



New York State Grange Lecturer's Program Guide

**For Use in Program Years
October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2023**

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress." – Frederick Douglass
*Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are men who want
crops without plowing up the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning.
They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters.*

General Information



Message

The Lecturer (Program Director) holds one of the most challenging and rewarding positions in the Grange. Primarily, it is the Lecturer's responsibility to present or arrange for a program at each regular Grange meeting. Lecturers should strive to have a program at each meeting, which include educational information, fun activities and/or inspirational messages. Music (live or recorded) should be included whenever possible. Consider having a program that helps promote the various contests such as a mini photography contest, art class, readings or recitations. Secondly, the Lecturer (Program Director) is a liaison to the community. Invite community members to share their talents with the Grange as part of a program. Respond in kind by being willing to present a program for other community organizations or sponsor educational programs for the community

Tips & Ideas

- Don't over-think your program. Don't let perfect be the enemy of the good.
- Make your programs interactive. Ask a lot of questions. Do trivia games. Pass out worksheets.
- Invite the community to your programs. After the business of the grange is concluded, open the meeting up to the public. Promote your program or speaker in the media.
- Be sure to promote state contests. **Take a look!** There are many changes to the program.
- Google crossword generator, bingo card generator, group game ideas, etc.
- Piggy back off educational resources provided by other groups.
- Learn a new skill or craft and teach it to your grange.
- Contact me for ideas if you are stuck.

Resources

- Include talent and resources from the community. Invite your neighbors to give talks to your grange – doctors, farmers, artists, firefighters, business owners, the postmaster, local politicians, charity organizers – almost anyone has something interesting to share.
- Don't forget to include youth, including 4-Hers, Scouts, FFA, etc.
- Grange Historian, Carol Bailey (barnlady38@yahoo.com)
- State Lecturer, Jolene Pirrone (jolene@advancedwebdesign.com)
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Anything in the library, newspaper, online, etc. **Anything!**

Contest Instructions

Entries in all divisions shall be sent to the State Grange Headquarters by April 15th of each year. Mark the outside of the package with "LECTURER'S CONTEST ENTRIES." The current contest year runs from May 1st to April 15th. Include a packing slip for your county from the back of this booklet or a similar one. Share the following contest pages with your members. Attach a form from the back of this booklet (or similar) to each entry. Entries can not be submitted more than once.



Photography Contest

2022 – Cloudscape

Nothing is more beautiful and enchanting than whimsical clouds – sunset, big blue sky, whatever the occasion. Submit your photos of your best cloud filled sky.

2023 – Unintentional Topiary

Topiary is the art of forming trees or shrubs into decorative shapes. Sometimes trees and shrubs are formed by unusual means such as lightning, roadside power crews, animals or age. Submit your photos of these unusual “artistic” designs.

Divisions * Age as of January 1st of the current year.

- Div I – Grange Member (age 14 and up)
- Div II – Junior Grange Youth (age 10 to 14)
- Div III – Junior Grange Youth (age 5 to 9)

Rules

- Two (2) submissions allowed per member.
- All entries must be completed by the member, during the current contest year.
- No professional photographers may enter.
- Photos should be mounted on a rigid backing. No frames or glass.
- No minimum size. Maximum size of 11×14 inches.
- Attach the form in the back of the handbook to the back of each entry.

Prizes

State awards may be certificates, ribbons and/or cash prizes. The Division I “Best of Show” in photography will be eligible for National Grange competition.

Judging Criteria

- Technique: 20pts – Focus, lighting, framing, etc.
- Composition: 30pts – Framing, balance, interest, depth, etc.
- Subject/Theme: 20pts – Meets theme criteria well
- Originality: 20pts – Creativity, concept, intent, etc.
- Mood: 10pts – Wow factor, emotion, etc.



Fine Art Contest

2022 – Coloring Book Page

I have fond memories of coloring with my father. *Man was he good!* He would blend all the colors in the rooster's tail to make it look very realistic. Child me was very impressed. Coloring isn't just for kids any more. Submit a page colored in by any means: crayon, pencil, marker, pen, etc.

2023 – Paint and Sip

Organize a paint and sip event for your grange, invite the community, and host it as a fundraiser. This can be hosted on the same date of your regular meeting, after business is concluded. Your local paint and sip outfit does this all the time – just give 'em a call. Get on their calendar today! If you don't have a local paint and sip outfit, try following along with a local artist, a kit, or even a video. Don't forget to have grange materials out and be prepared to share with your visitors.

