



National Junior Grange

CRUISING TOWARDS THE BRIGHT HORIZON

2025 JUNIOR GRANGE PROGRAM BOOK

NationalJuniorGrange.org



1ST EDITION August 2024

This version of the Junior Grange Program Guide replaces all prior versions and will go into effect beginning November 2024.

For any additional updates or for more information

visit the National Junior Grange Website at www.nationaljuniorgrange.org

Questions or comments should be directed to:

National Junior Grange Committee

nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com

Or to

National Junior Grange Director

Attn: Rebekah Hodgson

80 Collins Ln, East Peoria, IL 61611

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2025 Junior Grange Program Book Information

Welcome Junior Grange Enthusiasts,

For several years now we have been working to incorporate and create a program that your state and/or local Granges could take and run with, creating independence for Junior programs across the nation.

We have had the opportunity to listen to the National Junior Grange committee, State Directors, Leaders, Junior Grange Alumni, and Junior Grangers themselves to develop and incorporate new ideas into the program. To continue creating a successful program we are always looking for and appreciate your feedback.

Junior Grangers are energetic, eager to learn, and really make a difference within their community. They are the future of our organization! We are all responsible for leaving a legacy to help guide them in the coming years. Our hope is that you will create a place within your Grange where juniors thrive, are appreciated, and can have fun!

Once again, we have broken everything down into a quarterly program. Of course, you are welcome to implement these things at any time during the year, however, we hope that this layout will help our junior leaders be able to incorporate more of the National Junior Grange programming into their regular state and local programming and utilize this new format to create successful independent programs in their local and state Junior Granges. With this layout we will learn about some of the most important aspects of being a good Granger. Starting out with a different focus each quarter, we will spend our year focusing on advocacy, agriculture, deaf awareness, and community service.

These past few years we have seen many changes in what is desired by our members. We have tried some new things out, some of which were successful while others were not as successful. That, after all, is how we learn, right? We do know that when we make changes it may take a few years for everyone to get on board and begin their own programming locally. We tried hard not to make major changes again this year, however with the 2025 National Grange Convention being held at sea, we will not have the same set up as in previous years. With that being said, all of our contest will be submitted digitally via email. Please note that the regional conference contests are still the same as implemented last year. All Sign-A-Song & Public Speaking contests will now be held at the state level. States will be allowed to send one winner in each of the contests to the national session to compete with other juniors during our junior actives' day.

The National Junior department wants to continue to be a support for local and state Junior Granges. As you are making plans for different events or if you have programming questions, please reach out to us. We are here for you and to help you create a successful program.

Fraternally yours,

National Junior Grange Committee

EVENTS IN 2025

National Convention

At Sea

November 8-16, 2025

Aboard the Carnival Horizon

Set sail from Miami, FL

Sail to Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao

Regional Conferences

(All dates are tentative, check www.nationalgrange.org for updated information)

Great Plains Regional Conference- June 20 – 21, 2025

Eastern Regional Conference- August 1 –3, 2025

Midwest Regional Conference- TBD

Northeast Regional Conference- TBD

Western Regional Conference- May 15 – 17, 2025

JUNIOR GRANGE PROGRAM - AGE REQUIREMENTS

Junior Grangers ages 5-14 are welcome to participate in all programs within the Junior Grange Program.

*With exceptions to participating in the Ambassador Program. However, they are still welcome to work on achieving those goals before they reach the appropriate age.

FINANCIAL DISCLAIMER:

NATIONAL GRANGE AND GRANGE FOUNDATION CHECK POLICY: All checks written on bank accounts for the National Grange and The Grange Foundation are valid for six (6) months from the date of issue. Checks not cashed by the recipient within six (6) months will be credited back to the organization as a donation.

DATES & DEADLINES:

Please see contest/application for deadline.

Advocacy for All Ages

Category 1

Focus Point: Legislative/Local Advocacy

In this section you will find information on the 'Local Advocacy Project', Public Speaking Contest, Legislative Experience.

Local Advocacy Project:

Do you have an issue that affects your community? What is it? How can you make a difference and create change within your community? With this project we are encouraging Junior Grangers to identify issues within their community and research the issue and be an advocate for change. Within this process the Junior Granger should learn the legislative process of the Grange and the community in which they are working with for a change. (i.e., local government, school board, HOA, etc.)

Junior Leaders are to help the Junior Granger Identify the following:

- **Community**
 - Identify what community type you are interested in helping
 - This can be within your Grange, town, school, subdivision, etc.
- **Issue**
 - Identify what do you want to be advocating for?
 - Is this a Grange, school, local, state, or national issue?
- **Reason**
 - Once you have identified the issue determine why this issue is relevant and why you should be advocating for a change.
- **Plan**
 - Come up with a solution to work on solving the issue. Is that writing a resolution for your local Grange, speaking to the school board or local government officials?
- **Presentation**
 - Schedule a meeting with the correct officials and present your plan for change and advocate for why you think these changes are important.

Example:

Community- School

Issue- Homework is given three nights a week and you believe it should only be given once a week and due at the end of the week.

Reason- You believe homework should only be given once a week because kids are busy in the evenings, and it would give them an entire week to work on the assignment.

Plan: You want to speak to the school board to make the entire school follow the same homework guidelines.

Presentation: You went to speak with the school board about the issues and presented your plan of action and encouraged the school board to vote for a change in the homework policy.

Junior Grange leaders are encouraged to post on social media and send their advocacy projects to the National Junior Grange Department. They are also encouraged to celebrate victories and defeats that the Juniors may have during this process. Advocating for something doesn't always mean you will win, but it does mean that you are learning to work with others and help find a solution to a problem. We as Grangers have a long and very strong history in advocating. Training our Juniors at a young age to advocate is substantial to obstacles they will face all throughout life.

NATIONAL JUNIOR GRANGE PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

The National Junior Grange Public Speaking Contest will be held during the National Grange Convention held every November. This contest will be open to all State Junior Grange Public Speaking winners. Winners will be announced during the National Grange Convention.

Requirements:

- **Age:** 5- 14 years of age
- **Participants** must have achieved First Place in their State Junior Public Speaking Competition. One participant in each category (Short Story/ Prepared) may represent their state as the State Grange Best of Show winner at National Convention.

