GRANGEYOUTH

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK

"I'D BE DELIGHTED"

NEW YORK STATE GRANGE

2027 - 2028

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 & Young Adult 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 & Young Adults 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 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.

We want to encourage our Youth to stay involved year after year long after they outgrow our Department. The Youth will help to Lead America beyond the next 250 years of our Nation.

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New York State Grange Youth Contests for 2027-2029

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 ages of 13 and 35 to their Grange family. Send the names and contact information of all new Youth members to the State Director by September 1st in order to be considered for the prize! The winner will receive a $25 cash prize.

GRANGE PROGRAMING

For each section listed below, please see more information in those sections of the NYS handbook.

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 helping with the school back pack program.

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 12 - 14 year-olds (OJAYs). These are your Older Juniors And Youth. Hold 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! Invite the OJAYs to participate in your Community Service Projects, Drill Teams, Field Trips, and Youth Weekends.

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.

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, check out the Legislative section and/or contact the State Legislative Director.

Sports Department

Recruit a team to participate in the Dartball, Bowling, Golf, and/or Cornhole Tournaments. Check out the Sports Department Section for dates for these contests.

Information Department

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

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). Send them to the New York State Grange Website Coordinator Stephen Coye by emailing to 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
January 15-17, 2027 – Bethlehem Grange	March 19-21, 2027-Cuba Grange
January 2028 - TBA	2028- TBA
FALL Weekends	
September 2027 – TBA September 2028 – Brunswick Grange	

New York State Convention
October 16-17, 2026 in Waterloo, New York

Young Adult Weekend
February 12 - 15, 2027 **Lititz, PA**

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 and shirts for boys; nice dress or dress pants and blouses for girls)

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

Each year, one young man and one young woman will be chosen from applications submitted to visit the New York State Legislature in Albany to meet with their local Senators and Assemblymen, visit and be recognized on the Assembly Floor, and take a tour of the New York State Capital 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 must have an interest in Legislation, be active in school and community activities, and have a desire to learn more about Legislation.
- A resume of the Youth member shall be (or, if suggesting self, send your own resume).
- 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 _____

Horizon Leadership Ambassador program

Any youth who wants to be considered for the upcoming year's State Youth Ambassador, ages 16-21, or Young Patron/ Young Couple, ages 22-35, 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 wants to be considered for the State Youth Ambassador 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 or Young Patron 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

Sharon Croucher Legislative Experience

Applicants must be 16 years old by Jan 1 and may not turn 36 before the end of State Session. They will need to be a member in good standing of a local (Subordinate and/or Pomona Grange). The recommendation form will be submitted by the local Grange Master/President, Youth Coordinator or Legislative Director and the interested Youth member will complete a Google Application Form to apply. A paper application is also available upon request. The deadline to apply for this program will be August 1 and State Youth Directors will submit the winners to the State Secretary by August 15.

National Youth Grange Programs

Each state may send two youth and two young adults or a young couple to National Grange Session, who meet the above criteria for State Ambassador/Young Patron/Young Couple. Applications must be submitted by September 1st.

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.

Honorary Youth Delegate Experience

The Honorary Youth Delegate Experience is designed to cultivate knowledgeable, passionate young advocates who understand the Grange's legislative process or desire to learn it, and who feel empowered to shape the future of rural America. This program honors the legacy of John Trimble — a dedicated Grange leader who believed deeply in education, civic responsibility, and youth involvement.

Participants will have the opportunity to serve as an Honorary Youth Delegate at the National Grange Convention, gaining first-hand knowledge of policy development, debate, and decision-making within the Grange. Individuals will be selected at the National Grange Convention to serve the National Grange for one year as participants in the Honorary Youth Delegate Experience. They will serve the National Grange throughout the following year, culminating at the next National Grange Convention, where they will serve as an Honorary Youth Delegate. During their year, they will learn and participate in Grange legislative work through committee assignments, mentorship, and learn about and participate in hands-on advocacy engagement.

For more information on these or other great programs offered by National Grange see the National Grange Youth Handbook.

It is the responsibility of all participants at New York State Grange Youth events to reinforce the Code of Conduct and intervene when necessary to enforce the rules.

As a Grange Youth participant at any State Grange event or activity, I will:

Be curious to learn.

Develop my potential for leadership, personal growth, and career success.

- Be respectful to self and others. Make a positive difference in the lives of others.
- Appreciate and promote diversity in our organization.
- Work to positively resolve problems or differences.
- Accept guidance from Grange leaders, staff, and volunteers.
- Follow program rules, curfews, dress codes, policies, and rules of the facility being used.
- Use appropriate language, exhibit good sportsmanship, and be a positive role model.
- Comply with local, state, and federal laws.
- Abstain from the use of alcohol, illicit drugs, and tobacco during any Grange event or activity.
- Fully participate in scheduled activities and orientations.
- Respect others' property and privacy rights.
- Abstain from bullying, harassment, hazing, and child abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, and neglect).
- Refrain from all sexual activity/contact during any Grange event or activity.
- Accept personal responsibility for behavior including any financial damage.

Consequences for violating any part of this Code of Conduct may include, but are not limited to:

- Immediate removal from the Youth Grange Leadership Team, if applicable.
- Removal from participation in the event or activity in which the Code of Conduct has been violated (at the individual's expense).
- Forfeiture or repayment of financial support for the event or activity.
- Sanctions on participation in future Grange events and activities.

Member Name (printed): _____

Member Signature: _____ Date:_____

If the participant is under the age of 18, I have shared the NYS Grange Code of Conduct with my son, daughter, or ward. We have read, understand, and agree to the above.

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

New York State Grange Youth Weekend Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Phone _____

Grange Name & #_____ County _____

Emergency Contact

Name _____ Relationship _____

Home Phone _____Cell/Work Number _____

Medical Information

Doctor _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

Insurance _____ Group #/ID _____

Allergies _____

Medical Problems/Restrictions _____

Medication _____

Emergency Consent: It is the policy of the New York State Grange to notify a parent when a child is ill or needs medical attention. Occasionally, we cannot contact a parent, and we need to get immediate help for the child. 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/injured to be taken to the nearest emergency center by the NYS Grange Youth team or director when I/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 NYS Grange and its representative from liability for any injury to above named person resulting from any cause whatsoever while attending NYS Grange event including travel to and from the event, excepting only such injury or damage resulting from willful acts of such representatives. We also allow the NYS Grange to use photographs of my child taken at the event for press, brochure, and publicity purposes.

Signature of Child _____ Date _____

Signature(s) of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____