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- Div III – Junior Grange Youth (age 5 to 9)

Rules

- Two (2) submissions allowed per member.
- All entries must be completed by the member, during the current contest year.
- No professional artists may enter.
- Paintings can be any medium: oil, acrylic, watercolor, etc.
- Coloring pages should be mounted on a rigid backing. No frames or glass.
- No minimum size. Maximum size of 18×24 inches.
- Attach the form in the back of the handbook to the back of each entry.

Prizes

State awards may be certificates, ribbons and/or cash prizes.

Judging Criteria

- Technique: 20pts – Use of implements, media, materials, etc.
- Composition: 30pts – Framing, balance, interest, depth, etc.
- Subject/Theme: 20pts – Meets theme criteria well
- Originality: 20pts – Creativity, concept, intent, etc.
- Mood: 10pts – Wow factor, emotion, etc.



Performing Arts Contest

2022 – Poetry Recital

Poetry means so much to so many people – from the grandiosity of Shakespeare to the simplicity of Emily Dickenson. Many popular songs can also double as poetry. Memorize your favorite piece and recite it for us. Characterizations are encouraged.

2023 – Song from the Screen

Song is a longstanding part of the big (or little) screen. What theme song or grand musical number brings you such wonderful memories? Sing a song from your favorite movie, musical, or TV show. Children may enjoy singing a theme song from their favorite cartoon. Anything goes!

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Rules

- Members may perform twice.
- Duets and groups are allowed when the piece calls for it.
- Works should be appropriate for mixed company, and of difficulty suitable for the member.
- No professional performers may enter.
- No minimum length. Maximum length of 10 minutes.
- Attach the form in the back of the handbook to the back of a copy of the poem/lyrics to enter.

Prizes

State awards may be certificates, ribbons and/or cash prizes. The Division I “Best of Show” in photography will be eligible for National Grange competition.

Judging Criteria

- Technique: 20pts – Memorization, diction, clarity, melody, difficulty, etc.
- Composition: 30pts – Affect, interest, inflection, characterization, etc.
- Subject/Theme: 20pts – Meets theme criteria well
- Originality: 20pts – Creativity, concept, intent, etc.
- Mood: 10pts – Wow factor, entertainment value, etc.



Writing Contest

2022 – Letter to Your Representative

Legislative action is one of the main missions of the Grange as a whole. When was the last time your contacted you representative? Here’s your chance! Write a letter to any government official and submit a copy to be judged.

2023 – Newspaper Article

Write an article to any publication on any topic of interested to you as a Grange member. Topics may be event reporting, persuasive or promotional. All publications take free submissions – a letter to the editor is fine. The publication may choose to “upgrade” stronger submissions to a full article. Submit your article early so that it will be printed in time for the contest.

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- Div III – Junior Grange Youth (age 5 to 9)

Rules

- Two (2) submissions allowed per member.
- All entries must be completed by the member, during the current contest year.
- No politicians or lobbyists may enter.
- Representatives can be at any level: local, county, state, national, etc.
- No minimum or maximum length. Entries should be typed.
- For the letter, submit a printed copy neatly folded in an envelope.
- For the article, submit a copy of its published form neatly folded in an envelope.
- Please **omit or redact your name** for judging purposes.
- Attach the form in the back of the handbook to the back of each entry.

Prizes

State awards may be certificates, ribbons and/or cash prizes.

Judging Criteria

- Technique: 20pts – Grammar, usage, language, etc.
- Composition: 30pts – Ideas, expression, flow, etc.
- Subject/Theme: 20pts – Meets theme criteria well
- Originality: 20pts – Creativity, concept, intent, etc.
- Mood: 10pts – Wow factor, persuasive, effective, etc.



Promotion Contest

2022 – Informational Poster

People are very visually oriented. Posters are a great way to get everyone's attention. Choose a topic that's important to the Grange and create an informational poster to promote your position. Posters should be hung in a public place to educate the public. Consider contacting local resources for topics important to your community.

2023 – Brochure

Create a brochure for your Grange, for the Grange in general, or for an issue important to you as a grange member. Distribute your brochures in public – local shops, events, the fair, etc. Brochures may be handbills, bi-folds, tri-folds, or similar created from a single sheet of paper.

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Rules

- Two (2) submissions allowed per member.
- All entries must be completed by the member, during the current contest year.
- No graphic artists may enter.
- Posters or brochures can be any medium or materials.
- Professional printing of brochures is OK.
- Minimum size 8.5 x 11 inches. Maximum size of 24 x 36 inches (standard tri-fold size).
- Attach the form in the back of the handbook to the back of each entry.
- Include a description of when and where you promoted the grange with the materials you created. Include a photo if at all possible. Email it to me if you can.