Name, age, speech title, category and state name, and a copy of the speech must be emailed along with a digital video recording of the junior reading their speech via email by October 1st to the National Junior Grange Committee at nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com

Categories

Impromptu- (only a state contest) The contestant will draw 3 topics from a mystery bag and select one of those topics to give their speech on. The contestant must meet a minimum of 1 minute with no more than 3 minutes for their speech.

Short Story- The contestant may present a published short story or poem of their choosing. The contestant must meet a minimum of 1 minute with no more than 3 minutes for their story.

Prepared- Deliver a prepared speech written by the contestant. The contestant must meet a minimum of 3 minutes with a maximum of 5 minutes for their prepared speech. This speech must be on one of the following topics: ***How I can be the difference in my community, what makes a good leader, why the Junior Grange is important to me, or how/why is becoming a young advocate an important step for my future.***

Judging Criteria: The contestant will be judged in the National contest in the following areas:

Text: Content: Information gathered and included in speech. Composition: the speech was compiled in a manner that was easy to understand. Topic: Topic was clearly researched, and personal connection was made.

Delivery: Voice: spoke clearly and was easy to understand. Command of Audience: speaker can engage and captivate the audience with the message of the speech. Stage Presence: speaker is dressed neatly and appropriately, poised, and reduced nervousness. Expression: speech delivered with enthusiasm and emotion. Mannerisms and Gestures: Does not have any distracting mannerisms or gestures that are not purposeful and effective.

Time: 1 point deducted for every 30 seconds under/over the time limit.

Outline: A copy of speech or the outline was presented to the judges.

National Competition Winners:

1st-3rd place winners in each age category will receive custom Jr. Grange medals.

A Best of Show winner will also be announced.

Note no funding will be provided to attend the National Grange Session



Legislative Experience

State Legislative Experience 2025

Since 2020 Your National Youth, National Junior Grange and National Grange Legislative Departments have worked together to develop a legislative experience to teach our young members about the legislative process of our grassroots organization and worked to develop relationships with representatives and departments from around the country.

During the past legislative experiences, we have taught attendees the basics of government and Grange policies. We are now working to encourage our states to provide their own legislative experience for their young members.

We want and encourage Youth, Young Adults and Juniors to join together at their state capitol and participate in a state legislative day. The purpose of this Legislative Experience is for Junior and Youth/Young Adult aged Grangers from across their state to come together and learn about how the Grange functions on the legislative side. Youth and Juniors should be educated on the many ways in which Grangers and citizens alike can advocate on issues they feel are important to shape public policy and communities in which they live.

We encourage states to take their members behind the scenes and look at what the government is and how it operates in their own state. Junior and Youth members, along with their leaders/parents, should be invited to attend the State Legislative Experience that can be planned by the State Grange or assigned departments. Junior and Youth Leaders accompanying must adhere to the State and/or National Grange Child Protection Policy.

Grangers should make plans to attend briefings with important information pertaining to the Grange Legislative Department. Plans should also include meetings with governmental departments (such as the Department of Agriculture and Department of Education), meetings with Congressmen and Senators from your state and a tour of the State Capitol.

Just as our Grange Declaration of Purposes suggests, we will ensure that our Grange Youth, Young Adults and Juniors “take a proper interest in the politics of one’s country” so they might become the informed and involved citizens required to move America forward and to guarantee a better society for future generations.

The purpose of getting Junior Grangers involved in this Legislative experience is for Junior Grangers from across the state to develop an understanding about how the Grange functions on the legislative side.

Junior Grangers will learn to Stand UP and SPEAK Out for the Junior Grange.

Should your State make plans for a legislative day we ask that you keep the National Grange updated on your event.

Grange Grassroots Activism Scholarship

Deadline: February 1- Sponsored by Potomac Grange #1, Washington, DC

Any Youth, Young Adult, or Junior that has applied to attend a State or National Legislative Experience event is eligible to apply for the Grange Grassroots Activism Scholarship. The scholarship application with supplemental materials will be submitted to the National Grange Junior Director and will be passed along to the National Grange Legislative Director and Potomac Grange #1 for selection. Two travel/lodging scholarships, not to exceed \$500 each, will be awarded.

Applicants must submit ALL of the following:

1. The completed application form.
2. Junior Members:
 - a. Submit an Op-ed you wrote advocating on behalf of the Grange for a specific issue that is affecting your home, school, or community.
 1. Include the following in your statement;
 - a. What the issue is
 - b. Use your words to give your opinion on the topic.
 - c. Decide how the issue can be resolved with the Grange's help.
 - d. Convince me to help you resolve the issue
3. An essay about what you want to gain by attending the Legislative Experience
4. Two letters of reference; one from your State Master/President, State, Subordinate/Community, or Pomona Legislative Director or State Junior Director or from a National Grange Officer demonstrating your character, ability for engagement and activism and interest in Grange policy. The second letter can be from anyone outside of the family unit.
5. If selected as a winner of the scholarship, the awardee will be required to submit travel expenses and a written or verbal report of their experience of why it was a valuable experience to them as a Granger and a young person. *Zoom teleconferencing will be available* These submissions must be given to Potomac Grange #1.

Grange Grassroots Activism Scholarship Application

Deadline: February 1

State _____ Subordinate/Junior Grange & No. _____

Applicant Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Circle One: Junior (5-13) Youth (14-21) Young Adult (22-35)

General Biographical Information: (education, years in the Grange, etc.) and other information of relevance.

Have you held any Grange offices or served on any committees, etc? If so, please indicate these below.

Have you worked or volunteered for any local, state or national political campaigns or offices? If so, please indicate these below.

I certify that the above information is correct.

Signature

Date

Parent/ Guardian Signature (if under 18)

Date

Please indicate the name of your references whose letters you have attached to this application.

Name: _____ Position _____

Name: _____ Position _____

Agricultural Awareness

In this section you will find information on the Ag Awareness Project and the Creative Writing Contest.

2025 AGRICULTURAL AWARENESS PROJECT

2025 AG Awareness Theme:

Water - as it relates to Agriculture

Complete the following tasks to receive your 2025 AG Awareness Award!

