your year of experience at the National Grange Convention

Application Components- Via Online Submission

- Personal information.
- Short essay/letter of interest.
- Summary of Grange involvement.
- Reference letter from a non-related Grange leader.
- Headshot.

Interview

Applicants meet with an interview panel made up of 3–5 people.

Appointment

Selected ambassadors are appointed for a **one-year term**.(January - November)

Program Structure

- **1–2 Ambassadors per region**
- **Code of Conduct** - Ambassadors, Parents and/or Guardians must sign a code of conduct form.

Each State Grange may send up to two representatives.

All Ambassadors must be able to attend National Convention.

Applicants should check with their State Leaders regarding funding availability. If funding is not available through the applicant's State, applicants may fundraise through their community Grange and/or by visiting other surrounding Community Granges.

NOTE: As a regional Ambassador, fostering a relationship with your surrounding Community Granges is important and this is a GREAT way to get that started.

If named Regional Junior Grange Ambassador, please note at this time, Junior ambassadors will not be traveling to any activities or events unless asked.

However, if any traveling occurs for certain activities and events, expenses will be funded by your own fundraising efforts or your own means.

If you need additional information or would like to discuss fundraising ideas or efforts please reach out to the National Junior Grange Director at Junior@nationalgrange.org

****You Never Know what is possible unless you ASK****

JUNIOR MENTOR AWARD

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

Nominate online: <https://grange.biz/youthjuniormentor>

PURPOSE:

To honor a Youth or Young Adult who makes an impact by serving and mentoring Junior Grange members.

DESCRIPTION

Grange Youth and Young Adults play a vital role in shaping our organization's future by uplifting, encouraging, and engaging with our Junior Grange members. Their involvement helps build confidence, foster a sense of belonging, and create meaningful experiences that last for years to come.

This award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership, mentorship, and dedication in guiding Junior Grangers — those who step forward with patience, enthusiasm, and a heart for service. Through their example, they inspire the next generation to grow, lead, and carry on the rich legacy of the Grange.

Nomination Requirements:

- Community, Pomona, or State Granges can nominate a young person for this award, as well as State Presidents and State Youth Directors.
- Nominations can be made for a Youth or Young Adult, age 14-25
- Nomination applications will be reviewed by a panel of judges who will select the award recipient.

Entry:

- All applications must be received by September 1, 2026
- Application includes the following:
 - Why the nominee should be selected for this award
 - How the nominee has impacted Junior Grangers
 - List specific activities, projects, etc. that the nominee participated in or led to impact Junior Grangers

Recipients will be announced at the National Grange Convention and will receive a special award.

Passport Program

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

SUBMISSION: <https://grange.biz/JuniorPassport>

The Junior Grange *Passport* is designed to be an exciting and innovative way for Juniors to learn more about *their world, their country, their state, their community, and their Grange*.

The PASSPORT program is an online digital format, so leaders will now have easier access to stamps that will not require a purchase, and thus save on programing costs within your state.

View the current passports at nationaljuniorGrange.org/junior-Grange-passport/

This format will allow us to have constant changes and additions, which will grant us the ability to spotlight important issues or events throughout history. This transition will be beneficial to all Junior Grangers, Leaders, and Educators.

Junior Grangers will now have an easy-to-handle notebook that will allow them the ability to keep track of their accomplishments and utilize them as resources for outside studies.

Educators will be able to utilize the Passports as part of their curriculum, encouraging their students to learn more about the Grange and other educational entities that will be offered.

Leaders will appreciate the ability to have immediate availability of the downloadable stamps, making it easier to plan and award Juniors with a stamp in their PASSPORT.

The program is broken down into five categories:

1. Grange Adventures
2. United States
3. Career Readiness
4. American History
5. World Discovery

It is highly encouraged that each Junior Director promotes the use of the PASSPORT program. The completion of these stamps not only gives each Junior a sense of accomplishment, it also provides a challenging educational foundation that grows with the Junior. Through the PASSPORT program Juniors will gain knowledge about the Grange and the world around them that will last beyond the time they spend in the Junior Grange, laying the path for a strong future leader.

Be sure to check the Junior Grange website where you will be able to download the current PASSPORTS and be sure to check back often as there may be new Stamps introduced throughout the year! Submit your ideas here: <https://grange.biz/JuniorPassport>

Writing & Presenting

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

In this section, you will find information on:

- **Poetry Contest**
- **Creative Writing Contest**
 - *Celebrating America's 250th*
 - *Learning to be Self-Sustaining*
- **Public Speaking Contest:**
 - *Poetry Slam!*
 - *Poetry Slam! Community Night Plan*
 - *Informational Speeches*
 - *Demonstration Speeches*
 - *Youth Fairs Demonstration Speeches*
- **Junior Talent Showcase**

Poetry Contest

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

SUBMISSION: <https://grange.biz/JuniorPoetry>

Poetry can be a great expression of what you see in the world. There are a number of different styles and you are encouraged to explore and investigate at least three different styles of poetry to help you understand how to format your own poem. Rhyming structures are not required, but can be fun!

Submissions for each prompt are accepted but only one submission per prompt, unless Haiku format is used, which can be a collection.

Poems written for the Poetry contest may be used in conjunction with the Public Speaking Poetry Slam! Contest.

Poetry Subjects

Open Category - Free Style or Structured

Use your imagination, write about anything in your world, how your garden makes you feel, any hobby, interest or fun

Energizing our Future

Write a poem that reflects on the energy of our youth powering our future, how your dreams will power the future or how energy sources make a difference in our lives, or be creative but focus on energy and our future.

America's 250th

Reflections of our nation, What our country means to you, Rural and Urban America working together, The American Spirit - 250 years, or be creative in your celebratory poem

Poetry Guidelines by Age

Ages 5–8

1–2 original haiku,

or

One original poem of
8–12 lines

Ages 9–11

2–3 original haiku

or

One original poem of
12–20 lines

Ages 12–14

3–4 original haiku

or

One original poem of
15–30 lines

**SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Poetry Project to Grange Engage by following this link:**

<https://grange.biz/JuniorPoetry>

Creative Writing Contest

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

SUBMISSION: <https://grange.biz/JuniorWriting>

There are two categories for Creative Writing: **Celebrating America's 250th**, or **Project Sustenance**. Juniors may submit an entry in each category.

Celebrating America's 250th

In an effort to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our Nation, this contest encourages you to look at the history of our Nation. How did our independence, and those who fought for it, shape where we are now? Prompts are written to encourage age-appropriate creative writing.

Ages 5–8

Prompt: Imagine you are a child in 1776 who suddenly wakes up in the year 2026. Describe what surprises you the most. What do you see, hear, or feel? What is different from your life long ago?

Writing Format: Short story, journal entry, or letter

Length: 150–300 words (*May be handwritten or typed*)

Content Expectations:

- Describe **one or two things** that surprise you about 2026
- Include **feelings or reactions** (excited, confused, scared, curious)
- Simple beginning, middle, and end

Support Allowed:

- Adult help with spelling, handwriting, or typing
- Ideas must be **the child's own**

Ages 9–11

Prompt: Imagine you are a child living in 1776 whose parents support the American Revolution. One day, you are transported to the year 2026. Write a story describing your life in 1776, how you arrived in the future, and what surprises you most about modern life.

Writing Format: Short story, diary entry, or first-person narrative

Length: 300–600 words

Content Expectations:

- Compare life in **1776 vs. 2026**
- Describe **daily life** (food, clothing, school, transportation, technology)
- Include thoughts or emotions about the future

- Clear structure (beginning, middle, end)

Support Allowed:

- Limited adult editing for spelling and grammar
- Story ideas and voice must be the Junior Granger's own

Ages 12–14

Prompt: Imagine you are a child living in 1776 during the early days of the American Revolution. Though battles have begun, your rural community has not yet been affected. Suddenly, you are transported to the year 2026. Write a detailed story describing your thoughts, emotions, and discoveries as you realize America has become an independent nation. Show clear differences between life in 1776 and 2026.

Writing Format: Short story, narrative essay, or creative memoir-style piece

Length: 600–1,000 words

Content Expectations:

- Strong first-person voice
- Thoughtful reflection on:
 - Technology or society in 2026
 - Differences in freedom, responsibility, or daily life
- A clear narrative arc or meaningful conclusion
- Creative detail and historical awareness

Support Allowed:

- Proofreading only (no rewriting by adults)

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier

Submit your Creative Writing Project through Grange Engage at

<https://grange.biz/JuniorWriting>

Creative Writing: Project Sustenance ***Learning to be Self-Sustaining***

As we grow, we are always learning. There are skills we learn as children that we carry into adulthood. Below are age-appropriate prompts for a creative writing project around this subject. Children learn to be independent through skills in and out of the household, all of them imperative to adulthood.

As a young person, you are learning, every day, how to do things to be self-sustainable. Write a story about working with an adult to learn something you will carry into adulthood. Some examples to get you started would be learning to cook, learning to do a load of laundry, planting a seed, and imagining what harvesting would be like, or what a harvest is like, learning to fish or hunt. Use your imagination; you can even write about a futuristic skill or a lost skill.

Ages 5–8

Prompt: Write a story about learning a skill, either something you have learned or hope to learn.

Writing Format: Short story or journal entry

Length: 150–300 words (*May be handwritten or typed*)

Content Expectations:

- What you learned
- Who helped you and what that means to you
- How learning this skill made you feel

Support Allowed:

- Adult help with spelling, handwriting, or typing
- Ideas must be **the Junior Granger's own**

Ages 9–11

Prompt: Write a story about a skill you have learned or want to learn by working alongside a mentor (parent, grandparent, leader, or other adult). Story can be real or imagined, today or in the future.

Writing Format: Short story, diary entry, or first-person narrative

Length: 300–600 words

Content Expectations:

- What you learned or are learning
- Who helped you and what that means to you
- What you learned from your mentor
- Why the skill is important to you and may benefit others

Support Allowed:

- Limited adult editing for spelling and grammar
- Story ideas and voice must be the Junior Granger's own

Ages 12–14

Prompt: Write a story about a skill you have learned or want to learn by working alongside a mentor (parent, grandparent, leader, or other adult) that you will carry into adulthood and teach others. Story can be real or imagined, today or in the future.

