

## JUNIOR GRANGE CONTESTS

2024-2025



**Philip J Vonada, Director**

358 Clinton Street, South Williamsport, PA 17702

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All Junior Grange activities help our young Junior Grangers to build character and self-confidence. The Junior Grange provides leadership training for children from age 5 to 14, preparing our youth to be leaders among their peers, whether in the Grange, in school, or at home. Junior Grangers are encouraged to explore their creativity, initiative and talents through our many contests. While our contests are varied to appeal to many, the goal is the same – to develop respect, responsibility and cooperation by competing with their fellow Junior Grangers.

The following rules apply to **all State Junior Grange** contests.

1. All entries must be labeled. Label as follows:
  - a. Name and address of the contestant
  - b. Birthdate
  - c. Junior Grange name and number
  - d. Junior Leader name
  - e. Category and sub-category you are entering: ex. Cooking - Sweet Muffins - age 5-9.
  
2. In each contest there are **two age groups** - age 5-9 / age 10-14
  - a. ALL WORK MUST BE DONE COMPLETELY BY THE JUNIOR.
  - b. ONE entry per Junior per contest or sub-category (Juniors may enter any or all sub-categories)
  - c. Age is determined *as of September 30th each year*.
  - d. Any entry that does not comply with the rules may be disqualified.
  - d. If a Junior Grange member has joined the Subordinate Grange at any time throughout the year they can no longer compete in Junior contests.
  - e. There is no pre-qualification or judging required to enter Junior contests at the state level.**
  - f. Some contests are open to Juniors at Heart, or any Grange member age 15+. Please note Grange name and number on entry labels.**

***Awards on the state level will be given for both age groups (5-9 and 10-14)***

1<sup>st</sup> place - \$8 and ribbon

2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$7 and ribbon

3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$6 and ribbon

4<sup>th</sup> place - \$5 and ribbon

*Honorable mentions may also be given*

### RECYCLED CRAFT

Recycling is one way in which to help our environment. How many of us truly recycle all that we can? We feel this is one way in which the Junior Grange can be of help. Can you turn something that many people would throw away into an object that can be used again (and again)?

**NOTE:** This contest is also open to **Juniors At Heart** (i.e. any Grange member age 15+)

**Categories:**

**2024 – Jeans/Denim**

**2025 – Egg Cartons**

### ***Sub-Categories***

- a. Practical/Useful
- b. Decorative

### ***Rules***

1. Size limitations: No larger than 18 inches x 18 inches x 18 inches.
2. At least 75% of the recycled craft must be made from recycled items.

### ***Judging guidelines:***

1. Originality
2. Neatness
3. Creativity
4. Usefulness or Decorative Appeal

## **COOKING CONTEST**

This project is provided so that Junior Grangers will have the opportunity to learn basic skills in the kitchen. It also teaches them how to follow directions. **We urge all parents to keep a watchful eye on their children as they participate in this project and to assist your child whenever necessary.** However, please let your Juniors do as much of the work on their own as possible!

**NOTE:** This contest is also open to **Juniors At Heart** (i.e. any Grange member age 15+)

### ***Categories:***

**2024 – Rice Krispies Treats**

**2025 – Dessert Pizza**

### ***Rules:***

1. No mixes may be used.
2. Send **six** of your creations (**or one 8"-10" pizza in 2025**) on a 10" paper plate covered with clear plastic wrap. (Any containers will not be returned)
3. Include the recipe (typed).
4. Must have visible label information attached to the TOP.
5. **MUST NOT** require refrigeration.

### ***Judging guidelines:***

1. Appearance and texture
2. Taste
3. Uniformity

## **DESIGN A T-SHIRT**

This contest is to design a t-shirt you would be proud to wear, or feel cool to be seen wearing. Your entry will be kept by the Junior Department and possibly used for Grange promotion (as a t-shirt or on other cool items)! Express your creativity.

### ***Categories:***

**2024 – Inspirational Quotes**

**2025 – Teamwork**

### ***Rules:***

1. Your ORIGINAL design must be drawn/sketched/created digitally (and printed) on paper or card stock. Size should be 8.5" wide x 11" high (standard piece of paper)

2. Your design can be black and white *or* color.
3. Computer-created and hand-drawn designs will be judged in the same category.
4. Design should be for FRONT of t-shirt only.

***Judging guidelines:***

1. Creativity and originality
2. Content
3. Neatness
4. Appropriateness and connection to theme

## **PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST**

***Categories***

**1. Mini Pumpkins and Gourds** (nothing larger than 10” in diameter may be used)

- a. Painted – nothing but paint can be used on the pumpkin
- b. Be Creative – any material may be used

**2. Virtual** – pumpkins of ANY SIZE may be painted OR carved in the virtual contest. At least 2 images of each pumpkin (front and back or side) must be emailed to [pajuniorgrange@gmail.com](mailto:pajuniorgrange@gmail.com) by October 10 of each year.