- 1. RESEARCH:** Define what Water is and what Agriculture is. Now identify why water is needed in Agriculture.
- 2. RESEARCH:** Through online resources or by visiting your local library research how Agriculture can use water more efficiently.
- 3. RESEARCH:** What Crops use the most Water.
- 4. IDENTIFY:** 3 different ways farmers collect water for usage in Agriculture.
- 5. Pick at least two of the following:**
 - A. ACTIVITY:** Create an art project using water.
 - B. MAKE:** Small scale rain barrel
 - C. MAKE:** Water sources model using cardboard and color paper.
 - D. BUILD:** A usable Tower Garden.
- 6. SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW: 1.** Create a poster to teach others about the multiple uses of water in agriculture.
- 7. TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE: 1.** Create an activity that can be used as a Lecturers program to test people's knowledge about ways water is effective in agriculture.
- 8. SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW:** Take all the things you learned about water – as it relates to agriculture and make a plan on how you are going to inform your family, friends, and community.

Submit the following information:

- A brief synopsis (no longer than 1 page) of your research
- Picture of your poster
- Pictures of your two activities
- Pictures of your efforts to bring awareness! (Talking to neighbors, at your Grange meeting, etc...)

The Awareness Awards will be presented during the National Grange Convention. If you are unable to attend the National Session, we will send your certificate home with your State President or another representative. Awards will be given to either Individuals or Junior Granges.

Individual Junior Submissions MUST HAVE

- Name
- Age
- Grange Name & Number
- State
- Mailing Address
- Email/ Phone Number

Junior Grange Submissions MUST HAVE:

- Junior Grange Name & Number
- Junior Leader's Name
- State
- Mailing Address
- Email/Phone Number

SUBMISSIONS FOR AWARD MUST

**BE MADE BY September 1 via email to
nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com**

CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

Topic: Using the Agricultural Awareness theme of **Water**. Tell us HOW/WHY IS WATER IMPORTANT TO AGRICULTURE IN YOUR AREA.

RULES:

- 1) Must be a Junior Grange Member
- 2) Length- Based off of age: please below
- 3) Each entry must be labeled on the back with an index card stating, in clear handwriting or typed, the following information:
 - a. Name
 - b. Age (and birthdate)
 - c. State
 - d. Grange name and number
 - e. Mailing address

- Submissions may be sent via e-mail as PDF documents by **September 1st** to nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com

AGE: Will be broken down into 3 age categories:

- 5-8 (max 1 pg written, typed half pg)
- 9-11 (max 2 pgs written, typed $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pg)
- 12-14 (3 pgs written, typed full pg)

Judging will be based on creativity, originality, and use of theme.

Awards: Custom Jr. Grange medals for 1st-3rd place winners in each age category will be awarded during the National Grange Session. Winners not present will have their awards mailed to them.

CREATIVE ART: OPEN CATEGORY

THEME: Agriculture and Water

The National Junior Grange is working to help bring awareness to Agriculture and how **water** is used in your area for agriculture/farming. With this year's creative art project, we want you to create a piece of art where you use your imagination, your creativity, showing water and agriculture.

Rules:

- 1) Must be a Junior Grange Member
- 2) Maximum Art size is 8.5 x11
- 3) May use any medium they choose (i.e., crayons, pencil, markers, paint, etc.)
- 4) Each entry must be labeled on the back with an index card stating, in clear handwriting or typed, the following information:
 - a. Name
 - b. Age (and birthdate)
 - c. State
 - d. Grange name and number
 - e. Mailing address

Submissions: A photograph of your art, a brief paragraph explaining your masterpiece, name, age, birthdate, state, Grange, and mailing address must be emailed to the National Junior Grange Committee by **September 1st** of the current year.

AGE: Will be broken down into 3 age categories:

Group 1: 5-8

Group 2: 9-11

Group 3: 12-14

Judging will be based on creativity, originality, and use of theme.

By entering this contest, you are giving the National Grange/National Junior Grange/Grange Foundation, full rights to use your art for promotional purposes and other projects as the organization deems necessary.

Awards:

Custom Jr. Grange medals for 1st-3rd place winners in each age category will be awarded during the National Grange Session. Winners not present will have their awards mailed to them.

Ocean Farm Journey Placemat Contest

Theme: Ocean Agriculture

Create a fun and educational placemat that shows how food travels from ocean farms to our dinner tables! Your placemat will tell the story of ocean farming and teach others about this exciting way of growing food.

Contest Details:

- Age Categories: 5-7, 8-10, 11-14
- Size: 12" x 18" (standard placemat size)
- Must be laminated or sealed for protection
- Include name, age, and Grange number on back

Required Elements:

1. Ocean farming scene
2. Transportation/processing of food
3. Final dinner table presentation
4. At least one fun fact about ocean farming
5. Clear labels or descriptions

The winners of this contest will have their placemat design transformed into a digital download! This design will be made available for purchase and use as a placemat at the Grange Convention. Your winning creation will be shared with attendees, giving your artwork a chance to inspire even more people and raise awareness about ocean farming and sustainability!

Let's bring the beauty of the ocean to the table and inspire others with your creative and informative placemats!

Custom Jr. Grange medals for 1st-3rd place winners in each age category will be awarded during the National Grange Session. Winners not present will have their awards mailed to them.

A high-resolution digital copy of the first-place placemat from each age category along with name, age, birthdate, Grange, and mailing address must be emailed to juniornationalgrange@gmail.com by October 1.

Need the full step-by-step directions? Just dive in to the next page!

Ocean to Table: Place Settings Craft Contest

How to Create an Ocean to Table Place Setting:

1. Choose Your Medium:

- Select paper or fabric as your base material. Paper is great for easy drawing or painting, while fabric allows you to get creative with textile paints or embroidery.

2. Depict the Ocean Farming Cycle:

- Illustrate the full ocean farming process, starting from how fish, seaweed, or shellfish are farmed in the ocean, to how they make their way to your table. Highlight sustainable practices like aquaculture and kelp farming.
- Consider dividing your placemat into sections to show the different stages of the farming process, such as planting, growth, harvesting, and finally, the “table” stage.

3. Add Artistic Elements:

- Paint or draw vibrant scenes of ocean life, farming equipment, or ocean ecosystems to complement your design.
- Incorporate elements like fish, seaweed, oysters, or even underwater farms to bring the theme to life.

