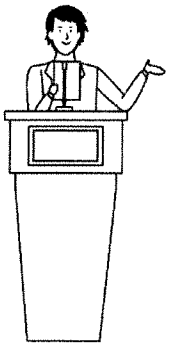
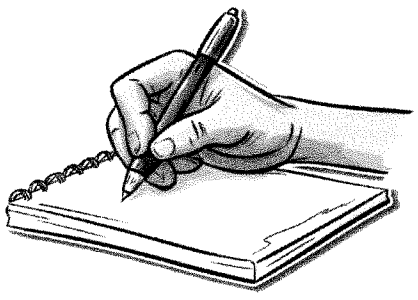
NEW YORK STATE GRANGE

LECTURER'S PROGRAM GUIDE

2027-2028







NEW YORK STATE GRANGE
LECTURER'S HANDBOOK
2027-2028

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Lecturer's Committee :
District I Western NY - Carol Bailey
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District II Central NY - Anna Ritchey
755 Co. Hwy 2, Unadilla, NY 13849 ph: 607-563-1104
District III Northern NY - Laura Magrum
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District IV Hudson Valley NY - Karin Croucher
2514 County Rd 25, Clifton Springs, NY 14432 ph: 978-317-6037

The Lecturer/Program Director holds one of the most challenging and rewarding positions in the Grange. The job is two-fold. First of all, it is the Lecturer's responsibility to present or arrange for a program at each regular Grange meeting. Lecturers should strive to have well balanced programs, which include elements of educational information, fun activities and inspirational messages. Music should be included whenever possible. Recorded music is perfectly acceptable. Consider having a program that helps promote the various contests such as a mini photography or art class. Perhaps an acting workshop would encourage some members to work on a skit or monologue for the talent contest. It is important to foster a good relationship with the Grange Master/President so that time for the program does not become an issue.

Secondly, the Lecturer/Program Director is a liaison to the community. Invite members of the community 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 and/or sponsor educational programs for the community.

Guidelines for Pomona Lecturers

- Present or arrange for a well-balanced program at each meeting.
- Work with other Grange officers and committees in building a successful Grange.
- Communicate with and offer assistance to the Community Grange Lecturers.
- Promote various contests and hold county contests if warranted.
- Be a liaison between Community and Junior Granges and the State Grange by disseminating information and sending necessary reports to the State Lecturer.
- Fill out the annual report and send it to the State Lecturer by September 15th.

Guidelines for Community Grange Lecturers

- Present or arrange for a well-balanced program at each meeting.
- Cooperate with other Grange officers and committees to plan a yearly program for the Grange.

- Survey the members to learn about their individual interests.
- Encourage individuals to expand and share their talents.
- Promote the various opportunities provided through the Lecturer's Department.
- Fill out the annual report and send it to the State Lecturer by September 15th.

WRITING CONTEST

Division I – Community Grange members
Division II – Junior Grange members – ages 5-9
Division III – Junior Grange members – ages 10-14
*A Junior Grange member's age will be determined as of January 1st prior to state judging.

A.) Essay: Write an essay of no more than 500 words about:
2027: How Did Your Grange Celebrate America 250?
2028: I spend my Sunday afternoon doing...

Judging criteria: Focus, Development of subject, Organization, Style, and Conventions.

***On the back of ALL entries list**:
Division
Category
Name
Address
Grange
County
of the member submitting the entry.

ART CONTEST

Division I – Community Grange members
Division II – Junior Grange members – ages 5-9
Division III – Junior Grange members – ages 10-14
*A Junior Grange member's age will be determined as of January 1st prior to state judging.

2027: Coloring Page: Using the coloring pages provided for each division based on age; color the page using crayons, colored pencils, or markers. Judging criteria will include creativity, neatness/cleanliness, color scheme, technical skills. Please see below for information to include with the submission.

2028: Mosaic: Create a design using paper, tiles, or glass with size no greater than 24 in. x 24 in. Judging criteria will include composition, use of mediums, creativity and overall effect of picture. Please see below for information to include with the submission.

***Each member may submit one entry and must be the original work of the member. All entries must be completed between May 1st and April 15th of the current contest year. A work of art may only be entered once.

***Professionals are NOT eligible to participate in the art or photo contests.** A professional is defined as someone who receives significant financial gain from the sale of his/her work or acting as an instructor.

***On the back of ALL entries list**:

Division
Category
Name
Address
Grange
County

of the member submitting the entry.

***Pomona Lecturers will conduct a Pomona level art and photo contest (including Junior entries) and send first place winning entries in all divisions to the State Grange Headquarters by April 15th of each year.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Division I – Community Grange members
Division II – Junior Grange members – ages 5-9
Division III – Junior Grange members – ages 10-14
*A Junior Grange member's age will be determined as of January 1st prior to state judging.

2027
Category A – **America 250 Celebrations**
Category B – **By the side of the road on our travels** (Please no photos of roadkill.)

2028
Category A – **Animals**
Category B – **Lighthouses**

Size: minimum 4"x6" to maximum of 11"x14" including matting

Each member may only have one submission for each category, and it must be taken by the member. The photo must be taken between May 1st and April 15th of the current contest year and only be entered once. Both film and digital photos are allowed.