Prizes

State awards may be certificates, ribbons and/or cash prizes.

Judging Criteria

- Technique: 20pts – Grammar, usage, language, use of images, color, etc.
- Composition: 30pts – Ideas, expression, flow, etc.
- Subject/Theme: 20pts – Meets theme criteria well
- Originality: 20pts – Creativity, concept, intent, etc.
- Mood: 10pts – Wow factor, commands interest, effective, etc.



Featured Program

2022 – The Fire Service

New York has 1,667 registered fire departments statewide, most of which are staffed by volunteers who give graciously of their time and efforts. All firefighters are trained equally, whether they are paid or volunteer. Many also serve as EMS. These folks are a wealth of knowledge to the community.

- Invite representatives from your local fire company to speak.
- Obtain information about fire safety and distribute to members.
- Host a public meeting about the fire service and open it to the community. Target the event to families, youth, homeschoolers, etc.
- Organize a tour of the firehouse, 911 center, firefighter training center, or other facility.

2023 – Food Pantries

The Grange has a long history of feeding the community – by hosting community dinners to supporting local charities that feed people. Food pantries come in all shapes and sizes. Ask about the availability of these resources at the town or city hall or local churches.

- Invite the director or coordinator of your local food pantry to speak at a meeting. Consider making this talk open to the public.
- Organize a food drive in your community. Piggyback on another event for more exposure.
- Organize a tour of the food pantry and learn more about how you can help.

Ongoing Programs

These topics are traditionally included in some form in the program. Use them as your “go to” when in need of ideas.

- Grange History, Carol Bailey (barnlady38@yahoo.com)
- Dictionary Project (<https://www.dictionaryproject.org>)
- Home Safety (<https://www.homesafetycouncil.org/>)
- Agricultural Education (<https://www.naae.org/whatisaged/>)
- Grange Month – April
- Promote Your Grange
- Fair Booth(s)
- National Lecturer’s Contests (<https://www.nationalgrange.org/lecturers-programming/>) – Includes the Quilt Block, Photography, Evening of Excellence, etc.

Lecturer's Report for Year _____



Please submit this form, or an alternative of your choice, before September 15th.

Subordinate or Pomona (circle) – Grange Name and No. _____

Your Name:	
Your Address:	
Your Phone:	
Your Email:	

Do you agree?

My Grange had a successful Lecturer's Program this year.	Yes	Maybe	No
I am prepared to conduct a Lecturer's Program for my grange.	Yes	Maybe	No
I understand the Lecturer's Handbook for this year.	Yes	Maybe	No
My granger's want to participate in Lecturer's contests.	Yes	Maybe	No
The Lecturer is an important job in my grange.	Yes	Maybe	No

Did you...

Prepare programs for meetings this year?	Yes	Maybe	No
Invite community members to attend your programs?	Yes	Maybe	No
Submit contest entries state Lecturer's Conference?	Yes	Maybe	No
Observe Grange Month in April?	Yes	Maybe	No
Publicize your grange?	Yes	Maybe	No
Do a both at your county fair?	Yes	Maybe	No
Participate in this year's Featured Project?	Yes	Maybe	No

List what ongoing projects you participated in this year. *(Refer to the handbook.)*



How did you do?

Let me know about the programs you led this year.

Date	Title of Program	Description	# of Participants

My Favorite Program! *(Which of these programs do you think was most successful and why?)*

Do you need help? *(Let me know.)*

Packing Slip



Print this page and include with your county's submission. You may recreate a similar form to use if necessary.

County: _____

Name	Contest	Item Description

*Enter member's full name, which contest they are entering (photo, art, etc), and a brief item description.

Contest:	Photography	Fine Art	Performing Arts	Writing	Promotion
Division:	Div I	Div II	Div III		
Name:					
Address:					
County:					

Contest:	Photography	Fine Art	Performing Arts	Writing	Promotion
Division:	Div I	Div II	Div III		
Name:					
Address:					
County:					

Contest:	Photography	Fine Art	Performing Arts	Writing	Promotion
Division:	Div I	Div II	Div III		
Name:					
Address:					
County:					

Contest:	Photography	Fine Art	Performing Arts	Writing	Promotion
Division:	Div I	Div II	Div III		
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Contest:	Photography	Fine Art	Performing Arts	Writing	Promotion
Division:	Div I	Div II	Div III		
Name:					
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Contest:	Photography	Fine Art	Performing Arts	Writing	Promotion
Division:	Div I	Div II	Div III		
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Contest:	Photography	Fine Art	Performing Arts	Writing	Promotion
Division:	Div I	Div II	Div III		
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