4. Incorporate Educational Facts:

- Alongside your artwork, include fun facts about ocean agriculture. For example, explain the benefits of seaweed farming for ocean health, or how aquaculture can provide sustainable seafood options.
- Make sure your facts are clear and easy to read, so they can spark curiosity and educate guests.

5. Finishing Touches:

- Trim and finish the edges of your placemat neatly, ensuring it's table-ready.
- If using fabric, consider adding a border or backing for durability.

These "Ocean to Table" placemats are perfect to help learn about the importance of ocean farming while enjoying a meal. Not only will your creation showcase your artistic flair, but it will also highlight the critical role of sustainable ocean agriculture in preserving our planet's health.

Ocean Farm Discovery Wreath Contest

Dive into ocean agriculture with our exciting wreath-making contest! Create a beautiful wreath that shows how farmers work in the ocean using shells, seaweed, and other sea treasures. Your wreath will help teach others about ocean farming while bringing the magic of the sea to your Grange Hall or home. Let's celebrate the connection between farming and our oceans!

Age Categories:

- Ages 5-7
- Ages 8-10
- Ages 11-14

Wreath Requirements:

- Size: 14-18 inches in diameter
- Must have secure hanging method
- Include name tag with:
 - Your name and age
 - Grange name and number
 - One fun fact about ocean farming

Required Elements:

1. Shells
2. Seaweed or ocean plant materials (real, artificial, printed etc. be creative!)
3. Something that shows farming (tiny tools, vegetables, nets, etc.)
4. Educational tag about ocean farming
5. Must be securely constructed

****Safety Notes:****

- Adult supervision required for hot glue gun use
- Make sure shells have no sharp edges
- All pieces must be firmly attached

Entries must be brought to check-in during the designated time at your Junior Grange. State winners will advance to the National Grange Convention for final judging. Remember, every wreath tells a unique story of ocean farming - make yours special!

A clear photo of the first-place wreath in each age division along with name, age, birthdate, Grange, and mailing address must be emailed by **October 1** to nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com

Awards: Custom Jr. Grange medals for 1st-3rd place winners in each age category will be awarded during the National Grange Session. Winners not present will have their awards mailed to them.

Need the full step-by-step directions? Just dive in to the next page!

Shell and Seaweed Wreaths Craft Contest

How to Create Your Shell and Seaweed Wreath:

1. Choose Your Wreath Base:

◦ Start with a sturdy wreath base, such as grapevine or foam. The grapevine offers a rustic, natural look, while foam provides a smooth surface for attaching your materials.

2. Decorate with Shells and Dried Seaweed:

◦ Collect a variety of shells (clams, oysters, starfish, etc.) and dried seaweed to add texture and a true ocean vibe to your wreath. Arrange these elements evenly around your wreath to create a balanced and natural look.

3. Add Miniature Fishing Nets:

◦ Incorporate small pieces of miniature fishing nets to represent the connection between the sea and ocean farming. You can drape the netting over the wreath or weave it between your shells for added dimension.

4. Incorporate Small Plastic Vegetables:

◦ To tie in the "Ocean to Table" theme, add a few small plastic vegetables (such as miniature carrots, corn, or lettuce). These represent the role that ocean agriculture plays in providing sustainable, nutrient-rich food options for our tables.

5. Attach Little Signs About Ocean Farming:

◦ Create small signs or tags and attach them to the wreath. These can feature fun facts about ocean farming, such as how seaweed farming helps reduce carbon in the ocean or how shellfish farming promotes water filtration. These educational tidbits will add both beauty and knowledge to your wreath!

6. Finishing Touches:

◦ Ensure your wreath is sturdy, with all elements securely attached. Consider adding a ribbon or string at the top for easy hanging.

◦

The "Shell and Seaweed Wreaths" are a creative way to showcase the beauty and importance of ocean farming. It's also a great conversation starter and a reminder of the vital role ocean agriculture plays in sustainable food practices. Let your wreath capture the spirit of the ocean and highlight the sustainable practices that are making waves in agriculture!

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Awareness

In this section you will find information on the Sign-A-Song Contest, and the deaf awareness service project.

Deaf Awareness Service Project

Through the deaf awareness service project your Grange/Junior Grange will have the opportunity to choose one or more of the following events to support the deaf community and serve as a committee to help bring awareness to deaf culture within your own communities.

You may work together with your Subordinate and/or Junior Grange to host one of the following events.

- Start a Sign-Language Club in your school/Grange/Community to teach children about sign-language and encourage them to learn the language.
- Host a silent dinner where the patrons are only allowed to sign and there is no talking allowed without sign during the dinner.
- Host a deaf movie night- there are several ASL films all in sign-language or other movies about deaf culture. Gather to watch these movies with only closed captioning and no sound.
- Host a deaf coffee chat at a local coffee shop, restaurant, or Grange Hall and invite the deaf to come and have a sign-language social.
- Host a fund-raiser event to raise funds for the Grange Foundation Deaf Activities fund.

NATIONAL JUNIOR GRANGE SIGN-A-SONG CONTEST

The National Junior Grange Sign-A-Song Contest will be held during the National Grange Convention every November. This contest will be open to all State Grange Sign-A-Song winners and will be judged during the contest time at National Session. Winners will be announced during the National Grange Convention.

Requirements:

- **AGE- 5-14**
- **CATEGORIES:** 5-8 years old: Sign their Name and the ABC's
9-11 years old: Sign their Name and a choice between:
FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY, and with FIDELITY **or**
JUNIOR GRANGERS WILL BE TRUE TO EACH OTHER
12-14 years old: Sign their Name and a choice between:
Pledge of Allegiance, a Short Song, or a Poem
- All National Junior Grange competition participants must have achieved First Place in their State Junior Competition. One participant from each category may represent their state and send in a Digital Submission of their best recording, via email.
- Name, age, and state must be turned in, via email, by September 1st to the National Junior Committee at nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com

Judging Criteria: The contestants will be judged in the following areas:

Communication: Utilization of total communication, Sign Language Ability, Signs clearly with correct interpretation.

Expression: Body expression/Displays Emotion. Expresses Key thoughts with body movements. Mouths words for lip reading.

