



New York State Grange Lecturer's Program Guide

**For Use in Program Years
October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025**

“Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.” —Abigail Adams

General Information



Into

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.
- Piggyback 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, Brenda Noble, State Lecturer (bnoble195@gmail.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 contest generally happens in April. 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 cannot be submitted more than once.



Photography Contest

2024 – Closeups

Fill the space with your special subject. Zoom right in! Submit your close-up photo of any subject, including yourself. These photos are sometimes called *macros*. They are a good way to feature color and texture without the distraction of a background.

2025 – Grange Halls, Fairs: Local, County, and State

There are many unique Grange Halls across the state. Maybe you are fortunate enough to meet in one. Here's an idea – invite a photographer to your Grange to give a lesson about taking good photos, then go outside and try it on your hall. If you don't have a hall, use someone else's.

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

- ONE submission allowed per member.
- The entry should have been received an award at Pomona. If that is impossible, the first-place subordinate entry may be submitted.
- 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 bulky 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 National Contest no longer requires State award. See the “National Contests” page in this handbook for more information. (**NEW**)

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

2024 – Barn Quilt

You have seen these beautiful “quilts” adorning barns all across the countryside. Barn quilts are a unique art form signifying Americana and country pride. Some patterns have different meanings. Research quilt blocks for some inspiration. Make one yourself in any medium. May be painted on canvas, paper, thin wood panel, whatever works.

2025 – Drawing

Everyone – from Leonardo to the cave dwellers in France – has loved drawing to express their interests, ideas and even history. Submit a drawing of any kind. It can be pen, crayon, marker, pencil, etc. Drawings must be on paper and submitted with some sort of backing for safety of the piece. This is another good opportunity to get folks into your Grange Hall for a fun time developing creativity.

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

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

Rules

- ONE submission allowed per member.
- The entry should have been received an award at Pomona. If that is impossible, the first place (or only) subordinate entry may be submitted.
- All entries must be completed by the member, during the current contest year.
- No professional artists may enter.
- Entries can be any medium: oil, acrylic, watercolor, pen, pencil, etc.
- Entries should be mounted on a rigid backing. No bulky frames or glass.
- Maximum size for barn quilt, 14 inches square. For drawing, 11x14 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

New York State Grange Lecturer's Program - October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025

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Rules

- Talent Contest categories: **Instrumental (Solo and Group), Vocal (Solo and Group), Skit/Variety/Dance**
- Works should be appropriate for mixed company, and of difficulty suitable for the member.
- Pomona Lecturers may hold a Pomona level Talent Show or contact Subordinate Lecturers to determine those interested in performing at the State Talent Show. State Lecturer should be notified by **April 15th** for entries in contest.
- No professional performers may enter. A professional is defined as someone who receives significant financial gain from performance or acting as an instructor in a particular category.
- All winners will receive a ribbon. Best of Show will receive \$50.00 and will be invited to perform at the State Fair on Grange Day, State Grange Session, Northeast Lecturers' Conference, and at the National Grange Evening of Excellence during National Grange Convention.
- The Best of Show winner may NOT compete in the same category the following year, but the winner can enter in another category.
- No minimum length. Maximum length of **5 minutes**.

Judging Criteria

Skit/Variety

- Overall Performance
- Audience Response
- Stage Appearance & Presence
- Originality
- Personality
- Creativity
- Organization and Coordination

Musical (Vocal and Instrumental)

- Overall Performance
- Audience Response
- Stage Appearance and Presence
- Personality
- Organization and Coordination
- Music/Voice Quality



Writing Contest

2024 – History Piece

Submit any kind of writing about the history of the Grange. Create an article, online post, letter, booklet, pamphlet – anything at all featuring the history of the Grange in general or your grange specifically. Please include a note about the purpose of the piece or where it was featured.

2025 – Worksheet/Puzzle

Help your Worthy Lecturer out! Plan out and create a worksheet or puzzle to be used at a Grange meeting. Creativity is key! It could be a traditional find-a-word or crossword, quiz, escape room, or any type of educational tool to foster interest in a particular topic.

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Rules

- ONE submission allowed per member.
- The entry should have been received an award at Pomona. If that is impossible, the first place (or only) subordinate entry may be submitted.
- All entries must be completed by the member, during the current contest year.
- 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 any identifying information** 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

2024 – Include the Youth

Plan and create anything to include youth in your Grange. Reach out to the local FFA or 4-H clubs with an event, sponsor a youth event in your community or host something for Grange youth in the area. Whatever your Grange is working on, all the members can join in to promote the event in their own way. Submit your flyer, photos, posters or anything else you used for your event to be judged.