Professionals are NOT eligible to participate in the art or photo contests. A professional is defined as someone who receives significant financial gain from the sale of his/her work or acting as an instructor.

***On the back of ALL entries list:**

Division
Category
Name
Address
Grange
County

of the member submitting the entry.

***Pomona Lecturers will conduct a Pomona level art and photo contest (including Junior entries) and send first place winning entries in all divisions to the State Grange Headquarters by April 15th of each year.

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

TALENT SHOW

Division I – Community Grange members
Division II – Junior Grange members – ages 5-9
Division III – Junior Grange members – ages 10-14
*A Junior Grange member's age will be determined as of January 1st prior to state judging.

Category A – Instrumental (solo or group)
Category B – Vocal (solo or group)
Category C – Skit/Variety

Any **Community or Junior** Grange member or group of Grange members is invited to perform in the State Grange Talent Show. Pomona Lecturers may hold a Pomona Level Talent Show or contact Community Grange Lecturers to determine those interested in performing at the State Talent Show. Pomona Lecturers will notify the State Lecturer of those interested in performing in the State Grange Talent Show held during the Lecturer/Family Activities Conference. This conference will be held the last Saturday in April at the State Grange headquarters. Pomona Lecturers will send the form to the State Lecturer by April 15th each year.

Professionals are NOT eligible to participate in the talent contest. A professional is defined as someone who receives significant financial gain from performance or acting as an instructor in a particular category.
Judging will be done by qualified individuals. State awards may be certificates, ribbons, and/or cash prizes. The "Best of Show" winner will be invited to perform at the State Fair on Grange Day, and State Grange Session.

Judging Criteria:
-*Musical (Vocal and Instrumental)*: Overall Performance; Audience Response; Stage Appearance and Presence; Personality; Organization and Coordination; Music/Voice Quality
-*Skit/Variety*: Overall Performance; Audience Response; Stage Appearance & Presence; Originality; Personality; Creativity; Organization and Coordination

OPPORTUNITIES AND PROJECTS FOR LECTURERS

Discussion Topics

Giant Hogweed: Giant hogweed can pose a threat to human health when an individual comes in contact with the sap. It can cause burns and blisters on the skin especially when exposed to sunlight. Visit the New York State DEC website or visit your local Cornell Cooperative Extension website for information regarding invasive plant species in New York. Learn how to identify invasive plant species that can be found in your area and learn about any precautions to take if they are found. Even invite representatives from the DEC or Cornell Cooperative Extension to give a presentation about native vs. invasive plants. For the DEC: Invasive Species - NYSDEC For Cornell Cooperative Extension: http://cce.cornell.edu/localoffices (select your local office to find out more information about invasive plants in your area)

Loss of Farmland in New York: "According to data released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in February 2026, New York lost 500 farms and 100,000 acres of farmland between 2024 and 2025. While the U.S. also experienced losses in this time period, the 1.6 percent loss of farms in New York was double the national rate of 0.8 percent, and the 1.5 percent decline in farmland was five times the national rate. Eighty percent of the reduction in the number of farms in New York came from small farms – those with sales of less than $100,000" (New York Farms and Farmland Decrease at a Higher Rate Than Nationally in 2025 | Office of the New York State Comptroller). It is important now more than ever to support farmers and preserve farmland.

Ticks: Ticks are the most common carriers of Lyme disease. Prevention of tick exposure is the best defense against Lyme disease. If you are bitten by tick, remove tick with tweezers grasping the tick closest to your skin's surface as possible. Watch for fever and rash after tick bite and seek medical attention for proper treatment. Check out CDC website for more detailed instructions Ticks | CDC.

Life Line Screening: Preventative screenings for heart disease, stroke, chronic diseases, and men/women's health screenings. Providing greater access to preventative care including rural areas, no insurance needed. Get screened for stroke, cardiovascular, and other diseases - Life Line Screening

Soil and Water: Partner with Soil and Water to provide programs in your Grange. Does your county have a Grange representative on the Soil and Water District Board? Soil & Water Conservation Committee | Agriculture and Markets

Emergency Services: Emergency services and response times in Rural areas can be limited by geographical location and limited resources available to a large area. It is imperative for communities to educate and prepare citizens to help in the initial response before emergency services arrive which can help increase the chances for survival. Contact the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, local hospital, fitness centers, or schools to set up trainings for First Aid, CPR, and AED courses in your community. For more information and resources visit https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/emergency-medical-services. Help spread awareness and support for local EMS (Emergency Medical Services) with your Grange!

Connecting With Future Leaders

Consider connecting with your local chapters of the following organizations to reach out to the Youth leaders in your community. Co-sponsor joint activities to get the word out to the community about the Grange and how they can continue their use of leadership skills!

-FFA – local school or BOCES
-4-H – contact your local chapter
-Boys and Girls Scouts – contact your local troop
-Interact (youth program with Rotary Clubs – contact your local Rotary club)
-Envirothon (www.nysenvirothon.org)
-Agriculture in the Classroom (www.agclassroom.org/ny) - contact your county coordinator to be a volunteer during Agricultural Literacy Week. Check out the website for more information. Consider sponsoring books used in classrooms to promote agricultural literacy.