Writing Format: Short story, letter to yourself from your future self or creative memoir-style piece

Length: 600–1,000 words

Content Expectations:

- Strong first-person voice
- Creatively and inspirationally write about your experience learning
- Challenges you had to overcome
- Where this skill will lead you in the future or if reflective, has led you in the future
- Clear beginning, middle, conclusion to story

Support Allowed:

- Proofreading only (no rewriting by adults)

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Creative Writing Project through Grange Engage at
<https://grange.biz/JuniorWriting>

Public Speaking Contests

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

Submission: <https://grange.biz/JuniorSpeaking>

Your speech should be uploaded to YouTube as an “unlisted” video, then the link will be put into the submission form.

In this section, you will find information on:

Poetry Slam!

Poetry Slam! Community Night Plan

Informational Speeches

Demonstration Speeches

Youth Fair Demonstration Speeches

Public speaking is a skill that will help you to understand topics you are passionate about and teach others all about your interests, skills, and expertise.

In an effort to make our public speaking contests more accessible to our Junior Grangers and also keep up with getting out in front of a community, we are opening up a variety of categories. We would like you to write and memorize your speech or poem. There are a few topics in each category to choose from.

We would like you to either present your speech at your local Grange's regular meeting or have your local Grange host a community night where youth can read their speeches and/or poetry. Speeches should be recorded, showing the community or members present, and then submitted to the National Junior Grange Director. Submission information is detailed in each category. A winner from each age group and category will be chosen and asked to present their speech at the National Convention in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, in November.

Funding to attend the National Convention is not provided; attendance is not required to receive an award, however we may plan to accommodate a presentation from you via video conference.

If you are planning to attend your state convention, work with your State Junior Grange Director to see if you may present your speech there, however, YOU ARE NOT required for National Submission.

Poetry Slam!

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

Submission: <https://grange.biz/JuniorSpeaking>

Your speech should be uploaded to YouTube as an "unlisted" video, then the link will be put into the submission form.

This is a unique combination of our **Poetry contest** and **Public speaking**. You may use the same poem for both contests, but if you would like to submit two separate poems, that is allowed as well.

The Poetry Slam will be judged on the **performance of the poem and the ability to recite your poem from memory**; the poetry contest has other criteria.

To complete a Poetry Slam!, either encourage a social night at your local Grange where community members can come and perform as well, (this is a great opportunity to fundraise for your Grange - and use as an activity for Grange In Action - inviting the community to take part) or you may arrange a time in your local Granges regular meeting to perform your poem to your members. *You can open this to your members, presenting other speeches if you feel appropriate* *Poem Presentations must be delivered to a gathering of people and recorded for submission. Poetry submissions must be in good taste and appropriate for all ages.*

Poetry Subjects

Open Category - Free Style or Structured

Use your imagination, write about anything in your world, how your garden makes you feel, any hobby, interest, or fun

Energizing our Future

Write a poem that reflects on the energy of our youth powering our future, how your dreams will power the future, or how energy sources make a difference in our lives, or be creative but focus on energy and our future.

America's 250th

Reflections of our nation, What our country means to you, Rural and Urban America working together, The American Spirit - 250 years, or be creative in your celebratory poem

Poetry Guidelines by Age

Ages 5–8

Poets may Perform **1–2**

original haiku,

or

One original poem of
8–12 lines

Ages 9–11

Poets may Perform **2–3**

original haiku

or

One original poem of
12–20 lines

Ages 12–14

Poets may Perform **3–4**

original haiku

or

One original poem of
15–30 lines

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier

Submit your Digital Package through Grange Engage at

<https://grange.biz/JuniorSpeaking> with YouTube Link (see instructions on information page) for your video.

Informational Speeches

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

Submission: <https://grange.biz/JuniorSpeaking>

Your speech should be uploaded to YouTube as an “unlisted” video, then the link will be put into the submission form.

Subject: Project Sustenance

Choose one of the three pillars of Project Sustenance, and give an informational speech on what this pillar means to your community, how you can see the benefit of this pillar, OR if the pillar is not already in practice, how it could benefit your community and your ideas on how your Grange could help develop the pillar within your community. Use of the National Grange website <https://www.nationalgrange.org/projectsustenance/> to help with ideas of what you would like to see in your community is permitted.

Three Pillars of Project Sustenance:

- Food Security
- Individual & Community Resilience,
- Self-Sustainability

Each speech should include the following elements:

1. **Explanation of the Pillar**
 - Describe what the chosen pillar means in the speaker’s own words.
2. **Connection to the Community**
 - Explain how this pillar currently benefits the community **or**
 - Describe how it *could* benefit the community if it is not already in practice.
3. **Grange Involvement**
 - Share at least one idea for how the local Grange could help support, strengthen, or develop this pillar within the community.

Speeches should be **informational**, but may also include personal observations, examples, or stories.

Notecards are allowed.

Speech Length Guidelines:

Ages 5-8
1-2 minutes

Ages 9-11
2-3 Minutes

Ages 12-14
3-5 minutes

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Digital Package through Grange Engage at
<https://grange.biz/JuniorSpeaking> with YouTube Link (see instructions on information page) for your video.

Subject: Energy and Agriculture

We will be visiting Oklahoma this year for the National Grange Convention, which is one of our nation's leaders in energy production. In an effort to learn more about the history of Oklahoma, give an informational speech with a brief history of why Oklahoma began drilling for oil, how they balance a relationship between drilling and agriculture and the future of energy in our host state. Speeches should focus on perseverance and hope.

This public speaking contest complements the Agricultural Awareness project.

Your speech should include the following elements:

- 1. Brief History of Agriculture in Oklahoma**
 - Research and convey knowledge of Oklahoma's history in regards to Agriculture
- 2. Development of Oil Drilling & Relationship with Agriculture**
 - What do oil drills mean for farmers? What are the challenges?
 - How has the Agricultural community balanced Oil and Farming?
 - How have they overcome the challenges?
- 3. Moving into the Future**
 - Investigate how Oklahoma is expanding & harnessing energy production and explore ideas and possibilities for moving into the future that helps support Agriculture.

Speeches should be **informational**, but may also include personal observations, examples, or stories.

Notecards are allowed.

Speech Length Guidelines

Ages 5-8
1-2 minutes

Ages 9-11
2-3 Minutes

Ages 12-14
3-5 minutes

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Digital Package through Grange Engage at
<https://grange.biz/JuniorSpeaking> with YouTube Link (see instructions on information page) for your video.

Demonstration Speeches

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

Submission: <https://grange.biz/JuniorSpeaking>

Your speech should be uploaded to YouTube as an “unlisted” video, then the link will be put into the submission form.

Celebrating America’s 250th Anniversary

Demonstration Speech Option 1 : Folding a Flag

Ages 5-8

- Learn how to fold a flag, demonstrate knowledge of folding the flag and present the steps to your audience. Use of a partner is acceptable if needed.
 - Speech should take 2-4 minutes

Ages 9-11

- Learn how to fold a flag, demonstrate knowledge of folding the flag and present the steps to your audience, use of a partner is acceptable if needed. Once the flag is folded, give a brief history of our nation's flag and why understanding how to fold the flag is important as an American.
 - Speech should take 5 minutes.

Ages 12-14

- Learn how to fold a flag, demonstrate knowledge of folding the flag and present the steps to your audience, use of a partner is acceptable if needed. Following folding the flag, give a lesson on flag etiquette, how does one dispose of a ripped, torn and tired flag? Explain what the history of our flag means to you. Be creative and add in stories and quotes if you like.
 - Speech should take 6-7 minutes.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier

Submit your Digital Package through Grange Engage at

<https://grange.biz/JuniorSpeaking> with YouTube Link (see instructions on information page) for your video.

Demonstration Speech Option 2: How to Write with a Quill

(You can use the Quill Craft for this speech)

Ages 5-8

- Explain how your Quill was made or how a quill is made if you did not do the craft - detail the process, explain how you choose your feather and what you learned about colonial writing instruments. Show how you wrote your name with it and explain the difficulty you found in doing so.
 - Speech should take 2-4 minutes

Ages 9-11

- Explain why you choose the feather you did, the process of building the quill, and if you would do it again. Think about how our forefathers wrote whole documents like the Constitution with a quill like this and explain the difficulties they may have faced.
 - Speech should take 5 minutes.

Ages 12-14

- Teach your audience how you made your quill, giving detailed instructions. Demonstrate how you use the quill to write. If you completed the calligraphy contest, give details about how understanding calligraphy helps to write with the quill. If not, give a brief history on quill pens and how they came into use. Tie in the Declaration of Independence and penmanship into your speech.
 - Speech should take 6-7 minutes.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier

Submit your Digital Package through Grange Engage at

<https://grange.biz/JuniorSpeaking> with YouTube Link (see instructions on information page) for your video.

Youth Fairs Demonstration Speeches

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

Submission: <https://grange.biz/JuniorSpeaking>

Your speech should be uploaded to YouTube as an “unlisted” video, then the link will be put into the submission form.

Option A: Animal Demonstration

Create a video demonstration of how you presented your fair animal to the judges at fair. Please present the animal in the same manner you have at the fair.

In the video introduce yourself, by stating your name, age, Grange or Junior Grange, and state. Introduce your animal, stating name, breed, age, followed by a presentation of your fair animal.

This speech **does not** need to be completed in front of a group of people due to the nature of previously presenting at fair, however, please include a short video of your presentation at fair to show capability of relaying your knowledge to fair judges and fair-goers.

***For example:** When presenting a chicken - demonstrate how to take your bird out of their cage, how to appropriately hold your bird, introduce yourself, by stating your name and age. Introduce your chicken by stating its name, sex (hen or cockerel) and age. Demonstrate knowledge of the different body parts of your bird for judging.*

Submissions will be judged on age appropriateness of animal demonstration as well as the ability to present your animal thoroughly, clarity of speaking, and effort.

Time Limits for Presentations

Ages 5-8
2-3 minutes

Ages 9-11
3-5 Minutes

Ages 12-14
5-8 minutes

Submit even if time limits seem a bit short or slightly too long

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier

Submit your Digital Package through Grange Engage at

<https://grange.biz/JuniorSpeaking> with YouTube Link (see instructions on information page) for your video.

