2026-2027 Distinguished Community Grange Application

The Distinguished Community Grange program recognizes Community Granges that fulfill their responsibilities as part of the National Grange, while excelling in areas such as membership, programming, advocacy, and community service. The 2026-2027 Distinguished Community Granges will be recognized for their work done from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Distinguished Community Granges will be recognized each year by the National Grange.

Submitting your Application

The postmark or online submission deadline for your application and all additional documentation for consideration is **September 1, 2027**. Application packets received after this deadline will not be considered.

You can choose any one of three ways to submit your application packet for Distinguished Community Grange:

Option 1 – Online

Please complete the application and attach all supporting documents using the online form, www.nationalgrange.org/distinguished. (Bonus: 10 points for completing the online form!)

Option 2 – Email

Please complete the application and send with all supporting documents via email to distinguishedgrange@grange.org.

Option 3 – Mail

Please complete the application and send with all supporting documents to:
Connie Johnston, ATTN: Distinguished Grange, 6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414

Questions

If you have questions as to whether something your Community Grange has completed will qualify or meet a requirement, please contact distinguishedgrange@grange.org prior to the September 1 deadline.

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Grange Name and #: _____ State: _____

Name of Submitter: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City / State / ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Day, Time, and Location of Meetings: _____

If another Grange encouraged and helped you submit your application, please list them here:

_____

REQUIRED

☐ Submit all Quarterly Reports and Dues on time to your State Grange. *(Request verification email or letter from your State Grange).*

☐ Send at least one (1) delegate to your State Grange session.

Name _____

☐ Send at least two (2) officers or members to a National Grange, State Grange, or regional event.

Name _____ Title _____

Event _____

Name _____ Title _____

Event _____

☐ Submit a Community Service report to your State Grange – using your State Grange's form or application. Or submit a verification letter from your State Grange Community Service Director that one was submitted in the 2026-2027 year.

Submit application and supporting materials for each section to:
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ADDITIONAL POINT OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to completing all the requirements above, you must also complete some or all of the following, with points adding to 100 or more, to be recognized as a Distinguished Community Grange. **To receive points, you must include supporting information, photos, or documentation for each item below with this application**.

☐ Maintain or increase membership. (20 points)

Members as of 7/1/2026 _____

Members as of 6/30/2027 _____

☐ Achieve a net gain in your Junior Grange or Junior 1+ members. (15 points)

Members as of 7/1/2026 _____

Members as of 6/30/2027 _____

☐ Submit a resolution to your State Grange on an issue other than Grange Growth or Grange Law (make sure your State Grange and/or the National Grange does not already have the same policy). (15 points)

☐ Submit a "Share Your Project's Story" submission to the National Grange Community Service Department using the online form at https://www.nationalgrange.org/community-service-programs (10 points)

☐ Submit your **Project Sustenance** program or event to the National Grange via the online form found at https://www.nationalgrange.org/projectsustenance. (15 points)

☐ Update your grange.org website with at least your meeting time, day, and location, as well as contact information for at least one officer. Alternatively, contact the National Grange to have your grange.org website redirected to your existing website. The website must also include at least a few paragraphs about your Grange's mission and service to the community. You can count these points if the information is up to date. (10 points)

URL for your website: _____

☐ Establish or ensure your Grange's Facebook page is up to date (under the 'About' tab) with at least your meeting time, day, and location, and contact information. Ensure your page shows what your Grange does (events, service activities). (15 points)

URL for your Facebook page: _____

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☐ Host at least one (1) visit by a State or National Grange representative (who is not a member of your Grange) to your Grange and allow them to offer information/a message to your membership. (10 points)

☐ Connect your membership with an element of Degree work, ritual, or history of the Grange. Take advantage of the Grange Heirloom Program. (10 points)

☐ Hold an open house/public Grange event to introduce your Grange to the community and to engage in conversation about what unmet community needs the Grange may be able to assist with. (15 points)

☐ Sponsor or host at least one (1) activity (i.e., Lecturer's program, community forum, one-day event) where you present members and the public with an educational "how to" of homesteading skills to promote agriculture. (10 points)

☐ Create a **new** community-wide event that fosters fellowship and builds community spirit. (10 points)

☐ Host/organize at least three (3) community service or educational events. (20 points)

☐ Host a forum with public officials for your community to attend; OR hold a legislative event, candidate forum, or informational event on voting/elections; OR make at least one legislative issue contact with a public official at the local, state, or national level. (10 points)

☐ Host at least one (1) Youth/Young Adult/Junior/Junior 1+ event or Youth and/or Junior community service activity. (10 points)

☐ Invite a youth from another Grange, or from FFA, 4-H, Junior Fair Board, or other youth entity to speak at a meeting. (10 points)

☐ Host or organize a mental health or any health-related program for your Grange and the community. (10 points)

☐ Preserve historical records, photographs, and artifacts of your Grange or work with your local or state historic society or library to preserve them. (10 points)

☐ Honor Veterans with a special program or nominate a veteran or active-duty service member for a Quilt of Valor and host the award ceremony, or donate to or participate in Wreaths Across America. (10 points)

☐ Incorporate the National Grange theme into your programming, activities, and outreach. To learn more visit https://www.nationalgrange.org/theme. (15 points)

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☐ Take part in a fair in your area where you have a booth or display that promotes your Grange's activities and provides membership information. (10 points)

☐ Take part in a community day or other event *other than your local fair* in your area where you have a booth, float, or display that promotes your Grange's activities and provides membership information. (10 points)

☐ Have a fun and/or team-building activity outside of your Grange Hall or meeting space for your members that provides fellowship and builds camaraderie. (10 points)

☐ Recognize and honor your members for their years of membership and service to the Grange. Also consider making fun awards (i.e., Best Dressed, Caretaker of the Kitchen). (10 points)

☐ Provide at least one (1) press clipping or website feature or online newsletter, not from a Grange publication, showing you are publicizing your Grange, Grange events, or Grange members. (5 points)

☐ Ensure that at least three (3) members (your Grange's subscription will count as one) are current subscribers to the National Grange quarterly magazine, *Good Day!* – subscribe at http://www.nationalgrange.org/goodday (10 points)

☐ Contribute at least $50 to any fund in the National Grange Foundation. Donations can be made electronically at https://grangefoundation.org, or make checks payable to: Grange Foundation and send to Grange Foundation, 1616 H St NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20006. (10 points)

☐ Submit at least one (1) article OR photos with captions for inclusion in either *Good Day!* magazine or our monthly *Grange Today!* newsletter to the National Grange Communications Director (pvonada@nationalgrange.org). (10 points)

☐ Provide scholarship(s) to students in your community – include your application, criteria, or rubric for choosing winners. (20 points)

☐ Encourage and assist another Grange in completing their Distinguished Grange application. (10 points)

Which Grange(s) did you assist: _____

☐ If your Grange regularly holds a program, event, or other activity that does not fit into the above categories, please tell us about it! (10 points)

TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS _____

Minimum of 100 points required

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