

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

State Youth Director

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WEBSITES

WA State Grange Youth Department – includes applications for all state Grange youth programs: www.wa-grange.com

National Grange Youth Department – 2025 Grange Youth Program and Contest Handbook

includes applications for all national grange programs: www.nationalgrangeyouth.org

Facebook Group: Washington State Grange Youth



GRANGERYOUTH

YOUTH DEPARTMENT CALENDAR FOR 2025

January 19-20: State Grange Junior/Youth Legislative Experience in Olympia

May 15-17: Western Regional Grange Leadership/Youth Conference – hosted by the Montana State Grange

June 1: Notify State Youth Director of intent to enter the following:

- Youth & Young Adult Ambassador Program
- Sign-a-Song Contest
- Public Speaking Contest – prepared speeches
- * Spirit of Youth Award
- WA State Grange Youth Achievement Award Applications
- * Wib & June Justi Youth Community Service Award
- * Junior Mentor Award

June 25-29: State Grange Convention @ Southwest Washington Fairgrounds in Chehalis. Bring items for the Keep Washington Warm Service Project and Grange Youth Display Contest Entries

August 15: Applications due to National Youth Director for the following:

- Distinguished Grange Youth Program

• Youth & Young Adult Ambassador Program

• National Grange Youth Officer Team

• John Trimble Legislative Experience

November 1: Must notify National Youth Director for participation in:

- National Public Speaking Contest
- National Sign-a-Song Contest

November 8-15: National Grange Convention aboard the Carnival Horizon

MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT

The Youth Department exists to serve the interests of young Grange members and foster their role in the future of the Grange.

STATE GRANGE YOUTH OFFICERS

The Washington State Grange Youth Officers are elected at State Convention with installation to follow. To be eligible to be a State Youth Officer, you must be a fourth-degree member in good standing. Each person can hold any given office for only one year. There is a limit of three officers per county, if possible, to give everyone a chance to become an officer. State Youth Officers' duties consist of opening, conducting business, and closing Youth meetings at convention; helping with the planning and running of Youth Weekend; and attending their own Subordinate and Pomona meetings as well as others in their area. They will be called on to speak to other groups about the Grange and represent the Grange at other functions and meetings. You are representatives

of the Grange and the Youth Department!!!

STATE CONVENTION

The youth activities during convention are open to all fourth-degree members in good standing.

The Youth Department of the Washington State Grange will not be responsible for youth not in attendance of youth functions, or in the evenings after all youth activities are over for the day. Each youth under the age of 18 must have a responsibility form on file with the Washington State Grange. The person signing the responsibility form must be over the age of 21 and staying for the entire convention.

The responsibility form requires the name and convention address of the person responsible for the youth attending the convention. Any youth attending convention and participating in youth activities must be registered and wear the registration badge to all functions. Each youth will need a completed medical release form to register. The youth badge is required to attend all youth activities.

DRESS GUIDELINES: Everyone will be dressed neatly (clean, no holes, tears or unsightly patches). We suggest at least one dress shirt (tie recommended) and slacks for men and at least one dressy outfit for women. Appropriate casual dress will be fine most of the time.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The purpose of the Youth and Young Adult Ambassador Program is to provide an opportunity for Youth and Young Adults, ages 16-25, to be selected to represent our state at the National Grange convention, to build their leadership potential; broaden their view of the Grange by experiencing leadership opportunities at the state and national levels. They will receive leadership training to use in local Granges; and build relationships with Grangers throughout the nation by their attendance at events.

The State Youth and Young Adult Ambassadors will attend the Annual National Grange Session as a part of their training. The Washington State Grange Youth Department will reimburse for the cost of airfare and lodging for the national convention. Details for eligibility and selection process can be found in the National Grange Youth Program Guide and the WA State Grange Youth Program Guide.

KEEP WASHINGTON WARM YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT



In cooperation with the State Grange Community Service Department, our Grange youth members will be collecting stocking caps, mittens, gloves, scarves, etc. for distribution to the less fortunate in our state. Items

may be purchased or hand made. Donations should be delivered to the State Grange Convention. Grange youth will display the items and then distribute the items in the host convention area following the convention.

WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This recognition program encourages our Grange Youth and Young Adults to develop their skills by participating and becoming involved in the total Grange program. Application forms are due by June 1 to the State Youth Director. All award winners will be recognized at the Annual State Grange Convention during the youth awards program.

To qualify for the youth achievement award, the application must complete five items in Group A and eight items in Group B.