Option B: Open Category Demonstration

This is a great opportunity to show your Grange Members what you have been working on and how much you have learned within your Grange!

Create a video of your demonstration.

- A demonstration can be done on any topic relating to Grange, Agriculture, Home Economics or any Grange Youth Fairs project. The demonstration can be an illustrated talk or a true how-to demonstration, but must use visual aids.
- In the video introduce yourself, by stating your name, age, Grange or Junior Grange, and State. Submissions will be judged on age appropriateness of demonstration as well as the ability to present your topic thoroughly .

This presentation should be given to your general membership meeting and recorded for submission.

Time Limits for Presentations

Ages 5-8
2-5 minutes

Ages 9-11
3-8 Minutes

Ages 12-14
5-10 minutes

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Digital Package through Grange Engage at
<https://grange.biz/JuniorSpeaking> with YouTube Link (see instructions on information
page) for your video.

Junior Talent Showcase

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

SUBMISSION: <https://grange.biz/JuniorTalent>

Let's Get Ready to Shine

Everyone has something they are good at. It might be something you practice all the time or something you just love to do for fun. You do not need to be perfect or the best at something. You just need the courage to try.

The Junior Grange Talent Showcase is your chance to step forward and share what makes you unique. This challenge is about confidence, creativity, and having fun while supporting one another.

If you have ever thought, "I wish I could show people this," this is your moment.

Requirements:

You will prepare and present a talent of your choice.

Your talent can be anything you enjoy doing, including but not limited to:

- singing
- dancing
- playing a musical instrument
- acting or performing a skit
- storytelling or comedy
- magic tricks
- demonstrating a skill you have learned
- building or showing how something works
- teaching something you are good at

If you are unsure whether your talent fits, ask a Junior Leader for approval.

Time Requirement

Your performance must be at least 1 minute and no longer than 5 minutes.

This helps make sure everyone has time to participate.

How You May Perform

Your talent may be:

- performed live at a Grange or Junior Grange event and recorded as a video to submit.
- You may perform alone or as part of a group.

Getting Ready

1. Choose a talent you enjoy and feel comfortable sharing.
2. Practice your talent ahead of time.
3. Make sure your performance fits within the time limit.
4. Ask a leader or family member for help if needed.

Remember, effort matters more than perfection.

Judging Criteria

Performances will be judged on:

- effort and preparation
- confidence and participation
- creativity
- age-appropriate presentation

This showcase is not about being the best performer. It is about trying something new and sharing what you enjoy.

Please make sure:

- the performance is clearly visible and audible
- it stays within the time limit
- the submission includes your name, age, Grange name and number, and state

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Digital Package to <https://grange.biz/JuniorTalent> with YouTube Link (see instructions on information page) for your video.

Creativity Projects

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

In this section you will find information on:

- ***Create A Sticker Project***
 - ***Commemorative Star***
 - ***Project Sustenance Shield***
- ***Historical Craftsmanship Project: Create a Quill***
- ***Calligraphy Project***
- ***Creative Art Project:***
 - ***Windssock***
 - ***Windchime***
- ***Photography Contest***

Please note: The Community Service Section includes “Crafting for a Cause” - A Craft Project that celebrates America’s 250th and our Veterans.

Sticker Design Project

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

SUBMISSION: <https://grange.biz/JuniorSticker>

Commemorative Star Sticker

This year is our nation's 250th birthday. To celebrate, we want you to create a commemorative star that can be made into a sticker. Use the attached empty star as a template or design on the computer/phone with our Canva template.

NOTE: If using Canva, please use original designs only, not 'precrafted' designs/templates. Elements from Canva's element gallery are permitted. Be creative and use your own photos, drawings, etc.

For Canva Designing:

1. Open Canva template by scanning the QR Code on the **Star Template** page.
2. Design over the star lines. Be aware, anything outside the lines will not be in the final star design.

If printing the Star Template for sticker design, please scan completed art into your computer at 300 dpi (this is in the scan settings on your computer.)

When using your cell phone to photograph for submission, please do so next to a large window, with bright non-direct light, keep the phone as flat as possible to the art and only 3 feet away.

Note: Commemorative Star craft projects can be scanned in or photographed to be used as the sticker as well but can use any material you wish to craft with.

Note on photographing crafts - Photograph WITHOUT flash, in bright, indirect window light on a table or the floor with the camera as close to the project as possible while still capturing the whole piece. Using a white posterboard as a background works well too. Photograph can also be taken in the Junior's hand.

Winning Sticker Design will be printed and distributed at National Convention

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier

Submit your Commemorative Star Sticker Project at <https://grange.biz/JuniorSticker>



On a computer, this sticker template can also be found at <https://grange.biz/JuniorStarSticker>

Project Sustenance Sticker

In an effort to create more awareness about our amazing [Project Sustenance Program](#), we would like you to design a sticker, through hand drawing or computer graphics programs like Canva, that highlights one of the core pillars of Project Sustenance.



1. **Food Security:** Ensuring access to nutritious food.
2. **Community & Personal Resilience:** Building capacity to withstand challenges.
3. **Self-Sustainability:** Developing skills for independence.

NOTE: If using Canva, please use original designs only, not 'precrafted' designs/templates. Elements from Canva's element gallery are permitted. Be creative and use your own photos, drawings, etc.

For Canva Designing:

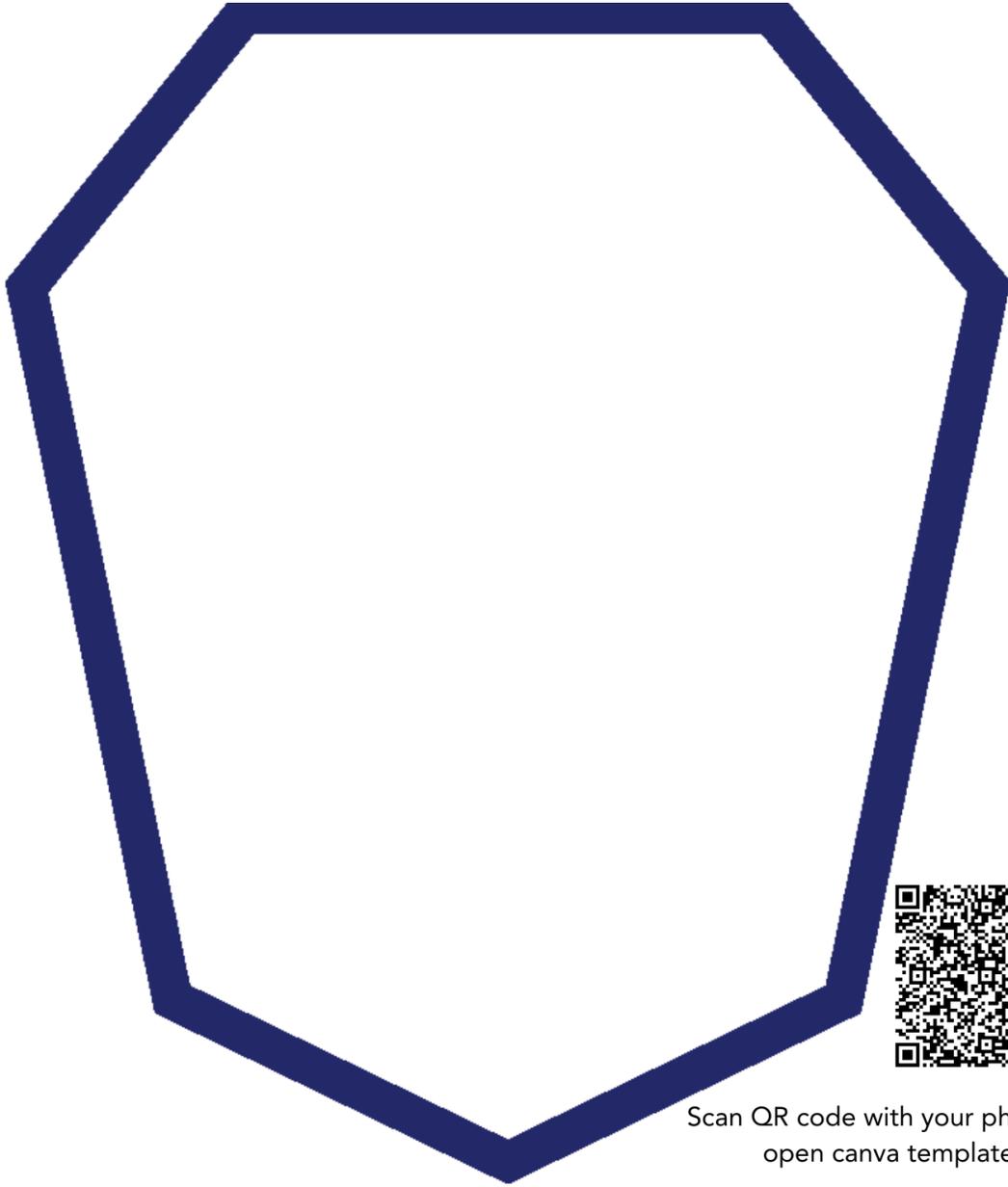
1. Open Canva template by scanning the QR Code on the Project Sustenance Template page.
2. Design over the shield lines, however be aware, anything outside the lines will not be in the final design.

If printing Project Sustenance Template for sticker design, please scan completed art into the computer at 300 dpi, this is in the scan settings on your computer.

When using your cell phone to photograph for submission, please do so next to a large window, with bright non-direct light, keep the phone as flat as possible to the art and only 3 feet away.

Winning Sticker Design will be printed and distributed at National Convention

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Project Sustenance Sticker Project at <https://grange.biz/JuniorSticker>



Scan QR code with your phone to
open canva template

On a computer, this sticker template can also be found at
<https://grange.biz/JuniorGrangeSticker>

Historical Craftsmanship Project

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

SUBMISSION: <https://grange.biz/JuniorHistory>

In an effort to combine our country's 250th anniversary and discussion about how documents like the Declaration of Independence were written (by hand), this year we are opening a craft to create a feather quill, followed by a learning contest regarding Calligraphy. Did you know Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence but Timothy Matlock's handwriting is what we see on the document? Penmanship was just as important today as it was in 1776. Following building your feather pen, you are encouraged to learn a bit about calligraphy. Leaders, older Juniors, parents and guardians should also read a few sentences or a section of the Declaration of Independence to younger Juniors.