Overall Presentation: Dressed appropriately. Confidence. Timing/Uniformity

National Competition Winners:

1st-3rd place winners in each age category will receive custom Jr. Grange medals.

Note no funding will be provided to attend the National Grange Session

Community Service

In this section you will find information on the National Junior Grange Community Service Project, Cape of Honor, Grange in Action, and Community Service Report.

National Junior Grange Community Service Project

Teaching our children about community service is more important than ever. Community service has been a foundational piece for the Grange since its beginning. This year Junior Grangers across the country are encouraged to take part in a service project together. The basis of this project will be the same across all Junior Granges, but each Grange is encouraged to make the project unique and mold it to fit within their communities.

The goal of the 2025 Junior Grange service project is to teach kids the importance of keeping our waterways and environment clean.

2025 Junior Grange Service Project: Coastal Clean-Up

Step 1: Identify a body of water within your community. This can be a lake, stream, river, or beach that needs to be cleaned up of pollution. What are the supplies you will need?

Step 2: Develop a plan in order to have a successful clean-up. This includes deciding what cleaning supplies you will need, if you need a budget for the event, and how long you want the clean-up to run.

Step 3: Locate a local organization/company that you can partner with- Would a local store be willing to partner with you or help you in your event by donating cleaning supplies such as gloves, trash bags, etc..

Step 4: Do the project- put your plan into action. Take lots of photos!

Step 5: Reflect- discuss with your group the good, the bad, and how you can improve the next service project. Discuss what you have learned and identify who you may have helped in this project.

Submit 1-2 photos and a summary (up to one page typed) describing your coastal clean-up community project by September 1 to nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com

BE A SUPER JUNIOR

Cape of Honor Award

Do you have a Junior Granger who has gone above and beyond for the Grange and their community? Now it is the time to honor them in a special recognition during the National Grange Session. Junior Grangers who plan, participate, and serve their communities will have the opportunity to be honored for their hard work.

Juniors are challenged to put on their capes and get out into their communities.

CONTEST PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Cape of Honor award is to spotlight our Junior Grangers that are doing the work of true Grangers and going above and beyond our expectations. Every Junior that submits an application and meets the tier requirements will be recognized during the Night of Honors at National Session; however, the Junior Granger with the most community service hours served in a 1-year time frame will be named as the Junior Granger of the Year. **Submissions must be emailed by September 1.**

All Applicants are required to meet the following criteria:

- 1) Must be a Junior Grange member in good standing
- 2) Must be between the ages of 5-14 at time of submission and not yet received the obligation into the Subordinate Grange.
- 3) Junior Granger is expected to keep track of community service hours August 1 of the current year through July 31 of the following year. (Example August 1, 2021- July 31, 2022)
- 4) Junior Granger must keep track of their projects throughout the year.

All Applicants must submit the following:

- 1) Application form (found on next page)
- 2) A letter from the Junior applicant stating "Why they have a passion to serve their communities and what their favorite service project was from the last year"
- 3) A list of service projects done throughout the year- along with how many hours each project took from start to finish.
- 4) The number of community service hours completed.
- 5) A headshot of the applicant.

TIERS FOR AWARDS:

WHITE TIER: Junior must complete between 10-50 community service hours to complete this tier

RED TIER: Junior must complete between 51-100 community service hours to complete this tier

BLUE TIER: Juniors must complete between 101-200 community service hours to complete this tier

GOLD TIER: Juniors must complete over 201 hours of community service to complete this tier

***The Junior Granger with the *MOST* community service hours will be named:**

JUNIOR GRANGER OF THE YEAR

JUNIOR APPLICANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND NATIONAL GRANGE SESSION BUT ARE NOT REQUIRED.

IF Junior is not in attendance the award will be sent with the State Junior Director or State President.

At this time applicants are invited to attend National Convention and all Junior activities at their own cost

National Junior Grange CAPE OF HONOR Application

Junior Member Name	Date of Birth:	Age	Date Joined Jr. Grange
Address	City	State	Zip
Subordinate Grange	Number	State	Presidents Name
Junior Grange Name	Number	State	Type of Membership: Jr Grange Member: o 1+Member o
Junior Leader	Phone	Address	City, State, Zip
Parent/Guardian Name	Phone	Address	Email

Requirements	Requirements Met/Certified by: -Leaders Signature-	
1. Is a Junior Granger in good standing-		
2. Number of Service Hours Completed:		HOURS: _____
3. Junior has completed the following Tier: _____		Circle one: White Red Blue Gold
SUBMIT FOLLOWING ITEMS	CHECK WHEN ATTACHED	
1. Letter from Junior Granger		
2. List of Projects Completed		
3. Headshop of applicant		

<p>Parental Permission:</p> <p>I _____ certify that my child, _____, has met all of the above requirements for the Cape of Honor Award and I give permission to the National Grange to publish my Child's name and/or picture in future publications produced by the National Grange.</p> <p>X _____ Phone: _____ Date: _____</p>
--

Email completed applications to nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com

National Grange

Junior Grange Community Service Contest

Through the National Grange Community Service Department

The intent of this collaborative program between these two departments is to bring attention to the community service projects Junior Granges are doing. We know that some Junior Granges either perform C/S projects on their own or in conjunction with their sponsor Granges. This would also be a way to enhance the 1 Plus program by drawing attention to what a single Junior is doing in their community and hopefully pique the interest of other children in that age range.

Each Junior Grange or 1 Plus member would enter a short report/booklet not to exceed **3** pages (front and back). These should include an information page about the submitting JG, which would mirror what the Subordinate Grange submits for their State Grange report book. The report would be for just a single project to make it easier for the JG's to put together the report.

REPORT TO INCLUDE:

1. Short paragraph about the project
2. Newspaper article
3. Pictures
4. Paragraph from the JG Leader about how this impacted the community and what the JG's learned.

PRIZES/AWARDS

TBD

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: NOW

Any projects completed after 10/1/2024 can be entered for this year's contest.

