



YOUTH DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK

“I'D BE DELIGHTED”

NEW YORK STATE GRANGE

2025 - 2026

**Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.**

**-Joshua J. Marine**

This describes today's NYS Grange Youth members!!! This group of POSITIVE young Grange Leaders is respectful, energetic and committed. Whenever asked to serve, their unwavering answer is, "I'D BE DELIGHTED!" - The National Grange Youth Motto.

## **NEW YORK STATE GRANGE YOUTH DEPARTMENT**

**"I'D BE DELIGHTED!"**

The New York State Grange Youth Department represents members age 13 1/2 - 35. However, all Youth Activities are open to all Community Grange members. Check individual programs/contests for age specifications/requirements.

The New York State Grange Youth Department program is intended to be inclusive for everyone. We provide a variety of activities to suit different interests. It is our goal to involve the Youth in all levels of the Grange. To this end, we have selected one or two specific activities from each of the following departments listed in this section of our Handbook. We desire to nurture our youth as they bring their talents and abilities to each level of the Grange, so that they will desire to be involved in the development, implementation, and continuation of the Grange at all levels.

### **Long Term Vision**

All regular participants will strive to ...

1. know and be able to explain what the Grange is and what makes us unique.
2. master public speaking, how to build membership and how to run a meeting efficiently.
3. be actively involved in their local Grange(s) and their local communities.

## Co - Directors

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Website: [www.nysgrange.org/youth](http://www.nysgrange.org/youth) Facebook: Search "NYS Grange Youth" Youth Team

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## Robert A. Earlandt Memorial Award

This award was created to honor the memory of Robert A. Earlandt of Wayne County. Brother Earlandt was a strong supporter of Grange Youth and also keenly interested in the Legislative work of the Grange. It was his wish that the monies donated in his memory be given to the New York State Grange Youth Department. The Youth Department decided that an award in his name



be created to allow the youth to learn firsthand the Legislative work on the Grange and of New York State Government.

Each year, two applicants will be chosen from the submissions to visit the New York State Legislature in Albany to meet with their local Senators and Assemblymen and take a tour of the New York State Capitol Building. They will also receive a special plaque at the Annual Session of the New York State Grange.

The requirements are as follows:

- The youth member, in good standing, must have an interest in Legislation, be active in school and community activities, and have a desire to learn more about Legislation.
- Subordinate or Pomona Master, Secretary or Youth Chair sends a resume of the Youth member they feel is deserving
- Applications are due to the director(s) by September 1st.
- Winners will be announced during the Opening of the New York State Grange Session on Sunday during the Youth program.

Earlandt award application:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Grange \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended by \_\_\_\_\_

Master Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## **New York State Grange Youth Contests for 2025-2026**

### **Youth Membership Recruitment**

Each Youth member in New York State is challenged to ask teenagers and young adults in their communities to join the Grange. A special award will be given to the Youth Member who brings in the most new Youth members between the age of 13 and 35 to their Grange family. Submit the names and contact information of all new members to the State Directors via this [google form](#) by September 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be considered for the prize! The winner will receive a \$25 cash prize. (If you are looking at a physical copy of this handbook and need access to any of the links, email one of the youth directors.)

# **GRANGE PROGRAMING**

**For each section listed below, please see more information on the NYS Grange [website](#).**

The following are the specific activities the Youth Department is focusing on in each State Grange Department. Youth are encouraged to participate in any or all other projects that are available in these program areas.

## **Community Involvement**

Help your Subordinate or Pomona Grange with a Community Service Project in your Town or County (i.e. volunteer at your silent pantry or food bank) . Remember that the more hands you have helping out, the lighter and more fun the work is! One idea for this year could be to host a “Kids Helping Kids” event where your youth raise money for a local youth charity. (Contact Ryan Orton for more information).

## **Family Activities Committee**

Enter a contest at your local or county Grange (i.e. baking contest). Contact your Subordinate or Pomona FAC Chairman for information on these contests. You may also contact the State FAC Director.