Feather Pen Project

Project Description

Junior Grangers along with leaders or parents will research how a feather quill is made, gather a turkey, goose, duck tail feather and create a feather pen following the instructions found through research.

The pen should:

- Be able to hold ink
- Be able to write

Materials

- Strong feather
- Whittling knife or X-acto knife
- Ink, be sure to locate a non-toxic brand

Age-Based Expectations

- **Ages 5–8:**
Adult supervision and support will be needed for this age group. Adults are permitted to help with the fine details of cutting the feather. Juniors should be attentive to the process and try to make cuts, if capable. Focus on participation and understanding is most important here.
 - Submission Requirements
 - Photograph of Completed Feather Pen
 - Photograph of pen's tip used for writing (BEFORE INK)
 - A card with your name, Grange name and number, written with the pen

- **Ages 9–11:**
Adult Support may be needed for this age group. Adults are permitted to help with the fine details of cutting the feather, if needed. Juniors should be attentive to the process and try to make most of the cuts, if capable.
 - Submission Requirements
 - Photograph of Completed Feather Pen
 - Photograph of pens tip used for writing (BEFORE INK)
 - A card with your name, Grange name and number, written with the pen
 - Choose 3 words from the Declaration of Independence and write them under your name and Grange name

- **Ages 12–14:**
Adult guidance may be needed for this age group, but Juniors should be able to do most of the cuts themselves. Support is permitted.
 - Submission Requirements
 - Photograph of Completed Feather Pen
 - Photograph of pens tip used for writing (BEFORE INK)
 - A card with your name, Grange name and number, written with the pen
 - Choose one sentence from the Declaration of Independence and write it under your name and Grange name

Explanation

Juniors may include a short explanation describing:

- What materials were used
 - What they learned while making the pen/exploring the Declaration of Independence
 - If they think they could use the pen for school work and if they would
- OR*
- Write the speech for the Demonstration Speech on Making a Feather Pen. This is encouraged for public speaking practice but not required.

Submission Guidelines

Each entry must include:

- Submission of the online form
- Photos of the completed Feather Pen
- Scanned document with Feather Pen Writings
- Explanation of experience

Note on photographing crafts - Photograph WITHOUT flash, in bright, indirect window light on a table or the floor with the camera as close to the project as possible while still capturing the whole piece. Using a white posterboard as a background works well too. Photograph can also be taken in the Junior's hand.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Historical Craftsmanship Project to <https://grange.biz/JuniorHistory>

Calligraphy Writing

To continue learning about our country's vital documents and how they were created, we would like you to learn a bit about calligraphy. Ask your members if anyone actively writes in calligraphy and have them do a tutorial or use a YouTube tutorial video.

You can make your final document more fun by coffee- or tea-staining your paper, prior to writing your words or quotes.

Materials

- Calligraphy Pen
- Paper

Age-Based Expectations

Ages 5–8:

Juniors will be introduced to the basics of calligraphy. The focus for this age group is participation, exploration, and learning—not perfection.

Submission Requirements

- Write your name
- Write the word “Independence”

Ages 9–11:

Participants will learn the basics of calligraphy and practice forming letters. Improvement through practice is encouraged; perfection is not required.

Submission Requirements

- Write your name
- Practice your calligraphy letters at least three times, on separate sheets
- Write the words “Independence,” “Liberty,” and “Freedom”

Ages 12–14:

Participants will build on basic calligraphy skills by focusing on letter consistency, spacing, and style. This age group is encouraged to experiment with technique and presentation while continuing to practice.

Submission Requirements

- Write your name
- Submit at least one practice page showing letter development

- Write one short quote or phrase from the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights or Constitution

Submission Guidelines

Each entry must include:

- Submission form through online form
- Scanned in practice sheets
- Scanned in final document with words or quote

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Historical Craftsmanship Project to <https://grange.biz/JuniorHistory>

Creative Art Contest

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

Submission: <https://grange.biz/JuniorArt>

THEME: Energy through Wind

The National Junior Grange is working to help bring awareness to Agriculture and how wind can be used to generate energy.

With this year's creative art project, we want you to create a piece of art where you use your imagination and your creativity to create a wind sock or a recycled material windchime.

Inspired by Oklahoma's wide plains, wind energy, and lessons learned from the Dust Bowl, Juniors will create a wind chime and/or wind sock using recycled or reused materials.

This project connects creativity with environmental awareness and shows how caring for our resources helps power our future.

Important Notes for Leaders

These projects are intended to be creative, inclusive, and environmentally conscious. Juniors should be encouraged to use materials readily available to them.

The goal is not perfection, but thoughtful design, creativity, and learning.

Windsock Project

Project Description

Junior Grangers will design and build a functional wind sock using primarily recycled or reused materials.

The windsock should:

- Catch the wind when hung
- reflect creativity and personal design
- demonstrate thoughtful use of reused materials
- Maximum size of 3'x3'

Approved Materials

Windsocks must be created primarily from recycled or reused items, such as:

- Old Clothes, Scrap Cloth, Feed Bags, Etc.

- Baling Twine, old rope
- Decorate with any materials you may have, markers, paint, etc.

Glue, string, wire, fishing line, or paint may be used as needed.

Age-Based Expectations

- **Ages 5–8:**
Windsack may be glued, use string, or paper, should be able to fly in the wind even if just from child's hand.
- **Ages 9–11:**
Windsack must be durable enough to stay outdoors for short periods of time, may glue or sew but should be able to capture wind and flow freely.
- **Ages 12–14:**
Windsack should be durable enough to withstand being left outside, should be sewn or use glue that will withstand weather.

Optional Explanation

Juniors may include a short explanation (written or verbal) describing:

- what materials were used
- where the materials came from
- how the project connects to wind, sustainability, or the environment

(This is encouraged for older Juniors but not required.)

Submission Guidelines

Each entry must include:

- Submission form through online form
- photos of the completed windsack

NOTE FOR PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PROJECT: Photograph outside, in a well-lit but shaded area. If hanging when photographed, ensure there is a wall or similar backdrop. Photographs can include the child or just the child's hand.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Creative Art Project online at <https://grange.biz/JuniorArt>

Wind Chime Project

Project Description

Junior Grangers will design and build a functional wind chime using primarily recycled or reused materials.

The wind chime should:

- move and/or make sound when hung
- reflect creativity and personal design
- demonstrate thoughtful use of reused materials

Approved Materials

Wind chimes must be created primarily from recycled or reused items, such as:

- metal washers, nuts, bolts
- bottle caps or jar lids
- old keys
- cans or aluminum pieces
- beads from broken jewelry
- shells, wood scraps, or found objects
- cardboard tubes or scrap wood for structure

Glue, string, wire, fishing line, or paint may be used as needed.

Store-bought kits are not permitted.

Age-Based Expectations

- **Ages 5–8:**
Simple wind chime design using a few materials
- **Ages 9–11:**
Wind chime with intentional design and multiple recycled elements
- **Ages 12–14:**
Detailed wind chime showing balance, sound design, and creative construction

Optional Explanation

Juniors may include a short explanation (written or verbal) describing:

- what materials were used
- where the materials came from

- how the project connects to wind, sustainability, or the environment
(This is encouraged for older Juniors but not required.)

Submission Guidelines

Each entry must include:

- Submission form through online form
- photos of the completed windchime

NOTE FOR PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PROJECT: Photograph outside, in a well-lit but shaded area, it should be photographed hanging so ensure a backdrop like a wall is behind the project.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Creative Art Project online at <https://grange.biz/JuniorArt>

Photography Contest

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

Submission: <https://grange.biz/JuniorPhoto>

Photography is an integral part of life; it is how we capture our memories, beautiful landscapes that will never look the same again, and can even aid in informational purposes.

This year, we have a few different categories to choose from, and each member may submit one photograph to each category. Take time to consider composition, lighting, and subject.

Category Choices

Landscape - Open

Landscape - Energy in Action

Animals/ Pets

Portrait

America The Beautiful

Documentary, with a focus on [Project Sustenance](#)

Images should not be modified beyond minor contrast settings, brightness, exposure, temperature, and sharpness. **Please no filters - and AI modified images are not accepted.**

Images must have been taken after January 2025.

Judging will be based on lighting, sharpness, composition and effort by age, to capture the category chosen.

Image submissions should be set to 5"x7" and no less than 300 DPI saved as a JPG format.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Creative Writing Project online at <https://grange.biz/JuniorPhoto>

Agricultural & Sustainability Awareness

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

In this section you will find information on:

- *Agricultural Awareness Contest*
- *Home Garden Project*
- *Recipe Contest*

Agricultural Awareness Project

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

SUBMISSION: <https://grange.biz/JuniorAgriculture>

2026 Theme: The Dust Bowl & Caring for the Land

Long ago, parts of Oklahoma and the Great Plains went through a time called the Dust Bowl. Strong winds, dry weather, and poor farming practices caused soil to blow away. Crops failed, and families struggled.

Farmers learned important lessons from this time. Today, they use better methods to protect the soil so plants can grow and food can be produced for the future.

In this project, you will learn how caring for the land helps plants grow and why agriculture is important to everyone.

When farmers care for the soil, they protect food, land, and communities. By learning from the Dust Bowl, we can make better choices for the future.

By completing this project, you are learning how agriculture helps feed families and how caring for the land helps power our future.

Choose the Path That Fits Your Age

Your activities will depend on your age. Do your best and have fun learning.

Ages 5–8

Your Goal

Learn that caring for the land helps plants grow.

What You Will Do

You will complete **all** of the following:

1. **Learn**
Learn what the Dust Bowl was through a story, picture, or explanation.
2. **See the Difference**
Learn the difference between healthy soil and damaged soil.
3. **Create ONE Item**
Choose one:
 - draw a picture of healthy farmland
 - plant seeds in soil (cup, pot, or garden)
 - build a simple soil model
4. **Share**
Tell a leader or group one thing you learned.