Program Information

1. The Junior Grange leaders throughout each state should submit their reports to the state community service director or person within state that collects subordinate CS books. Judges for the CS books should also be the judges for the Junior reports.
2. Each winning report should be in PDF format and emailed to nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com (Please see next page for details)
3. Getting the word out. National Grange will send out information through Good Day! magazine and Patrons Chain.
4. **NG Point of Contact** will be the National Grange Jr. Director.

National Grange
Junior Grange Community Service
Project Report

This page should be the cover page for your report.

Junior Grange Name: _____ State: _____

JG Leader's Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number _____

Name/Type of project: _____

Total # of JG members: _____ Total # JG members involved with this project _____

Important information to include in your report: report should be no more than 3 pages (front and back) not including this cover page.

Date and location of the project, number of people impacted, names of other groups who helped, number of non-Grangers who helped, no more than 4 photos, 1 or 2 newspaper articles about the event, no more than 3 thank you letters.

Report must be submitted digitally, via email to the National Junior Grange Committee at nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com by October 1, 2025.

Other Contests and Programs

In this section you will find information on National Junior Grange Ambassador Contests, Junior Mentor Award, and the Passport program.

NATIONAL JUNIOR GRANGE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The purpose of the National Junior Grange Ambassador program is to provide an opportunity for outstanding Junior Grangers, selected by their State Grange, to attend the National Grange Convention and build their leadership potential. They will be given the opportunity to build relationships with other Junior Grangers and Grangers across the Nation. They will receive vital training that will be instrumental in developing the Junior Grange programs within their state, as well as preparing them for their future in the Grange.

A maximum of 2 Junior Grangers per state may be chosen to represent their State at the National Convention. No more than two candidates will be chosen through a process of interviews and observations made by a council of judges. The candidate(s) that are chosen will serve as the National Junior Grange Ambassador and will be a representative of the National Junior Grange program for a one-year term.

Applicants are only permitted to apply and run for National Junior Grange Ambassador one time in their Junior Career. Applicants running for Ambassador are to attend the National Grange convention and attend meal functions and activities determined by the National Junior Grange Director, at the costs of the applicant.

All applicants are required to meet the following criteria:

1. Must be a Junior Grange member for a minimum of 3 years.
2. Must be between the ages of 11-14 years, having observed their 11th birthday, but not their 15th by December 31st of the year they attend the National Session.
3. Applicants must be able to attend the National Convention to represent their state during Junior Grange activity days (Thursday-Saturday) at their own costs.
4. Applicants must have a parent or guardian to attend the National convention with them.

Applicants must submit the following:

1. Four letters of recommendations from:
 - a. State Master/President
 - b. State Junior/Youth Director (if applicable)
 - c. Junior Leader (if applicable)
 - d. Educational Leader (i.e. teacher, Sunday school teacher, youth group leader, sports coach, etc.)
2. Headshot- a professional photograph containing only yourself.
3. 1-page biography talking about yourself, your family, and your Junior Grange Achievements.
4. Attach a 1-page essay on "Why you would like to represent the National Grange as the NJGA."

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION: September 1 via email to nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com

Each State Grange may send two representatives.

****At this time all Ambassadors must be able to attend National Convention and all Junior Activities at their own cost****

****If named National Junior Grange Ambassador, please note at this time, junior ambassadors will not be traveling to any activities or events unless asked. However, if any traveling occurs for certain activities and events, expenses will be out of your own pocket. ****

National Junior Grange Ambassador Application

Member Name	Date of Birth:	Age and T-Shirt Size	Date Joined Jr. Grange
Address	City	State	Zip
Subordinate Grange	Number	State	Presidents Name
Junior Grange Name	Number	State	Type of Membership: Jr Grange Member: o 1+Member o
Junior Leader	Phone	Address	City, State, Zip
Parent/Guardian Name	Phone	Address	Email

Requirements	Requirements Met/Certified by: (Leader signature)	Date completed
1. Meets membership requirements. 3-year member and between 11-14 years old.		
2. 4 Letters of Recommendation		
3. Attached Biography and headshot		
4. Attached Essay "Why would you like to represent the National Grange as NJGA?"		

Parental Permission: I certify that my child, _____, has my permission to apply for the position of National Junior Grange Ambassador. We will be able to attend the National Grange Convention and will be able to cover any costs associated with attending the convention. I also give my permission for my child's photograph to appear in publications for the National Grange. I also understand that if my child is selected for NJGA there may be additional expenses throughout the year that may not be covered by the National Grange. X _____ Phone: _____ Date: _____
Junior Leader Certification I Certify that _____ qualifies for the National Junior Grange Ambassador Program and has met all the program requirements for participation. X _____ Phone: _____ Date: _____

Junior Mentor Award

in conjunction with the National Youth Department

Grange youth and young adults can have a powerful impact on the Grange experience with our youngest members. These youth invest into our Junior Grangers at multiple levels – at the community, Pomona and state levels. This award is designed to recognize the Grange youth and young adults that go above and beyond to guide and mentor Junior Grangers.

State Masters, State Youth Committees and/or State Junior Grange Committees can nominate a Grange youth/young adult, between the ages of 14 and 25. Application deadline is September 1.

State winners will receive a certificate and be recognized during the National Grange. The overall winner will receive a plaque in recognition of their achievements.

If you have questions, contact National Junior Grange Committee

Nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com

Please mail the applications to the National Junior Grange director.

Junior Mentor Award Entry Form

Due: September 1

Nominee(s) Name: _____

Nominee(s) State and Subordinate Grange: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please tell us why this person should be selected:

How has this youth/young adult impacted the lives of Junior Grangers?

Please list some specific tasks, projects or initiatives that this youth has led to inspire Juniors

Give some examples of how they have gone above and beyond to help Junior Grangers and/or a Junior Grange Department

Feel free to use additional pages if necessary

Name of Grange submitting nominee: _____

Chairperson's Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PASSPORT PROGRAM

The Junior Grange *Passport* is designed to be an exciting and innovative way for Juniors to learn more about *their world, their country, their state, their community, and their Grange.*

The *PASSPORT* program is an online digital format, so leaders will now have easier access to stamps that will not require a purchase, and thus save on programing costs within your state. This format will allow us to have constant changes and additions, which will grant us the ability to spotlight important issues or events throughout history. This transition will be beneficial to all Junior Grangers, Leaders, and Educators. Junior Grangers will now have an easy-to-handle notebook that will allow them the ability to keep track of their accomplishments and utilize them as resources for outside studies. Educators will be able to utilize the Passports as part of their curriculum, encouraging their students to learn more about the Grange and other educational entities that will be offered. Leaders will appreciate the ability to have immediate availability of the downloadable stamps, making it easier to plan and award Juniors with a stamp in their *PASSPORT*.