## **Junior Grange**

Mentor your local Junior Grangers. (5-13) It’s ok if you don’t have an official Junior Grange near you. Start by hosting activities such as a movie night, scavenger hunt, card party, or dance. Always invite their parents or other adults, and don't forget to have plenty of snacks! You might even get recommended for the National Grange Junior Mentor award.

Invite the OJAYS (Older Juniors and Youth ages 12-14) to participate in your Community Service Projects, Drill Teams, Field Trips, and Youth Weekends. Please note, anyone under the age of 14 who attends a youth weekend must be accompanied by a responsible older sibling or adult.

## **Lecturer's Programs**

Create a Lecturer's Program on a topic of your choice. Some program suggestions are the various holidays, local history, dart ball and other games, trips/vacations, and the list goes on. Ask for help or additional ideas from your Subordinate, Pomona, and/or State Lecturer. Don't forget to include RIMES: Recreation, Inspiration, Music, and Education! Send copies of all materials used to the State Youth Director. There is also a national lecturer’s activity contest. See the national youth and young adult handbook for details.

## **Legislative Department**

Write a resolution on a topic that interests you. Present it at your Subordinate Grange and, if it passes there, at your Pomona Grange meeting. Make sure to thoroughly research your topic. For more

information on how to write a good and effective resolution, or to get a topic for a resolution, contact the State Legislative Director. Remember that your resolution must be submitted by September 1st, so you need to bring it to your local meeting before that date.

## Sports Department

Recruit a team to participate in the Dartball, Bowling, Golf and/or cornhole tournaments. Check out the Sports Department Handbook for dates for these contests.

## Information Department

E-mail articles and pictures of Youth activities to the Empire State Granger, the New York State Grange's official newspaper. To get them published in our bimonthly edition, e-mail information and pictures to the Information Director, Bruce M. Croucher at [croubr@ottcmail.com](mailto:croubr@ottcmail.com).

## New York State Grange Website

E-mail articles and pictures of Youth Activities to be put on the New York State Grange Website ([www.nysgrange.org](http://www.nysgrange.org)). Send them to the New York State Grange Website Coordinator, Stephen Coye by emailing to [steve@nysgrange.org](mailto:steve@nysgrange.org)

## NEW YORK STATE GRANGE YOUTH WEEKENDS

Youth Weekends are a big part of the New York State Grange Youth Program. We plan to have multiple Youth Weekends in the next few years at the following host Granges:

Winter Weekends	Spring Weekends
Jan. 17 - 19, 2025 - Chenango Co. Pomona Grange	March 21 - 23, 2025- Newark Grange (Wayne)
January 2026 - Stanford Grange (Dutchess)	March 2026 - Walton Grange (Delaware)
FALL Weekends	
September 19 - 21, 2025 - Brunswick Grange (Rensselaer)	
September 2026 - Jefferson County	

<p><b>New York State Convention</b> October 17-21, 2025 - Watertown, New York (Jefferson County)</p>
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## Dress Code

The New York State Grange Youth Department has a Drill Team that competes at the Northeast Youth Conference each year as well as a Youth Officers Team that performs the Opening Ceremony at the Annual New York State Grange Session on Sunday morning. We encourage all Youth members to participate. There are forms at the back of this handbook to be used at all New York State Grange sponsored Youth events.

Although we do not have a formal dress code, there are some events where we need to look uniform. Therefore, everyone will be expected to dress appropriately for the occasion. We have listed some examples below. If you need clarification, contact the State Youth Director.

- Youth Weekends - Casual (jeans and t-shirt)
- Youth Officer & Drill Team - Top (White dress shirt or blouse), Bottom (Black dress pants or skirt)
- Marching Candidate in the Degrees - Business (nice slacks and shirt for boys; skirt, dress, or dress slacks and blouse for girls)
- Youth Ambassador, Banquets and/or representing the youth department - Semi-Formal- (sports jacket or sweater and nice slacks for boys; nice dress or dress pants for girls)

## Youth Officers

At Winter Weekend of each year, the youth will elect a slate of youth officers who will serve until the next slate is elected.