**NOTE:** This contest is also open to **Juniors At Heart** (i.e. any Grange member age 15+)

***Rules:***

1. For painted pumpkins, Do NOT carve the pumpkin or puncture in any way since this will cause rapid rotting.
  - a. For “Be Creative” pumpkins, strong glue (gorilla glue) is recommended for attaching anything to the surface of the pumpkin.
2. Acrylic Paint is suggested as the medium to use when painting pumpkins. A Clear coat sealer will help keep the paint from chipping/flaking.

***Judging Guidelines:***

1. Originality and Design
2. Neatness
3. Proper Size

## **SCRAPBOOK PAGE**

There are so many ways to create a Scrapbook Page. You can use your own photos, clippings from newspapers or magazines, or draw your designs. Pre-printed Scrapbook paper is permitted along with scrapbooking elements but do not recreate from a kit. Be creative!

**2024 Theme:** Fun in the Sun

**2025 Theme:** My family

***Rules:***

1. Size is Standard Scrapbook page – 12” x 12”
2. NO kits or pre-designs.
3. Secure/glue all elements
4. Page must be placed in a plastic sleeve created for scrapbook pages.

***Judging Guidelines:***

1. Creativity

2. Neatness
3. Use of Theme

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

Expressing ideas and thoughts in written form is another form of creativity and talent. Thinking through an idea and sharing your words helps to form a dialogue and communicate with others. Junior Grangers are always asked to share their ideas so this is another fun way to do that.

**2024 Topic:** All About Me!

**2025 Topic:** If I won the lottery...

### ***Rules:***

1. All creative writing entries must use the above topic.
2. The entry must be typed and double-spaced. Please use a standard font like Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri, size 12.
3. Minimum of 4 complete paragraphs and maximum 5 pages.
4. It can be a poem, essay, song, or story.
5. Must be an original writing of the person submitting the entry.

### ***Judging guidelines:***

1. Creativity and originality
2. Content
3. Use of topic

## **DIAMOND ART CONTEST**

### **Categories:**

1. **Diamond Art Kits**
2. **Diamond Art Self-Created**

### ***Rules:***

1. Minimum size is 5" x 5" and not to exceed 14" x 14".
2. Items should be matted and read to hang.

### ***Judging Guidelines:***

1. Neatness
2. Originality in design for self-created
3. Difficulty of composition

## **ART CONTEST**

### **Categories:**

1. **Image (Drawings, Paintings, Collages, etc.)**
2. **3-Dimensional (i.e. Pottery, Sculpture, etc.)** [Handmade - i.e., *no* building blocks]

### **Sub-Categories**

- a. Handprint, Fingerprint, or Footprint
- b. Sunrise/Sunset
- c. Black and White
- d. Made in School

**Rules:**

1. Minimum Size 5"x5" and not to exceed 14"x14"
2. Items in **Category 1 - Images** must have a photo mat or backing – **any artwork turned in with glass will be disqualified**
3. Artwork must be ready to hang - please include string on the back or ensure the mat is wide enough for binder clips. (This does not apply to **Category 2 - 3-Dimensional** that can sit on tables).
4. No computer-generated artwork may be entered in this category.

**Judging Guidelines:**

1. How well the artist used the medium selected
2. Originality/creativity
3. Neatness/presentation

## **PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

**Categories:**

1. Barns and Farms
2. Bridges and Water
3. Things with Wheels
4. "Snow" much fun

**Rules:**

1. Minimum size is 4"x6" and not to exceed 8"x10"
2. Photos must be on a photo mat – **any photography turned in with glass will be disqualified**
3. Traditional photos only – no computer enhancements or edits
4. Black/white and color will be judged together. No separate categories.
5. Photos must have been taken within the past year, since the end of the prior State Session.
6. Photos must be ready to hang - please include string on the back or ensure the mat is wide enough for binder clips

**Judging Guidelines:**

1. Good composition/arrangement in photo
2. Clear, well-taken photo
3. Presentation of photo

### **\*\*MINI-Junior Granger Art and Photography Gallery\*\***

To encourage our mini Juniors (anyone under the age of 5 as of the current State Session), we will hold an art gallery just for you! Any art medium may be used. The size of your artwork should be 8" x 10" or smaller. ALL entrants will receive a ribbon. This "showing" is open to everyone that fits the age requirements. One art piece per child, please.

## **JUNIOR GRANGE TALENT CONTEST**

**Categories:**

1. **Vocal** – individual and group acts
2. **Instrumental** – individual and group acts
3. **Other Acts** – any performance of a group or individual that involves dancing, gymnastics, etc. Any performance portraying an entertaining act using dexterity of body movements, skill, timing and gracefulness. This class also includes any performance that involves an oral presentation, such as skits, readings, etc.