The program is broken down into five categories:

- 1. Grange Adventures**
- 2. United States**
- 3. Career Readiness**
- 4. American History**
- 5. World Discovery**

It is highly encouraged that each Junior Director promotes the use of the *PASSPORT* program. The completion of these stamps not only gives each Junior a sense of accomplishment, it also provides a challenging educational foundation. Through the *PASSPORT* program Juniors will gain knowledge about the Grange and the world around them that will last beyond the time they spend in the Junior Grange, laying the path for a strong future leader.

Be sure to check the Junior Grange website where you will be able to download the current *PASSPORTS* and be sure to check back often as there may be new Stamps introduced throughout the year!

PASSPORT IDEA SUBMISSIONS

Any ideas can be submitted to the National Junior Grange Director for consideration as an entry in the National Junior Grange Passport Program. Ideas can be submitted from any member of the Grange as well as outside idea resources. The entire form must be filled out to be considered for an entry in the Passport.

Please email submissions to nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com

Please fill out the following information:

Submitter's Information:

NAME: _____ GRANGE NAME/STATE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

Passport Information

Category (circle one): Grange Adventures United States Career Readiness
American History World Discovery

Name of Passport Stamp: _____

Difficulty Level: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Target Audience: _____

Necessary Resources: (i.e. colors, internet, paper etc....) _____

Learning Objectives: _____

Learning Outcomes: (Upon completion, Junior Grangers will be able to....)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

How many steps does your entry take to complete? (please limit to no more than 12 steps) _____

List Steps on Back: (example: Step 1: Define Endangered Species)

NATIONAL GRANGE LECTURER'S CONTESTS FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS

Find all rules and submission deadlines at:

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/lecturer-contests/>

PHOTO CONTEST *JUNIORS (age 5-14)*

- Agriculture/Farming
- America the Beautiful
 - Animals/Pets
 - Water

QUILT BLOCK CONTEST *Canning Jar Pattern*

GARDEN DESIGN CONTEST *Junior Grange (age 5-14) – any kind of garden*

DESIGN A PROGRAM CONTEST *Program designed for children*

CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST *Poetry, Essay, Short Story*

State Director Information

In this section you will find information on Background Checks, Junior 1+ program, and State Director Reports.



SAFE
GATHERINGS

BACKGROUND CHECKS

The National Grange and National Junior Grange and Youth Departments encourage you to follow the National Grange Child Protection Policy and obtain a background check through the company “Safe Gatherings” www.safegatherings.com as an alternative for having to obtain and find your own background check company. It is highly encouraged to have every person in our organization that is working in a supervisory position with our Juniors and Youth under 18 years of age to undergo this background check through Safe Gatherings as it is a National Background Check program that covers many levels of security checks as well as providing a training on working with vulnerable youth and adults.

The benefits of utilizing Safe Gatherings for the Grange are:

- A No Hassle system: State Masters, Directors, and Leaders now have the pressure taken off them to make sure these critical steps are taken appropriately in accordance of their state laws.
- Everything is handled from the National Grange office and your information is kept 100% safe and secure through the Safe Gatherings Network. (No personal information is held with the National Grange)
- Safe Gatherings provides 4 levels of background checks: Local, State, National, and Sex Offender.
- Safe Gatherings provides Professional Reference Checks
- Safe Gatherings provides training for abuse prevention and ideas on how to appropriately work with minors who are at their most vulnerable time in life.
- LOW COST- the break down cost for the 2-year clearance through Safe Gatherings is less than \$2.00 a month.



BEGIN YOUR BACKGROUND CHECK TODAY:

www.safegatherings.com

Search “Grange” to register under our organization

Our vision is for a world in which all children, youth, and vulnerable adults are protected and feel safe.

Unfortunately, that’s not the world we live in, which is why Safe Gatherings has created a comprehensive system that screens and educates staff and volunteers – to help prevent abuse and make the world a safer place for those among us who are most vulnerable.

For more information: Please contact National Junior Committee

at nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com

National Grange Child Protection Policy

The National Grange is committed to providing an environment that is safe for Juniors and Youth during National Grange activities. This policy is designed to protect our young people, instill confidence in those entrusting us with their children, and protect adult volunteers and staff from allegations that may be unwarranted.

Any individual age 18 and above, in a leadership position working directly with Juniors and Youth under 18, must obtain a clean and clear **national background check** through a company approved by the National Grange Executive Committee. It is highly recommended that the online service Safegatherings.com be used. All reports are kept confidential by Safe Gatherings and are not in possession of the National Grange, and are valid for two years.

Any individual age 18 and above, in a leadership position working directly with Juniors and Youth under 18 must obtain a clean and clear background check before their participation in any National Grange sponsored event. These events include but are not limited to: National Grange Session, Regional Conferences, Camps (i.e. Revival), and any other National Grange sponsored events.

The costs to obtain these background checks will be borne by the individual unless they are National Grange Staff, Directors, or members of the National Grange Youth Team, when the cost will be paid from their National Grange budget.

If an individual fails the background check they will not be permitted to work with Junior Grangers and/or Youth age Grange members.

Guidelines

Two deep leadership – there should always be at least two leaders age 21 or older at all Junior or Youth functions.

No one-on-one contact – One-on-one contact between adults and Juniors or Youth under 18 is not permitted. If the necessity for one-on-one interactions between adults and children arises, the interaction should occur in an unenclosed area and with the knowledge of another adult.

Adopted August 20, 2019

Junior 1+ Program

1+ Program- Individual Junior Membership Class

At the 2013 Annual Session of the National Grange, in Manchester New Hampshire, the delegates adopted changes to the By-Laws allowing an individual membership class for Junior Grange age children (5 to 14) to become members of a Subordinate/Community Grange when no chartered Junior Grange exists.