What to Submit

- A picture of your activity
- One - two sentences (written or spoken) about what you learned

Note on photographing crafts - Photograph WITHOUT flash, in bright, indirect window light on a table or the floor with the camera as close to the project as possible while still capturing the whole piece. Using a white posterboard as a background works well too. Photograph can also be taken in the Junior's hand.

Ages 9–11

Your Goal

Learn what caused the Dust Bowl and how farming has improved.

What You Will Do

1. Learn what caused the Dust Bowl
2. Identify two lessons farmers learned
3. Complete two activities, such as:
 - an art project
 - a soil erosion experiment
 - a planting activity
 - a poster or display
4. Share what you learned with others

What to Submit

- a short written summary (½–1 page)
- photos of your activities or project

Note on photographing crafts - Photograph WITHOUT flash, in bright, indirect window light on a table or the floor with the camera as close to the project as possible while still capturing the whole piece. Using a white posterboard as a background works well too. Photograph can also be taken in the Junior's hand.

Ages 12–14

Your Goal

Understand sustainability and how agriculture protects the future.

What You Will Do

1. Research the Dust Bowl and its long-term impact
2. Explain three ways farmers protect soil today
3. Complete two or more activities, such as:
 - a conservation experiment
 - an educational display
 - a teaching activity
 - a planting or sustainability project
4. Create a plan to teach others what you learned

What to Submit

- a written summary (up to 1 page)
- photos of your activities and sharing efforts

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Agricultural Awareness Project at <https://grange.biz/JuniorAgriculture>

National Junior Grange

Design a Home Garden Project

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

SUBMISSION: <https://grange.biz/JuniorGarden>

Gardens can be big or small. Even a single plant can teach us responsibility, patience, and how food and flowers grow. When we care for plants, we are caring for the land and learning how agriculture supports families and communities.

This project allows you to grow a garden at your own home, using the space and materials you have available.

Your Challenge

You will plan, plant, and care for a garden at home.

Your garden can be:

- in the ground
- in raised garden boxes
- in containers, pots, or buckets
- indoors or outdoors

The size of the garden does not matter. What matters is that you help plan it, plant it, and take care of it.

What You Will Do

1. Decide what kind of garden you want to grow.
2. Choose plants such as vegetables, herbs, or flowers.
3. Prepare the soil or containers.
4. Plant your seeds or plants.
5. Care for your garden by watering and observing growth.

Garden Ideas

Your home garden may include:

- vegetables for your family
- herbs used for cooking
- flowers that attract pollinators
- plants that grow well in containers

You may add:

- plant labels
- simple decorations
- signs showing it is your Junior Grange garden

Caring for Your Garden

As your plants grow, pay attention to:

- how often they need water
- how sunlight affects them
- how the soil helps them grow

If something does not grow as planned, that is okay. Learning from mistakes is part of gardening.

Age Guidelines

- Ages 5–8: Help choose seeds for planting, plant, water, and observe growth.
- Ages 9–11: Help plan the garden, track growth, and care for plants.
- Ages 12–14: Take responsibility for planning, care, and explaining what you learned.

Your Project Submission: *These should be combined into one pdf document*

Take photos of:

- your garden when you first plant it
- your garden as it grows
- your finished or growing garden

You may also write or explain:

- what you planted
- why you chose those plants
- what you learned from caring for your garden

Submission Requirements:

Online form and a summary of your plan to complete the project. Include explanation of information outlined above. Summary should be roughly 2-3 paragraphs. Include 2-3 photographs or short videos from your project.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Home Garden Project at <https://grange.biz/JuniorGarden>

Recipe Contest

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

SUBMISSION: <https://grange.biz/JuniorRecipe>

Is cooking your jam? We want to try your favorite recipes!

In an effort to help promote Kids in the Kitchen, we want to hear all about your favorite meals and treats.

Submitted recipes are not required to be original creations; however, they must not be previously published. Traditional family recipes, including those passed down through generations, are encouraged.

Categories for all ages

Soups

Salads

Dinners

Desserts

Cookies

Entry Instructions

- Choose one recipe from one category
- Either write a recipe card or type Recipe into a document and submit through online form.
- Include one short paragraph (up to 100 words) saying why you love this meal or treat.
- Attach a photo of yourself helping to prepare your dish (5-10) or preparing it on your own (11-14) and/or a photo of the finished meal.
- Recipes can be typed or handwritten, but must be legible.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier

Submit your Recipes at <https://grange.biz/JuniorRecipe>

Legislation & Advocacy

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

In this section, you will find information on:

- *Local Advocacy Project/ Advocacy for All Ages*
- *Legislative Experience*

Advocacy for All Ages

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

SUBMISSION: <https://grange.biz/JuniorAdvocacy>
& YouTube Link

Your speech should be uploaded to YouTube as an “unlisted” video, then the link will be put into the submission form.

Local Advocacy Project

Do you have an issue that affects your community? What is it? How can you make a difference and create change within your community? With this project, we are encouraging Junior Grangers to identify issues within their community, research the issue, and be an advocate for change.

Within this process, the Junior Granger should learn the legislative process of the Grange and the community with whom they are working for a change. (i.e., local government, school board, HOA, etc.)

Junior Leaders, Older Junior Grange members and/or Youth mentors within the Grange should help young Junior Grangers with ideas and topics without giving them. Use questions like “What in our community makes you happy? What makes you sad? What makes you mad? How would you like to change [that thing] that makes you mad?”

Junior Grangers 5 - 8

- Identify what *your* communities are and what type of local you live in.
 - School, Grange, Neighborhood, Town, Athletics, Clubs
 - Rural, suburban, urban
- Identify who helps make decisions for your community, who makes the rules?
- Identify a change you want to make in your chosen community.
- Decide how you would like to make this change.

- Once you have identified who makes the decisions, the issue you see in your community, decide what you want to do about it.
 - Write a 1 page letter (hand written) or 1-2 paragraphs typed, to your identified community leader (Principal, HOA president, Grange President, Athletics Dept Chair) about your concerns and the changes you would like, and the benefits you see for the change.
 - Present your ideas and letter to your local Grange - be sure to record this part!

For example: You live in a suburban area and your neighborhood doesn't allow Lemonade stands, but you think they would be beneficial to help kids raise money for various things. You know that you live in a homeowners association (HOA) and there is a President for that board. You write the HOA president a letter explaining that children need to be able to raise funds and

lemonade stands are a great way to do so! You know that it would benefit your neighbors and other children alike by providing a cold drink on warm days. This ensures neighbors are staying hydrated and kids are learning how to earn money and be responsible with their earnings.

Ages 5-8 - Submit to the Junior Grange Director:

- A list of your research;
 - What community type you live in
 - what community organization you choose (if not a town/city concern)
 - The community leader's name and title
- The issue you are presenting and your solution
- A copy of your letter (may be hand written and copied on a copy machine)
- A YouTube video link (see instructions on Information page) of you presenting your advocacy piece to your local Grange.

Junior Grangers 8 - 11

- Identify what *your* communities are and what type of locale you live in. Write down what your thoughts are on why this might matter.
 - School, Grange, Neighborhood, Town, Athletics, Clubs
 - Rural, suburban, urban
- Identify who helps make decisions for your chosen community, who makes the rules? (Grange President, School Principal, HOA Chair, etc.)
- Identify a change you want to make in your chosen community.
- Decide how you would like to make a change.
 - Identify 2 key reasons your ideas would benefit your community.
 - Identify a reason the rule may be the way it currently is.
 - Identify a solution to your identified reason the rule is in place.

- Once you have identified who makes the decisions, the issue you see in your community, reasons your idea benefits the community, write a letter to the community leader.
 - Write a 1 page letter typed double spaced, to your identified community leader (Principal, HOA president, Grange President, Athletics Dept Chair) about your concerns and the changes you would like, the benefits you see for the change.
 - Present your ideas and letter to your local Grange - be sure to videotape this part!

For example: You live in a suburban area and your neighborhood doesn't allow Lemonade stands, but you think they would be beneficial to help kids raise money for various things. You know that you live in a homeowners association (HOA) and there is a president for that board. You write the HOA president a letter explaining that children need to be able to raise funds and lemonade stands are a great way to do so! You know that it would benefit your neighbors and other children alike by providing a cold drink on warm days. This ensures neighbors are staying hydrated and kids are learning how to earn money and be responsible with their earnings. You

have identified that a possible reason that lemonade stands are not allowed could have to do with a risk of traffic within the neighborhood, and you would like to suggest that to hold a lemonade stand, parents help by making parking areas to help make sure traffic build up doesn't happen.

Ages 8-11 - Submit to the Junior Grange Director:

- A list of your research;
 - What community type you live in and why this might matter to your research
 - What community organization you choose (if not a town/city concern)
 - The community leader's name and title
- The issue you are presenting and your solution
- A copy of your letter
 - Include your name, city, state, Grange name & number, age & date of birth, in the signature.
- A YouTube video link (see instructions on Information page) of you presenting your advocacy piece to your local Grange.

Junior Grangers 12-14

- Identify what *your* communities are and what type of locale you live in. Write down what your thoughts are on why this might matter.
 - School, Grange, Neighborhood, Town, Athletics, Clubs
 - Rural, suburban, urban
- Identify who helps make decisions for your chosen community, who makes the rules? (Grange President, School Principal, HOA Chair, etc.)
- Identify a change you want to make in your chosen community.
- Decide how you would like to make a change.
 - Identify 3 key reasons your ideas would benefit your community.
 - Identify 2 reasons the rule may be the way it currently is.
 - Identify the solutions to your identified reasons the rule is in place.

- Once you have identified who makes the decisions, the issue you see in your community, reasons your idea benefits the community, write a letter to the community leader.
 - Write a 2 page formal letter typed, double spaced, to your identified community leader (Principal, HOA president, Grange President, Athletics Dept Chair) about your concerns and the changes you would like, the benefits you see for the change.
 - Present your ideas and letter to your local Grange - be sure to videotape this part!
 - Mail your letter, take a photograph of your dropping it into the mailbox as proof.