Talent Contest will be held during Family Festival each summer. **Contestants are encouraged to sign up with the director prior to arrival at Family Festival**

**Rules:**

1. There are two age categories - 5-9 and 10-14 - age as of July 1.
2. Acts have five minutes from the time the contestants enter the stage until they exit the stage.
3. First-prize winners from the previous year may not enter in the same category unless they have moved to a new age category.
4. Group and Individual Acts are judged against one another. A contestant may enter *both* as an individual *and* as a part of ONE group.
5. Any act deemed inappropriate will be disqualified from the competition.
6. **Groups** - minimum of 2 members, maximum of 6 - will be judged based on the age of the *oldest member of the group*. All members of the group must be of Junior age.

**Judging guidelines:**

1. Stage presence 15 pts.
2. Appropriate dress 5 pts.
3. Skill of presentation 60 pts.
4. Suitability of the act 15 pts.
5. Audience appeal 5 pts.

**Awards for Talent Contest:**

These are given in each category in each age division (5-9 & 10-14)

- 1<sup>st</sup> – \$20.00
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – \$15.00
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – \$10.00

Note: **Groups** will receive one check to be split among all members.

## Junior Grange Ambassador Program

This program gives recognition to the outstanding Junior Grangers in Pennsylvania. One male and one female Junior Grange Ambassador may be chosen each year. The Ambassadors serve on the State Junior Grange Department Committee for one year and represent the Pennsylvania Junior Grange program throughout the state and country. Previous "Royalty" or JG Ambassadors are not eligible to compete again. The Junior Grange Ambassadors will be selected at the annual PA State Junior Grange Camp in July.

**Program Guidelines:**

1. The Junior Grange Ambassador candidate must be a member of a PA Junior Grange or a Junior member of a PA Subordinate Grange (the 1+ program) for at least three years.
2. The Junior Grange Ambassador candidate must have their parents' consent to compete. A form will be sent to the candidate after Camp Registration has been received if they indicate on their form that they want to compete.
3. JG Ambassador candidates must have observed their 12th-14th birthday before July 1 of the year they are competing at State Camp. (i.e. competitors can be 12, 13, or 14 years old at camp)  
**Note:** Any candidate who will turn 15 before December 31 of the year they compete may not be able to represent the state in the National Junior Ambassador Competition, but will still be encouraged and supported in attending the National Grange session.
4. The Junior Grange Ambassador Candidates will be required to take the Ritual/Grange Knowledge Test at State Camp and, depending on their score, may be selected to continue the contest with up to 3 other candidates (a maximum of 4 for each gender). It is recommended that the candidate take the time to study and know basic Junior and Grange history, state and National officers, state and National contests, Grange Hall layout and basic meeting agenda. A study guide can be acquired by contacting the State Junior Director.
5. The Junior Grange Ambassador candidates will be judged in the following areas: a group interview, a personal interview, speaking ability, and an essay (due 1 week ahead of camp.) **Topic will be**

**announced in January of each year.** The actions and leadership ability of the candidate will also be observed during the week of camp. Any Candidate running for the Ambassador position who is not following camp rules will be eliminated from the competition at the discretion of the Director and JG Committee.

6. The selected Junior Grange Ambassadors must be available to attend a variety of events and activities in PA while they are serving in that role including Family Festival (held in mid-July), State Grange Session (held in October), PA Farm Show (held in early January), Committee Planning meetings (most held via Zoom), Capitol Days (formerly called Royalty Trip – typically in mid June), PA State Junior Grange Camp (held in early July). Other events, local and statewide, may occur during their reign and Ambassadors may be asked to participate in them.
7. The Junior Grange Ambassadors must dress appropriately at all times when representing the Grange or Junior Grange and wearing the sash. At NO time should the JG Ambassador wear clothing with holes, rips or tears. No showing of midriff or cleavage is permitted. Jeans can be worn at farms or Agricultural Events where it is considered appropriate dress (i.e. at the Farm Show after opening ceremonies). The female Ambassador is encouraged but not required to wear a dress (knee length or longer) OR a pantsuit, dress pants and blouse when representing the Grange or Junior Grange. The male Ambassador is encouraged but not required to wear a dress shirt and tie or a nice polo shirt and dress/khaki pants when representing. If in doubt, ask the JG Director or other committee member if the outfit to be worn is appropriate for the occasion. No clothing or hats may display messaging that may be considered political while wearing sashes or representing the Junior Grange.
8. The newly selected Junior Grange Ambassadors **are strongly encouraged** to apply and compete for the title of National Junior Grange Ambassador of the same year that they earn the title (National Grange is held in November), but are not required to. Since the National program requires that each state may send one female and one male Ambassador to compete, the current PA Junior Grange Ambassadors will have the first chance to run for the National title, and if they choose not to, the Junior Grange Department will encourage the other Ambassador candidates to apply for the position. The guidelines for the National Junior Grange Ambassador Program can be found under the Contest category of the National Junior Grange website. [www.nationaljuniorgrange.org](http://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org)
9. The Junior Grange Director and Committee reserves the right to make changes to the Junior Grange Ambassador Program as they deem appropriate in the event that a change is needed or if one of the guidelines needs to be better explained or edited. The PA Junior Grange Department is moving forward to better serve the Juniors at the State level and give them every opportunity to apply and compete at the National level for programs. Please contact the Junior Grange Director with any questions or clarifications of the new Junior Grange Ambassador Program.