Purpose of the 1+ Program

The 1+ program allows your Grange to build a Junior Grange program one member at a time. These individual members become the core group to build a chartered Junior Grange Program. Many children have not had the opportunity to participate in the Junior Grange program because of the number of children required to charter a Junior Grange.

The 1+ Program allows children (age 5-14) the opportunity to become an individual Junior Grange member within a Subordinate/Community Grange. The children do not have a vote in the Grange, but are eligible to participate in all Regional, State, and National programs, contests, and activities on an equal status with members of the chartered Junior Granges. This would also include the National Grange Youth Fair program where it has been adopted within a State.

Sponsorship

For the 1+ Program, the Subordinate/Community Grange will:

- Appoint a Junior Grange Leader
- Provide a meeting space
- Provide financial assistance as necessary
 - Granges may dedicate specific fundraising projects for the Junior Grange Program
- Occasionally provide meeting time for the individual Junior Grange member(s) to report on their projects
- Organize a chartered Junior Grange when there are sufficient individual members to meet that requirement. The individual members shall automatically become members of the newly organized/reorganized Junior Grange. (Please refer to National Grange By-Laws, section 4.6.2 for complete details)

How to become a 1+ Program Junior Member

- An individual child, age 5-14, will complete a Junior Grange membership application and submit it to the sponsoring Grange.
- The Junior Grange applicant shall be obligated by the Master/President of the Subordinate/Community Grange. This is completed by using the Obligation Ceremony for Individual Junior Grange Membership, printed in this program book.
- Once obligated, the Subordinate/Community Grange secretary will enter the new Junior Grange member on the rolls of the Grange.
- Minimum dues for Junior Grange members are \$1.00 and are subject to change per individual State Grange policies.

Administration:

Leaders

- **Qualifications**
 - Subordinate/Community Grange member, in good standing
 - Background clearances
 - Check with your State Grange Office for current requirements
- **Leaders will need:**
 - National Junior Grange Program Book
 - State Program Book(s)
 - Access to Junior Grange Passport programs
 - To be in constant communication with State Junior Leaders regarding activities and individual Junior Grange membership within the Subordinate/Community Grange

Reporting Membership Status

- The Junior Grange member is to be reported by the Subordinate/Community Grange on the provided lines within the quarterly reports and then submitted to the State Grange having jurisdiction.

Obligation Ceremony for Individual Junior Grange Membership-1+ Program

National Junior Grange 1+ Program

Adopted: September 2014

Upon submission of a Junior Grange application, and election to membership by the Subordinate/Community Grange members, the individual Grange member will be obligated to membership using the following procedure:

Subordinate Officers Participating: Master/President, Lady Assistant Steward, Assistant Steward

During the appropriate agenda item for Obligating new members, the Master/President will say"

Master: *(from their Station)*

"Worthy Assistants, please escort our newly elected Junior Grange candidate(s) to the Altar for the Junior Grange obligation"

LAS and AS will conduct the Junior Grange candidate(s) to the Altar, asking the candidate(s) to stand in the center, facing the Altar and the Master. The assistants stand next to the candidate(s), forming a semi-circle with the candidate(s) in the center. The Master will approach and stand between the Altar and his back to the Graces stations.

Lady Assistant Steward:

"Worthy Master, it is my pleasure to introduce to you, (give names of candidates), who have been elected to the Junior Grange membership in our Grange. They are presented here to receive the Obligation and words of counsel from you."

Master:

The Grange is a family organization, welcoming all generations in its Halls and meetings. My young friends, is it your wish to join us as members of this Grange? If so, please say 'It is.'

Candidates: "It is."

Master: *(Direct these words to the parents/guardians of the Junior Grange member(s) facing where they are seated in the Hall)*

"To the parents and guardians of our Junior Grange candidates, your support and guidance is most important of all. We commend you for your foresight in allowing your children to become Grange members. We ask for your continued encouragement and assistance in their participation and growth in the Grange."

Master: *(Face the Candidates at the Altar)*

"With your election to membership in this Grange, it is my pleasure to give you the Junior Grange Pledge. The Pledge is a simple promise which you freely give to become part of the Grange Family and to live a good life. In turn, the members of this Grange promise to help and support you as you grow into future leaders in your schools and communities."

"Please place your right hand over your heart. I will give the Pledge so that you may clearly understand it."

(Master gives the entire Pledge slowly and distinctly)

"I Promise – that I will obey – all the rules of the Order, -- and will treat – my fellow members – with respect. – I will try to follow – the good advice – of my parents and teachers – and will do my best – to avoid bad company – and harmful habits."

Master:

"I welcome you as members of this Grange. Remember, promises are an important commitment. As part of your Grange Family, we promise to encourage you as you continue to grow and learn. We ask you to contribute to our meetings by sharing your discoveries with us. In this way we may learn from you. We want you to know about the Grange; its past, its present, and, most of all, how you can influence its future."

"When you turn 14 years old, you will graduate from the Junior Grange Program and once again stand at this Altar, taking the next Pledge as a Subordinate Grange member. From this time until then, you have our promise to encourage you along life's journey."

"We extend to you a heartfelt Welcome to our Grange."

“Worthy Assistants, please escort our new members to their seats, introduce them and return to your stations.”

The Assistants will pass by the Master, who will shake each members’ hand as they pass. After the last member has passed by, the Master will return to his Station.

The Assistants will escort the new members to their seats, introduce them, and return to their Stations.

(Local Leaders) State Directors Report

Due Date: September 1st

Email to: nationaljuniorgrange@gmail.com

State Junior Director:	State:
Address:	
City, State, Zip	
Phone: ()	E-Mail:
Number of Junior Grange Members (Including 1+ Members) in your state as of June 30th:	1+Members _____ Junior Members _____ Total Number of Members _____
Number of Chartered Junior Granges in your state as of June 30th:	
Number of Subordinate/Community Granges with 1+ Program in place:	
ATTACHMENTS: Please attach additional information:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List of Junior leaders to include names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mails. 2. PROGRAMMING: Send a copy of your current Program Book or submit an outline that is planning for the participation in any local, regional, State, or National Junior Grange Program. 4. MEMBERSHIP: Outline membership promotion efforts by the Junior Grange members and leaders. 5. Comments or suggestions for the betterment of the Junior Grange Program.