Group A:

- Attend the National Grange Convention
- Attend the Western Regional Grange Youth and Leaders Conference
- Attend the Washington State Grange Convention
- Attend the State Grange Youth/Junior Legislative Experience
- Serve as a delegate to the WA State Grange Convention
- Attend either the State or National Grange Legislative Day
- Serve as a member of a Grange Installation or Degree Team
- Mentor Junior Grangers or serve as a Grange Camp Teen Counselor or Staff Member
- Recruit one new member for your Grange (be the first line

signer on their membership application)

- Write a resolution, have it adopted by your Grange, and send it to the State Grange for consideration

Group B:

- Participate in the public speaking or sign-a-song contest (state or regional level)
 - Donate one item for the Keep Washington Warm service project
 - Serve as a Subordinate Grange officer or committee chair
 - Serve as an officer or committee chair in your Grange Youth Fairs Program Group
 - Serve as a Pomona Grange officer or committee member
 - Serve as a State Grange Officer or a member of a State Grange Standing Committee
 - Attend 25% of your Subordinate Grange meetings or 25% of your Pomona Grange meetings
 - Participate in a community service project at your Subordinate or Pomona Grange
 - Participate in the development and creation of a Grange Promotional Display or Grange Fair Display
 - One entry in a Family Living Department Contest (baking, candy, food preservation, sewing, quilting, needlework, or quilt block)
 - One entry in a Lecturer Department Contest (talent, art, craft, photo, or creative writing)
 - Enter an exhibit in the Grange Youth Fairs Program at your county or area fair

- Work a minimum of four hours at a Grange Promotional event

- Present a Lecturer Program at your Grange or workshop at a Grange event

- Participate in a Grange Fundraising event for your Grange

WASHINGTON STATE SPIRIT OF YOUTH AWARD

This award is designed to honor those who have given unselfishly of themselves to Youth Programs. Often these people are behind the scenes, never receiving recognition, but always have the needs of Youth in their plans. The Spirit of Youth Award is an award of distinction, an honor of prestige.

Rules: Nominees can be single or married. Nominees can be of any age. Nominations should take the form of a letter to the Youth Director explaining why this person/couple should be recognized for this award. Nominations are due to the State Youth Director postmarked by May 15. The award will be given during State Convention.

JOHN TRIMBLE YOUTH LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE

National Convention Youth Legislative Experience will provide opportunities for one or two Grange Youth, age 16-25, with an interest in the legislative aspect of the National Grange to see the inner workings of committees and the grass roots legislative policy development effort at the National Grange Convention. Details for eligibility and selection process can be found in the

National Grange Youth Program Guide.

NATIONAL GRANGE YOUTH OFFICER TEAM/COUNCIL

Purpose: To assemble a team of Youth from across the nation to open the National Grange convention on Friday morning at the annual session. This will provide more youth with an opportunity to participate in the National Grange convention. Details for eligibility and selection process can be found in the National Grange Youth Program Guide.

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST



There will be three categories this year along with three age divisions are as follows:

- 14-20 years of age
- 21-25 years of age
- 26+ years of age

The age of the contestant as of January 1 will determine the age group.

Category A: Prepared speech

Contestant's choice of topic. Contestants in Category A will be required to answer an impromptu question at the end of their speech. The questions will be related to the contestant's chosen speech topic. Speeches must be a minimum of 3 minutes and a maximum of 5 minutes.

Category B: Impromptu Speeches

An impromptu speech is delivered without preparation or thought ahead of time. No note cards are used, and topics are generally drawn. We hope that by establishing an impromptu speech category that members will build confidence and participate in the prepared speeches or the Grange commercial speech category.

Impromptu speeches should be at least one minute in length and not longer than 5 minutes. The timekeeper will hold up hand when the 1-minute mark has been reached and the 4½ minute mark has been reached so speaker knows when he/she can stop.

Participants will draw two topics, select their choice of the two and return the other one. Competition will be held at the Regional Conferences – You need not have participated in a state competition to participate. Participants must notify National Director of intent to enter prior to the beginning of the contest.

Public speaking will be judged on the following criteria:

- Text – content, composition, and topic.
- Delivery – voice, command of audience, stage presence, expression, mannerisms, and gestures.
- Impromptu Answer – response.
- Other – Time limit, speech outline. Etc.

One point will be deducted for every 30 seconds a participant is under or over the time established. Score sheet will be returned to entrants.