New York State Grange History

New York State Grange Historian Carol Bailey can provide historical information to help Lecturers enhance their programs. Check out the Historian Section of this Handbook for ideas or contact Carol Bailey.

National Grange Programs and Contests

All are encouraged to visit National Grange's website to find information on National Grange Programs: Programs - National Grange (of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry)

Dates to Remember

April 15, 2027, and 2028 – Art and Photo entries due at State Grange Headquarters, Talent entries due to State Lecturer

April 24, 2027 – Lecturer/FAC Conference – NYS Grange Headquarters

April 29, 2028 – Lecturer/FAC Conference – NYS Grange Headquarters

2028 Northeast Lecturers Conference in Maine – Date TBD

September 15, 2027, and 2028 – Lecturer reports due to State Lecturer

Packing Slip

Utilize this form to list New York State Grange Lecturer's Contest entries when sending entries for judging.

County: _____

Name	***Division	Contest	Item Description

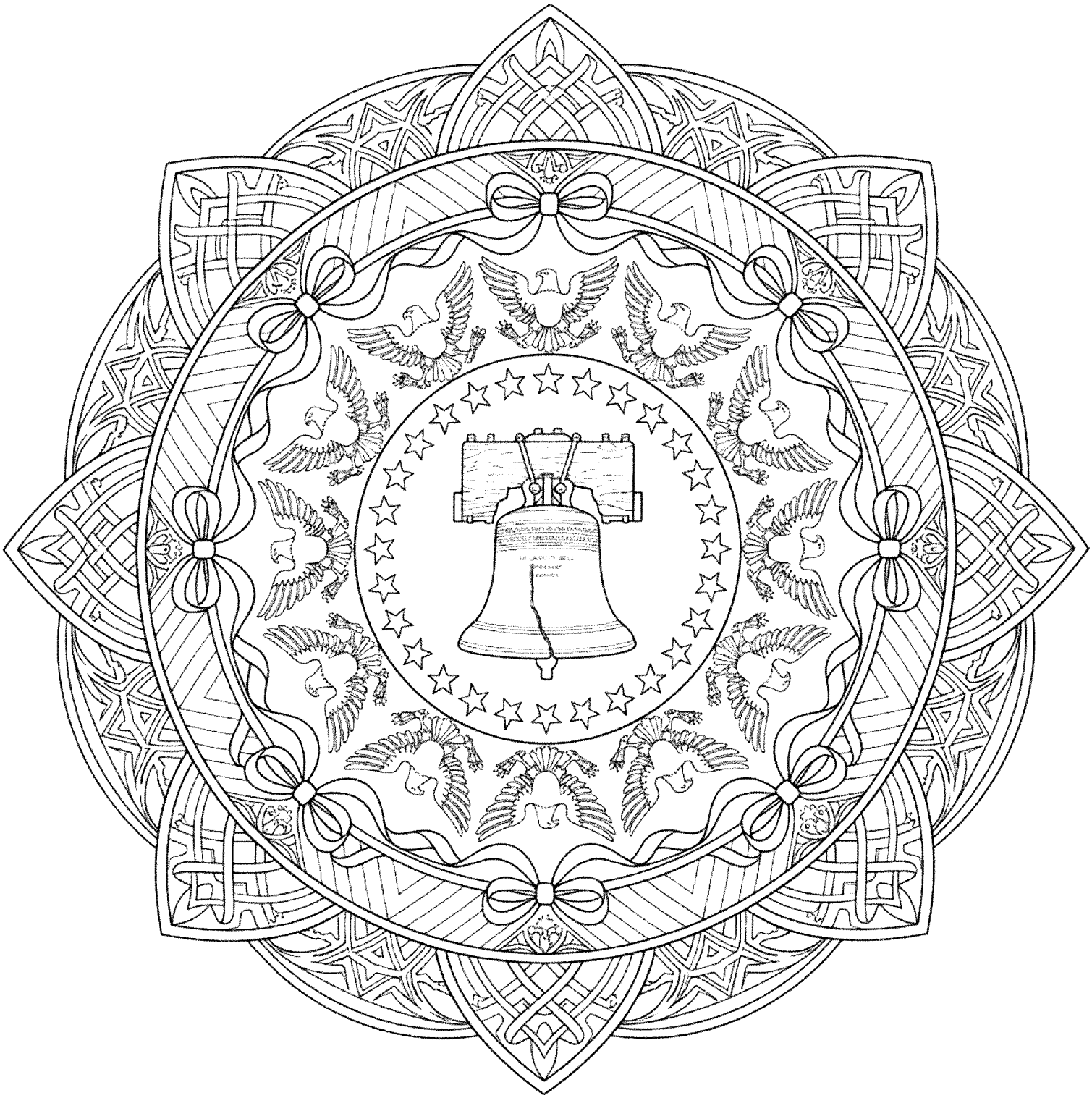
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