Each officer must commit to attend a minimum of one youth weekend and state session.

Roles should be memorized before state session of the year individuals are elected.

Office responsibilities are available upon request.

## Youth/ Young Adult Ambassador program

Any youth who want to be considered for the upcoming year's State Youth Ambassador, age

16-19, or Young Adult Ambassador, age 20-35\*, (\*\*A married couple may compete together) will need to contact the Youth Department before September 1st.

Each Candidate:

- **must** attend at least one youth event in the 12 months prior to applying.
- **must** be present at State session the year he/she is appointed.
- **must** make a presentation about why he/she/they want(s) to be considered for the State Ambassador(s) and what the project they would like to spearhead is about at a youth event on or before August 31st.

As the Ambassador you **must**:

- attend the State session following your appointment
- Present a 30 minute workshop at a youth event
- Spearhead a project promoting the Grange and/ or the Grange Youth Program
- bring a ½ inch wide binder with photos and highlights from your year as

Ambassador(s) to State Session

As an Ambassador you are **encouraged** to:

- Attend the Banquet at State Session
- Attend National Session and Participate in the Youth Programs there.
- Represent the youth at events across the state

\*Please note that due to the current age ranges at the National Level any appointed ambassadors who would turn 31 before the end of the National Session in which they would represent NY will not have the opportunity to compete at the National level.

\*\* At the National Level there is not a category for Young Couple, but, at the State Level, we would like to offer this opportunity. If chosen to represent NYS, the Young Couple could attend National Session as Ambassadors.

## **National Youth Grange Programs**

*(Deadlines may vary, see National Grange handbook)*

Each state may send two youth and two young adults to National Grange Session, who meet the above criteria for State Ambassador/ Young Patron/ Young Couple. Applications must be submitted by September 1st the year you are serving. The deadline for the **National Grange Youth Officers Team** is September 1st. This is a great opportunity to experience National Grange and New York has the potential to send 2, 3 or even 4 youth officers.



## John Trimble Youth Legislative Experience

*(suspended for 2025)*

This program is similar to the Robert A. Earlandt Award. The deadline for this application is September 1st. National Convention Youth Legislative Experience will provide opportunities for one or two Grange Youth, age 16 - 35, with an interest in the legislative aspect of the National

Grange to see the inner workings of committees and the grassroots legislative policy development effort at the National Grange Convention.

**For more information on these programs and others see the National Grange Youth Handbook.**

STANDARD GRANGE OUTSIDE ACTIVITY PERMISSION FORM

Participant's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell number: \_\_\_\_\_

Grange & Number: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Event date, destination, & description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Group #: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Problems/Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CONSENTS

EMERGENCY CONSENT: It is the policy of the New York State Grange and its divisions to notify a parent when a child is ill or needs medical attention. In situations where the parent cannot be contacted and immediate help for the child is needed, our procedure is to take the child to the nearest emergency service. Please sign below so that we can take appropriate action on behalf of your child. **I hereby give my/our consent for my/our child named above when ill or injured, to be taken to the nearest emergency center by the charge person or persons when we cannot be contacted. I consent to an ambulance being called to transport my child, if necessary. I further agree to pay all costs incurred for transport. I hereby agree to release the sponsoring Grange and its representatives from liability for any injury to the above named person resulting from any cause whatsoever while attending the above Grange sponsored event, excepting only such injury or damage resulting from willful acts of such representatives.**

PHOTOGRAPHY CONSENT: It is [ ] **permissible** [ ] **not permissible** for the NYS Grange and its divisions to use photographs of my child taken at the event for press, brochure, and publicity purposes, including electronic and social media.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_