WA STATE GRANGE CONTEST

INFORMATION: Participants in Category A (Prepared Speeches) should notify the State Youth Director by June 1 of their intent to enter the contest. Participants in Category B should notify the State Youth Director prior to the contest at the State Convention. The state contests will be held during the State Grange Convention in June of each year. One Best of Show winner in Category A (Prepared Speeches) will be selected to represent our state at the National Grange Convention in November.

Prizes: State prizes in each age group of Category A (Prepared Speech) are: First Place, \$100; Second Place, \$75; and Third Place, \$50. State prizes in each age group of Category B (Impromptu) are: First Place, \$15; Second Place, \$10; and Third Place, \$5.



SIGN-A-SONG CONTEST

Categories:

- A. Individual – either a novice or hobbyist. An individual who is beginning to learn to sign or signs on an occasional basis and strictly for fun.
- B. Group – two or more people signing.

Rules

1. Each state may select a Best of Show winner to represent their

state at the National Grange Convention.

2. Participants are to supply the contest officials with three copies of the lyrics to their song.
3. Participants must provide their own music. National contestants must provide music to the National Grange Youth Director by November 1.
4. Anyone who is a professional instructor or receives money for signing is ineligible to compete in this contest.
5. Signers must use total communication techniques: sign language, facial expressions, mouthing of words for lip reading, finger spelling if appropriate, and body movement.
6. Participants must be Grange members.
7. Props and costumes are permitted, rhythm is optional.
8. Only one song may be signed during the competition performance.
9. Participants must sign their own name and song title.
10. Participants must inform the audience and judges what type of sign language they will be using. (Pidgeon, ASL, ESL, etc.)

Judging guidelines for a total of 100 points:

- Utilization of Total communication skills (sign language ability, signs clearly with correct interpretation) - 32 points
- Body expression, displays emotion, expresses key thoughts with body movement, mouth words for lip reading -30 points
- Presentation, interpret with confidence, uniformity (group) - 25 points
- Song selection is appropriate, with a clear meaning and is

suitable for the participants signing ability - 10 points

- Signed their own name - 1 point
- Signed title of Song - 1 point
- Informed judges and Audience of type of sign language being used - 1 point

WA STATE GRANGE CONTEST INFORMATION:

Participants should notify the State Youth Director by June 1 of their intent to enter the contest. The state contests will be held during the State Grange Convention in June of each year. One Best of Show winner will be selected to represent our state at the National Grange Convention in November. State prizes in Category A: First Place, \$50; Second Place, \$30; and Third Place, \$20. State prizes in Category B: First Place, \$75; Second Place, \$50; and Third Place, \$25.

WIB & JUNE JUSTI

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

This award is given in memory of Wib and June Justi, past National Grange Youth Directors. This award is intended to encourage youth and young adults to interact and serve the communities where they reside. Applications are due to the State Youth Director by June 1. One state winner will be selected and nominated for national recognition. Full details

can be found in the National Grange Youth Program Guide.

JUNIOR MENTOR AWARD

Grange youth and young adults can have a powerful impact on the Grange experience with our youngest members. This award is designed to recognize the Grange youth and young adults that go above and beyond to guide and mentor Junior Grangers. Applications are due to the State Youth Director by June 1. One state winner will be selected and nominated for national recognition. Full details can be found in the National Grange Youth Program Guide.

GRANGE YOUTH DISPLAY CONTEST

All entrants must be youth or young adult members (ages 14-30) of a subordinate/community Grange. Entries may be submitted by individuals or groups. There will be two divisions:

- 1 – Grange Event/Activity
- 2 – Agricultural Topic
- 3 – Other Topic

Entries will consist of a standard tri-board with pictures, captions, clippings, and appropriate descriptions.

All entries are due to the youth meeting room at the State Grange Convention on Wed, June 25 between 9 am and 5 pm.

Entries will be judged, with ribbons and cash prizes awarded to the top three entries in each division. Entries may be picked up on Sunday (last day) of the convention.



G.R.O.W. CLUB

“Go Right On Working”

The G.R.O.W. Club is an elite club that is made up of Grange members who have participated in the National Grange Prince, Princess, Young Couple, Youth/Young Adult Ambassador Program or have served as Youth team members. State Grange GROW Club members will meet annually during the State Grange Convention.

ADDITIONAL NATIONAL GRANGE YOUTH PROGRAMS

Please refer to the National Grange Youth Program Guide for information on the following programs:

- Grassroots Activism Scholarship
- Youth Officer T-Shirt Design Contest
- GROW Club Travel Scholarships
- Distinguished Grange Youth Programs