2025 – Social Media Post

This may be a challenge for some of you. Get someone tech savvy to help if need be. Ready??? Create a Facebook post, Instagram, X Post, Truth Social, etc. promoting anything about Grange. An event, history, feature Grange month, whatever you like. Make sure to include a photo (or three or more...). Print your piece out to be judged. Use hashtag #GrangePromo2025 so we can see them all. If your need help, email me at bnoble195@gmail.com. We will find help for you.

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Rules

- ONE submission allowed per member.
- The entry should have been received an award at Pomona. If that is impossible, the first place (or only) subordinate entry may be submitted.
- All entries must be completed by the member, during the current contest year.
- Content is more important the printing quality. Don't worry!
- 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 is 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

2024 – Family Safety

Keeping your family safe is a never-ending challenge. But everyone has a part they can play. There are many things to consider. Fire safety is a classic concern, but have you discussed your fire escape plan lately? What about safety in the community for children and adults? Consider topics that don't get talked about often such as food safety, online scams, or emotional tools to deal with difficult relationships.

- Talk to local experts about topics you can share as part of a lecturer's program. Don't forget to invite him/her to a meeting.
- Obtain information from safety-themed organizations online and distribute to members.
- Arrange an event with first responders and invite the community. Don't forget to include information for all ages!

2025 – Community Education

When we think "education" we think schools. But learning is so much more. Ideally, it never stops throughout our lifetimes. There are so many ways that we learn and education ourselves and those around us. Think about ways education happens in your community. I thought about churches, homeschooling groups, RPG clubs, beekeeping clubs, adult education programs at the school, 4-H and FFA, and the list goes on.

- Invite the local librarian to a Grange meeting to discuss how the library is so much more than books anymore. So many programs!
- Organize a workshop or talk that is open to the general public before or after your regular Grange meeting. Maybe one of your members has expertise to share.
- Find out how your Grange can support a local group in their educational efforts.

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
- Heirloom Program (<https://www.nationalgrange.org/heirloom-program/>)
- Promote Your Grange
- Fair Booth(s)



National Programs (NEW)

Quilts of Valor Foundation Partnership

This program is designed to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. Any Grange can create and award a Quilt to someone in their community. More information can be found on the national Website:

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/quilts-of-valor-foundation-partnership/>

National Weather Service Partnership

Citizen science is a way in which anyone can take part in the scientific process to address real-world problems. You can help by taking real-time weather observations, alerting officials about severe weather occurring where you are, and contributing to NOAA research using an app on your phone. See the flyer:

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/NWS-Grange-Citizen-Scientist-Flyer.pdf>

Evening of Excellence

The Evening of Excellence is a showcase for Grange talent. Each State Grange “Best of Show” entry for the Performance category will receive \$100, a certificate and a ribbon and each State Lecturer will be responsible for certifying their state’s participation by sending the Registration Form and the Permission, Release, Hold Harmless and Indemnification Form(s) for each participant. Dates vary each year.

Reducing Food Waste

Food waste is one of our world’s biggest issues, and one where you can make a huge difference. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that the average family of four throws out approximately \$1,484 worth of food and beverages each year. Find out how you can help:

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/foodwaste/>

A Quarter’s Worth Newsletter

This newsletter will be sent out quarterly from the National Lecturer to each State Lecturer who will in turn be responsible to disperse it to each Pomona and community Lecturer within their State Grange.

The intent of A Quarter’s Worth is to provide Lecturers with information on National Grange programs and contests, ideas for local programming as well as resource ideas and pro tips aimed at assisting and inspiring. If you would like to receive this newsletter, email me; bnoble195@gmail.com.

Virtual Photo Contest

No need to win a previous contest. Any Grange member can enter! The categories are different than what’s in this handbook – up to four new categories each year. All entries become property of National Grange and may be used in promotional items. Enter here:

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/national-grange-photography-showcase-2/>

Quilt Block Contest

This contest is open to everyone. There is no limit on the number of quilt blocks a person may submit, but choose one quilt block per person to be judged. Please consider sending four completed squares.

Learn more: <https://www.nationalgrange.org/national-grange-quilt-block-contest/>

Lecturer's Report for Year _____



Please submit this form, or an alternative of your choice, before October 1st.

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.)*