For example: You live in a suburban area and your neighborhood doesn't allow Lemonade stands, but you think they would be beneficial to help kids raise money for various things. You

know that you live in a homeowners association (HOA) and there is a president for that board. You write the HOA president a letter explaining that children need to be able to raise funds and lemonade stands are a great way to do so! You know that it would benefit your neighbors and other children alike by providing a cold drink on warm days. This ensures neighbors are staying hydrated and kids are learning how to earn money and be responsible with their earnings. Your community would also benefit from lemonade stands by creating more community within your neighborhood, allowing neighbors to support young entrepreneurs while also getting to know each other better. You have identified a few possible reasons that lemonade stands are not allowed. The first could have to do with a risk of traffic within the neighborhood, and you would like to suggest that to hold a lemonade stand, parents help by making parking areas to help make sure traffic build up doesn't happen. Secondly, you can see that there is a safety concern around children being close to the street, therefore if a child is planning a lemonade stand, it is permitted only under adult supervision.

Ages 12-14 - Submit to the Junior Grange Director:

- A list of your research;
 - What community type you live in and why this might matter to your research
 - What community organization you choose (if not a town/city concern)
 - The community leader's name and title
- The issue you are presenting and your solution
- A copy of your letter
 - Include your name, city, state, Grange name & number, age & date of birth, in the signature.
- A video of you presenting your advocacy piece to your local Grange.
- Mail your letter, take a photograph of your dropping it into the mailbox as proof.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier

Submit your Digital Package to <https://grange.biz/JuniorAdvocacy> and uploading files with the file names as follows: **LastName_FirstName_LocalAdvocacy1.pdf (for letter & research) with YouTube Link (see instructions on information page) for your video.**

- **Submissions can be made separately to the GrowthZone as long as the file name is successive - 1,2,3, etc.**

State Legislative Experience 2026

Have you ever wondered how decisions are made in your state? Or how groups like the Grange help speak up about things that matter?



The State Legislative Experience is a chance for you to learn how government works, how the Grange shares its voice, and how you can be part of creating positive change in your community.

During a State Legislative Experience, Juniors, Youth, and Young Adults may visit their state capitol to explore how laws are made and how people work together to serve others. You might tour the capitol, meet people who work in government, learn about Grange policies, or discover how citizens and organizations advocate for issues they care about.

You don't need to know everything ahead of time. This experience is about learning, asking questions, and seeing how leadership looks in the real world.

Understanding how decisions are made helps you become a stronger leader. It teaches you how to stand up for your ideas, listen to others, and take an active role in shaping the future of your community. These are skills that will stay with you for life.

Just as the Grange encourages its members to take an interest in their communities and country, this experience helps you begin that journey one step at a time.

We hope you'll take part if your state offers a legislative experience, and we can't wait to see how you continue learning, leading, and powering your future.

For States and Leaders

States are encouraged to offer a State Legislative Experience for Junior, Youth, and Young Adult members. All adults accompanying Juniors must follow State and National Grange Child Protection Policies.

If your Grange or State Grange plans a legislative day or experience, please keep the National Junior Grange and Executive Director of Grange Advocacy informed by emailing Junior@nationalgrange.org and BEller@nationalgrange.org.

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Awareness

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

In this section you will find information on:

- *Deaf Awareness Service Project*
- *Sign a Song Contest*

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Awareness

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

SUBMISSION: <https://grange.biz/JuniorDeafAwareness> & Photograph upload

Your Grange/Junior Grange will have the opportunity to choose one or more of the following events to support the Deaf community and serve as a committee to help bring awareness to Deaf culture within your own communities.

You may work together with your Community and/or Junior Grange to host one of the following events. The Grange Foundation has a Deaf Awareness Grant that this project will qualify you for, go to <https://grangefoundation.org/deaf-awareness-grant-program/>. Deadline is May 1st for submissions.

- Start a Sign-Language Club in your school/Grange/Community to teach children about sign-language and encourage them to learn the language.
- Host a silent dinner where the patrons are only allowed to sign and there is no talking allowed without sign during the dinner.
- Host a deaf movie night- there are several ASL films all in sign-language or other movies about deaf culture. Gather to watch these movies with only closed captioning and no sound.
- Host a deaf coffee chat at a local coffee shop, restaurant, or Grange Hall and invite the deaf to come and have a sign-language social.
- Host a fund-raiser event to raise funds for the Grange Foundation Deaf Activities fund.

Submission Requirements

- Group Project with Grange as a host.
- Write up a description of what you did and how the event went, including the date of the event.
- Take a photo of the event to submit with description.

Be sure to photograph this event and submit it to Grange in Action.

NOTE: Juniors can also be the photographers for this event and submit their favorite image to the Documentary Photography category of the Photography contest.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your project information at <https://grange.biz/JuniorDeafAwareness>

National Junior Grange Sign a Song Contest

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

Submission: <https://grange.biz/JuniorSign>

Your speech should be uploaded to YouTube as an “unlisted” video, then the link will be put into the submission form.



A.S.L - American Sign Language

The goal of the National Junior Grange Sign-a-Song Contest is to connect Junior members to Deaf culture by learning their language either by finger-spelling or using ASL. The National Junior Grange Sign-A-Song Contest is open to all Junior Grangers or 1+ members. Junior members are encouraged to perform their Sign-a-Song in front of their Grange or at a state-level contest. Winners will be announced during the National Grange Convention.

Requirements:

- **CATEGORIES:**
 - 5-8 years old: Sign their Name and the ABC's song
 - 9-11 years old: Sign their Name and a choice of:
 - “JUNIOR GRANGERS WILL BE TRUE TO EACH OTHER” (full phrase) or “This Land is Your Land”
 - 12-14 years old: Sign their Name and a choice between:
 - Pledge of Allegiance or “America the Beautiful”
- Submit a video link via YouTube (unlisted) of you signing your name and song/words of choice

Judging Criteria: The contestants will be judged in the following areas:

- **Communication:** Utilization of total communication, Sign Language Ability, Signs clearly with correct interpretation.
- **Expression:** Body expression/Displays Emotion. Expresses Key thoughts with body movements. Mouths words for lip reading.
- **Overall Presentation:** Dressed appropriately. Confidence. Timing/Uniformity

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier

Submit your Digital Package at <https://grange.biz/JuniorSign> with YouTube Link (see instructions on information page) for your video.

Community Service

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

In this section you will find information on:

- *National Service Project*
- *Grange in Action Information*
- *Crafting for a Cause*
- *Silver Garden Community Project*
- *Cape of Honor*

National Junior Grange Community Service Project

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

Submission: <https://grange.biz/JuniorCommunityService>

Teaching our children about community service is more important than ever. Community service has been a foundational piece for the Grange since its beginning. This year, Junior Grangers across the country are encouraged to take part in a service project together. The basis of this project will be the same across all Junior Granges, but each Grange is encouraged to make the project unique and mold it to fit within their communities.

The goal of the Junior Grange service project is to teach kids how businesses and community organizations work. Juniors are encouraged to learn how to plan and carry out a plan of action. They are taught within service projects how to communicate with others, accomplish a task, and learn the process and rules of carrying out a service project.

Project Options: Local Food/Supply Drive and/or Supporting our Elder Community

Community Service Project: Local Food/Supply Drive

This community service project may be completed in collaboration with your Community Grange.

Many individuals and families in our communities rely on services like food pantries, shelters and service organizations due to food insecurity or lack of access to basic needs. By organizing a supply and food drive, Juniors will learn how to gather necessary items and work alongside other community organizations to support neighbors in times of need.

Step 1: Identify a Community Need

Identify a need within your community and determine where the collected items will be donated. As part of this process, Juniors should research which supplies are most needed by the receiving organization by calling the organization.

Your drive may focus on:

- Non-perishable food items
- Toiletry or hygiene supplies
- Baby or household essentials
- A specific high-need item (such as peanut butter or canned proteins)

Step 2: Locate a Community Partner

Identify and contact a local organization or business to partner with for your drive. This may include:

- A food pantry or shelter
- A grocery store
- A food service facility
- Another community organization

Ask if they are willing to partner with you, assist with promotion, or serve as a collection site.

Step 3: Develop a Service Plan

Create a plan to ensure your drive is successful. Consider:

- How you will advertise or share information about the drive
- Whether a budget is needed
- How long the drive will run
- Where and how items will be collected

All plans should be clear, organized, and achievable for your group.

Step 4: Take Action

Put your plan into action. Collect items, track donations if desired, and coordinate with your community partner to deliver the supplies at the conclusion of the drive.

Step 5: Reflect

After completing the project, reflect as a group. Discuss:

- What worked well
- What challenges you encountered
- How the project could be improved in the future
- Who was helped by your efforts and how

Reflection helps Juniors better understand community needs and the impact of service.

Submission Requirements:

Submit a letter, including the names, ages, birthdates of Juniors involved, Grange name and number, state, as well as a summary of your plan for the project. Include information about the organization you partnered with, how you put your plan into action and your reflections. Summary should be roughly 2-3 paragraphs. Include 2-3 photographs from your event in the same PDF.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Digital Package at <https://grange.biz/JuniorCommunityService>

Community Service Project: Supporting Our Elder Community

This community service project may be completed in collaboration with your subordinate Grange.

Many of our elderly neighbors spend their days in skilled nursing or convalescent homes where daily needs are met, but personal connections can be limited. Some residents no longer have the ability to shop for themselves, while others have few visitors and experience long stretches of isolation. A simple act of service—whether providing needed items or offering thoughtful interaction—can help remind them they are seen, valued, and remembered beyond the walls of their housing community.

Skilled nursing facilities often have specific needs they do not have funding to fulfill. While some homes welcome visitors, others may have age restrictions or health policies in place to protect their residents. Even when in-person visits are limited, there are still meaningful ways for young people to serve and make a difference.

Step 1: Identify Community Partners

Identify convalescent or skilled nursing homes within your community that serve elderly or convalescent individuals. Gather phone numbers or contact information for each organization.

Step 2: Make Contact

Call the facility offices and introduce yourself as a member of a local Grange. Briefly explain what the Grange is and that you are a community organization interested in serving and supporting their residents.

Ask questions such as:

- How many residents live in your facility?
- What are your greatest current needs?
- Are there age limits or restrictions on visitors?

Be respectful of any guidelines or limitations they share, understanding these policies are in place for resident safety and well-being.

Step 3: Develop a Service Plan

Using the information gathered, develop a plan to meet the identified needs.

- If in-person youth visits are allowed, consider creating a simple program to share with residents.
- If visits are limited or restricted, plan an item drive, card-writing project, or other meaningful way to provide comfort and connection from a distance.

All plans should be approved by the facility before moving forward.

Step 4: Take Action

Put your plan into action by coordinating with the facility's office or activities coordinator.

Possible service activities include:

- Delivering requested items
- Hosting a small visit such as a tea party
- Singing songs or putting on a performance
- Sharing poetry, speeches, or artwork created by youth (can be used as your Public Speaking Project)

Always follow facility guidelines and schedules when planning any interaction.

Step 5: Reflect

After completing the project, reflect as a group. Discuss:

- What went well
- What challenges you encountered
- How the project could be improved in the future
- Who was helped and how the service made an impact

Reflection helps deepen understanding of both community needs and the importance of compassion.

Submission Requirements:

Submit a letter, including the names, ages, birthdates of Juniors involved, Grange name and number, state, as well as a summary of your plan for the project. Include information about the organization you partnered with, how you put your plan into action and your reflections.

Summary should be roughly 2-3 paragraphs. Include 2-3 photographs from your event in the same PDF.

Collaboration with other community service programs and projects is encouraged.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Digital Package at <https://grange.biz/JuniorCommunityService>

Grange In Action Information

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

SUBMISSION: Mail or Email listed below

Projects within this Program Book Qualify you to apply to the Grange In Action Program and we encourage you to submit your community projects. For +1 Junior Programs, the community grange would submit Juniors projects alongside their own community projects, highlighting where a Junior led the service project.

The Grange In Action program encourages all Granges to be active in their communities and complete events or projects, no matter how small. Any Grange that does not complete the application for Distinguished Grange can participate in this program. Granges that wish to be recognized at the 2026 National Grange Convention as a “Grange In Action” should complete the following requirements:



- Submit 1 letter-sized page with color photos and a brief caption (Suggested: Only 140 words) of three (3) different events/activities; with no more than 1 photo for each event for a total of 3 photos, from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026. Anything over 1 page will be disqualified.
- The Grange name, number, and state must be on the front of the page.
- On a separate page, please include the name, address, phone number, and email address of the person who submitted the Grange In Action report.
- Granges that qualify for the 2026 Distinguished Grange Award are not eligible for this recognition.
- If one of your events/activities/meetings is on Project Sustenance, you will qualify as a “Diamond Grange in Action.”
- If one of your events/activities/meetings is on mental health, you will qualify as a “Golden Grange in Action.”
- The deadline to submit your application to the National Grange is midnight on September 1, 2026, either by postmark or by email.
 - Mail to National Grange, ATTN: Loretta Washington – 1616 H Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20006.
 - Email to Loretta Washington - lwashington@nationalgrange.org. Please write “Grange In Action 2026 report” in the subject line.

To be named a “**State Grange in Action**,” a State Grange must have at least 6 Granges recognized as “Grange In Action.”

Some of the entries might be displayed online.

Granges that submit an entry will receive a certificate of recognition from the National Grange

Crafting for a Cause

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

Submission: <https://grange.biz/JuniorCrafting>

The National Junior Grange is celebrating our Nation's 250th anniversary, and wants to encourage a community service craft to benefit our Veterans to honor their service to our country in conjunction with celebrating.

For our Crafting for a Cause project, we want you to use your creativity and imagination to create a commemorative Star craft. Our flag has 50 stars, representing each one of our states. Show us how you would create a special star, celebrating 250 years as the United States.

You can integrate the community service aspect in two ways.

1. Identify your local Veterans home and schedule a time for Junior Grangers to work with the veterans to create commemorative stars; you can invite veterans to attend this event at your hall or work to schedule a field trip to a veterans hall/ home. This would be a project for 12-14 year olds to organize and plan in conjunction with adults, for their younger counterparts.

OR

2. Present your commemorative stars to your local veterans hall or identify a veteran in your community that you want to honor by presenting your star to them.

Star Craft Description

Junior Grangers will design and create a commemorative star, alongside veterans in their community or on their own to present to a Veteran or Veterans Hall.

The Star Craft should:

- Thoughtful design around being American
- Indication of the 250th anniversary
- Recycled materials are encouraged but not required
- Maximum size of 12"x12"

Approved Materials

Any materials, recycled or new are acceptable. Decorate, color and design a piece of art that can be displayed to show celebration.

Optional Explanation

Juniors may include a short explanation (written or verbal) describing:

- what materials were used
- where the materials came from (if recycled)
- Their day working with the Veterans or how presenting the craft went.

Submission Guidelines

Each entry must include:

- Online submission forms
- Photos of the completed Commemorative Star craft (up to 3)
- Photos of Grangers working with Veterans or presenting craft to Veterans

Note on photographing crafts - Photograph WITHOUT flash, in bright, indirect window light on a table or the floor with the camera as close to the project as possible while still capturing the whole piece. Using a white posterboard as a background works well too. Photograph can also be taken in the Junior's hand.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Commemorative Star Craft at <https://grange.biz/JuniorCrafting>

National Junior Grange Silver Garden Project

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

Submission: <https://grange.biz/JuniorSilverGarden>

Silver Garden Community Project

As people get older, many still enjoy gardening, growing plants, and spending time outdoors. Sometimes it becomes harder to bend, kneel, or care for a garden the way they once could. That does not mean they should lose the joy of growing things.

This project is about caring for older members of your community by listening, planning, and helping in ways that truly meet their needs.

Your Challenge

Connect with elderly members of your community, design a garden that fits their space, and then share or build that garden in a meaningful way.

What You Will Do

1. Connect First

Before designing anything, you will find out where the garden will go.

With the help of a leader, contact:

- an assisted living home
- a nursing home
- a senior center
- or elderly neighbors in your community

Ask questions such as:

- Where could a garden fit?
- What type of garden would be helpful?
 - Vegetables for meals?
 - Flowers for pollinators and enjoyment?
- What plants or flowers are enjoyed most?

Listening first will help you design a garden that truly works for the people you are serving.

2. Design the Garden

After learning where the garden will be placed, create a design that fits that space. Your design may include:

- a raised garden box
- a container or box garden
- a flower box to attract pollinators

Think about height, reach, safety, and ease of care.

3. Share or Build the Garden

Depending on what is allowed in your area, you may:

- help build and plant the garden together
- deliver the finished garden
- share your garden design with residents
- create planters, flower boxes, or supplies they can use

4. Spend Time and Listen

When possible, take time to talk, listen to stories, and work alongside others. The time you spend together matters just as much as the garden itself.

Materials and Safety

Use safe materials for gardening.

- Use untreated wood or cedar only.
- Do not use chemically treated lumber.
- Reclaimed materials may be used if they are safe for gardening.

An adult should help check materials before building.

If You Cannot Visit a Facility

If visiting an assisted living or nursing home is not allowed in your area, you can still complete this project by:

- writing letters or cards
- creating care packages
- asking the facility what supplies are needed most

The most important part of this project is listening and responding to real needs.

NOTE: See National Service Project: Supporting Our Elder Community if a community garden would not work within the communities you would like to serve.

Age Guidelines

- **Ages 5–8:**
Help decorate, choose seeds, plant seeds, water, make cards, and share what you helped with.
- **Ages 9–11:**
Help design the garden, assist with planting or building, and explain your project.
- **Ages 12–14:**
Help lead planning, communication, building, and teaching others what you learned.

Submitting your Project

Take photos or short videos of:

- contacting the community partner
- your garden design
- building, planting, or sharing

Submission Requirements:

Submit a letter, including the names, ages, birthdates of Juniors involved, Grange name and number, state, as well as a summary of your plan to complete the project. Include information about the organization you partnered with, how you put your plan into action and your reflections. Summary should be roughly 2-3 paragraphs. Include 2-3 photographs or short videos from your project.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1st and accepted earlier
Submit your Digital Package at <https://grange.biz/JuniorSilverGarden>

Cape of Honor Award

Be a Super Junior

Submission Deadline September 1, 2026

Submission: <https://grange.biz/JuniorCapeofHonor>

Do you have a Junior Granger who has gone above and beyond for the Grange and their community? Now it is the time to honor them in a special recognition during the National Grange Session. Junior Grangers who plan, participate, and serve their communities will have the opportunity to be honored for their hard work.

Juniors are challenged to put on their capes and get out into their communities.

CONTEST PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Cape of Honor award is to spotlight our Junior Grangers that are doing the work of true Grangers and going above and beyond our expectations. Every Junior who submits an application and meets the tier requirements will be recognized by the National Grange; however, the Junior Granger with the most community service hours served in a 1-year time frame will be named as the **Junior Granger of the Year**. **Submissions must be received by September 1.**

All Applicants are required to meet the following criteria:

1. Must be a Junior Grange member in good standing
2. Must be between the ages of 5-14 at time of submission and not yet received the obligation into the Subordinate Grange.
3. Junior Granger is expected to keep track of community service hours August 1 of the current year through July 31 of the following year. (Example August 1, 2025- July 31, 2026)
4. Junior Granger must keep track of their projects throughout the year.

All Applicants must submit the following:

1. Online Application form
2. A letter from the Junior applicant stating "Why they have a passion to serve their communities and what their favorite service project was from the last year"
3. A list of service projects done throughout the year- along with how many hours each project took from start to finish.
4. The total number of community service hours completed. This may include hours Junior stepped up to help with but did not plan or organize.
5. A headshot of the applicant.

TIERS FOR AWARDS:

WHITE TIER: Junior must complete between 10-50 community service hours to complete this tier

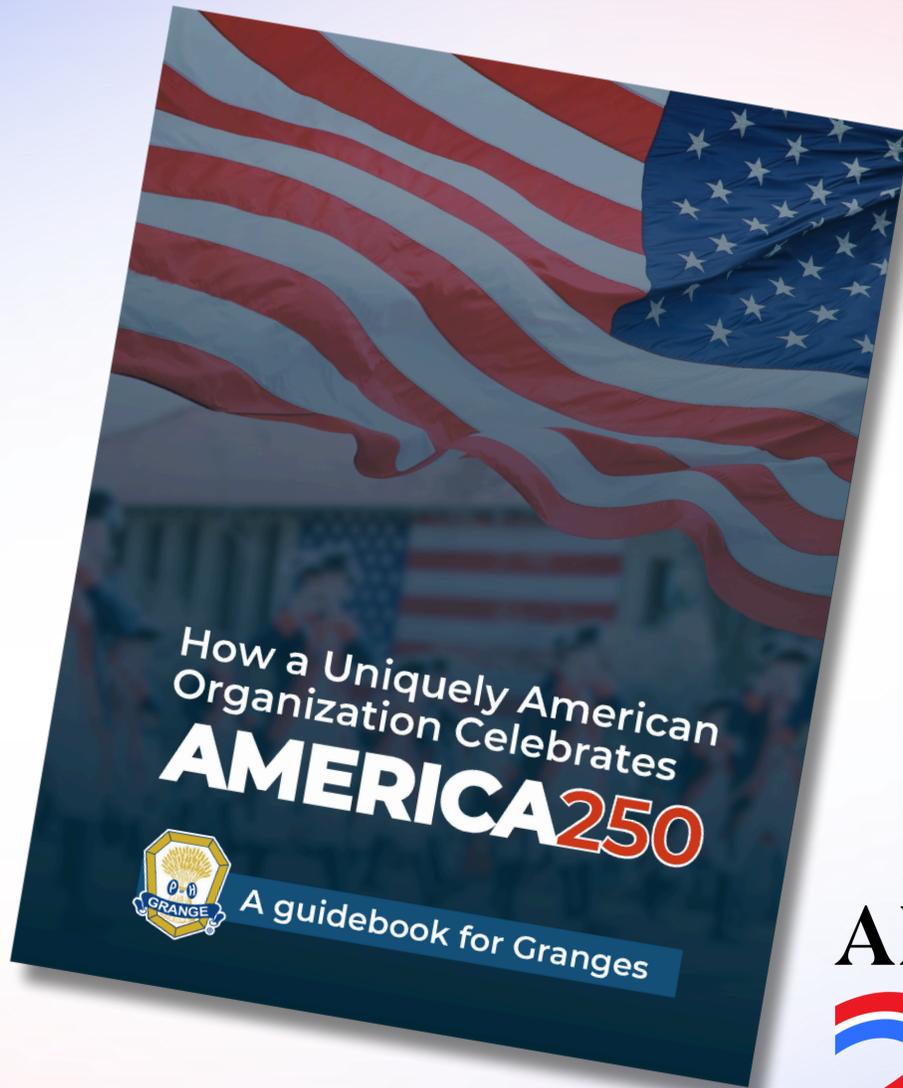
RED TIER: Junior must complete between 51-100 community service hours to complete this tier

BLUE TIER: Juniors must complete between 101-200 community service hours to complete this tier

GOLD TIER: Juniors must complete over 201 hours of community service to complete this tier

*The Junior Granger with the **MOST** community service hours will be named.

Celebrate America250 with the Grange



Grangers of all ages are encouraged to participate in America's semiquincentennial - 250 years of patriotism, freedom, and shared values.

The *Guidebook for Granges* can be accessed at
<https://grange.biz/America250>

PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT SUSTENANCE



What is PROJECT SUSTENANCE?



Project Sustenance is the National Grange's signature program, designed to align and elevate the community-based work Granges are already doing through three clearly defined pillars:

FOOD SECURITY

Food Security projects focus on improving access to affordable, nutritious food while strengthening local food systems. Granges may consider community gardens, seed libraries, food pantries, meal programs, or partnerships with local farmers, schools, and food banks. These efforts can address hunger, reduce food waste, and promote healthy eating, while reinforcing the vital role agriculture plays in every community. Food Security initiatives help ensure neighbors have reliable access to food today while building stronger, more resilient food networks for the future.

COMMUNITY & PERSONAL RESILIENCE

Community & Personal Resilience projects help individuals and communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from challenges. This may include disaster preparedness efforts, mental health awareness, wellness programs, emergency supply drives, or activities that strengthen social connections and reduce isolation. These projects emphasize building strong relationships, local leadership, and support networks so communities are better equipped to adapt, respond, and care for one another during times of change or uncertainty.

SELF-SUSTAINABILITY

Self-Sustainability projects build practical skills and long-term independence for individuals and communities. Granges might host workshops on gardening, food preservation, financial literacy, home efficiency, or skill-sharing across generations. Other ideas include tool libraries or repair events. By empowering people with knowledge and hands-on experience, these initiatives promote confidence, adaptability, and a culture of self-reliance that strengthens both individuals and the community as a whole.

Learn more and access ideas and resources at
<https://www.nationalgrange.org/projectsustenance>

Distinguished Grange



This recognition program for Granges that fulfill their service and advocacy missions and provide support for members and their community was launched in 2009.

We encourage every Grange to complete as many requirements or optional components of the program as possible and improve upon their tally each year. Doing so not only allows Granges to be recognized but also solidifies their presence in their communities and the meaning for their members.

This program is open to Community, Pomona, State, and Junior Granges.

The 2025-2026 Distinguished Grange program counts all activities from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. Applications are due by September 1, 2026.

If you have any questions about the Distinguished Grange program, please contact Connie Johnston, Program Administrator, at distinguishedgrange@grange.org

More information and applications:
nationalgrange.org/distinguished



National Grange Code of Conduct

Grange Youth or Junior Grange Department participants must sign the National Grange Code of Conduct each year and submit it to the National Grange prior to attending any National Grange or Regional Grange event or activity.

As a Grange Youth or Junior Grange participant at any National Grange or Regional Grange event or activity, I will:

- Be curious to learn.
- Be knowledgeable about the history of the Grange and the current programs and contests of the various departments of the National Grange.
- Develop my potential for leadership, personal growth, and career success.
- Be respectful to self and others. Make a positive difference in the lives of others.
- Appreciate and promote diversity in our organization.
- Work to positively resolve problems or differences.
- Accept guidance from Grange leaders, staff, and volunteers.
- Follow program rules, curfews, dress codes, policies, and rules of the facility being used.
- Use appropriate language, exhibit good sportsmanship, and be a positive role model.
- Comply with local, state, and federal laws.
- Abstain from the use of alcohol, illicit drugs, and tobacco during any Grange event or activity.
- Fully participate in scheduled activities and orientations.
- Respect others' property and privacy rights.
- Abstain from bullying, harassment, hazing, and child abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, and neglect).
- Refrain from all sexual activity/contact during any Grange event or activity.
- Accept personal responsibility for behavior including any financial damage.

Consequences for violating any part of this Code of Conduct may include, but are not limited to:

- Immediate removal from the Youth and Junior Grange Leadership Team, if applicable.
- Removal from participation in the event or activity in which the Code of Conduct has been violated (at the individual's expense).
- Forfeiture or repayment of financial support for the event or activity.
- Sanctions on participation in future Grange events and activities.
- It is the responsibility of all participants to reinforce this Code of Conduct and intervene when necessary to enforce the rules.

Member Name (printed): _____

Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

If the participant is under the age of 18, I have shared the National Grange Code of Conduct with my son, daughter, or ward. We have read, understand, and agree to the above.

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Accepted by the National Grange

Grange Officer Name (printed): _____

Grange Officer Signature: _____ Date: _____

National Grange Medical Permission Form

Please fill out this form COMPLETELY and provide as much medical information as you can for your child. This information will help ensure your child's well-being in case of a medical situation while attending a National Grange or Regional Grange event or activity.

You must fill out a separate form for each child.

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Name of Attendee: _____ Birth Date: __ / __ / _____

Attendee's gender assigned at birth/listed on medical insurance (circle): Male / Female

Physical Address, City, ST, ZIP: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Receives Texts (circle): YES NO

Email: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Physical Address, City, ST, ZIP: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Receives Texts (circle): YES NO

Email: _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Alternate Contact: _____

Relationship to Attendee: _____

Physical Address, City, ST, ZIP: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Receives Texts (circle): YES NO

Email: _____

PHYSICIAN INFORMATION

Name of Physician/Pediatrician: _____

Physician Address, City, ST, ZIP: _____

Physician Phone: _____

INSURANCE AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Insured (Policy Holder): _____ Policy #: _____

Insurance Carrier: _____ Group #: _____

Date of Last Tetanus Shot: _____

Known Allergies: _____

Health Restrictions: _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Medical Conditions: _____

PERMISSION FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT (EN LOCO PARENTIS CONSENT)

Although a physician may treat a life-threatening emergency without your consent, consent is required for treatment of any other problem. To prevent delay of treatment, designation of authority should be given to someone who has been chosen to care for your child. We will attempt to notify you before using this designation of authority.

As parent/guardian of the child named on this form, I certify that the bearer of this form has permission to authorize emergency medical care by attending physicians or others he or she may choose in the event of injury, ingestion, or illness. I give the National Grange permission to take my child to the doctor or hospital for emergency medical treatment, should it be needed.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

PHOTO RELEASE FORM

NATIONAL GRANGE



I hereby grant the Community, Pomona, State, or National Grange permission to use my likeness, or that of the minor named below, in a photograph or media representation, in any and all of its publications, including website entries, social media, printed materials, or other media currently existing or yet to exist, without payment or any other consideration.

I understand and agree that these materials will become the property of the Grange and will not be returned.

I hereby irrevocably authorize the Community, State, or National Grange to edit, alter, copy, display, distribute, or use in any other manner for the purposes of publicizing the Grange programs, events, website content, or for any other promotional or marketing purpose. In addition, I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including printed or electronic copy, wherein my likeness appears. Additionally, I waive the right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photograph.

I hereby release and forever discharge the Community, State, or National Grange from all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization.

I am 18 years of age or older, and am competent to contract in my own name, **or** I have the legal right to sign for the minor named below. I have read this release before signing below and I fully understand the contents, meaning, and impact of this release.

(Authorized Signature)

(Date)

(Printed Name)

(Date)

(Name of Minor – Printed)

(Date)

(Minor's Date of Birth)