## **JUNIOR GRANGE CAMP**

PA Junior Grange Camp is the *highlight of the summer* for Junior Grangers across the state! This week of workshops, fun activities, great food, and wonderful friends is NOT to be missed!

Dates: June 30 – July 6, 2024

Theme: **Jurassic Journey**

Camp Location: Camp Sylvan Hills – Howard, PA

Fee: TBD for Campers, Helpers and Counselors

Who May Attend: Any Junior Granger who has had their 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday by the start of camp of the year of camp but has NOT had their 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday before the start of camp.

Bring a Friend? Yes! You may bring a non-Granger to camp for one year. They must join Junior Grange to come back the following year.

Helpers: Must be a Subordinate member of a PA Grange, in good standing and be between the ages of 16 (as of the start of camp) and less than age 18. Helpers are expected to assist with leading workshops, act as “go-fers” around camp, and help their counselors with cabin control.

**NOTE: as of 2023, all 15-year-olds (apart from Ambassadors) are required to take one year off**

between being a camper and returning as a helper.

Counselors: All those attending camp, that are over 18 will be considered Counselors or Staff. These persons must have their Act 33 and 34 clearances done prior to July 1st. BECAUSE OF STATE LAWS CONCERNING CLEARANCES - THE DIRECTOR MUST SEE THE ORIGINAL CLEARANCE AND THEN MAKE A COPY. However, to be sure that a copy is on file before camp begins, PLEASE mail a copy to the Director along with your application

These forms can be completed online by going to

<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS> = Child Abuse History Clearance

<https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp> = PA State Police Criminal Record Check

These Clearances are FREE for Volunteers.

Helpers/Counselors and Staff must also complete the PA State Grange Volunteer certification. These can be obtained from the PA Junior Director or by emailing [volunteer@pagrange.org](mailto:volunteer@pagrange.org) to receive them.

### **\*\*IMPORTANT\*\***

Anyone who wants to be considered as a Helper, Counselor or Camp Staff can obtain an application from the Junior Grange Director. It is NOT to be assumed that you can attend camp every year based on previous years of service. We need to assure that new and upcoming Grange members have the chance to participate in camp and this might cause a need for Grange members who have been coming to camp for many years to be asked to give their "place" to another person.

## **JUNIOR GRANGE OF THE YEAR**

The Junior Grange of the Year will be awarded to a Junior Grange whose Director/Leader completes the form (see last page of Junior section). Reports will be judged by an outside committee. We encourage you to create a scrapbook of events that your Junior Grangers have participated in throughout the year. We want to encourage you to **think outside of the box** in your programming and want to see what you and your Juniors have done to grow the Grange during the year.

Reports are due by September 15 each year. Winners will receive a plaque and prize money to encourage continued growth. Reports will be judged on thoroughness, ingenuity/creativity, and growth efforts.

1st Place - \$200 payable to the Junior Grange

2nd Place - \$100 payable to the Junior Grange

3rd Place - \$50 payable to the Junior Grange

## **JUNIOR JAM**

The "jam" will be held in conjunction with State Grange, in October. Activities typically begin on Saturday morning and may include various activities in the host county. These activities are planned by the host committee and a registration fee is required by the Junior attending. The Host Committee is to keep the State Junior Grange Committee up to date on the planning process. Details will be published in the *Pennsylvania Grange News*.

## **NATIONAL GRANGE PROGRAMS**

Please refer to the National Grange website for monthly activity suggestions, Awareness Projects, Ambassador Program, and other National Junior Grange contests. [www.nationaljuniorgrange.org](http://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org)

### **PA STATE JUNIOR GRANGE COMMITTEE**

Philip Vonada, PA State Junior Grange Director - (814) 404-7985; [pajuniorgrange@gmail.com](mailto:pajuniorgrange@gmail.com)

Jen Beamon (Southeast) - (484) 769-4431; [jennifermarie707@gmail.com](mailto:jennifermarie707@gmail.com)



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Christie Straub (West) - (724) 669-9190; bagge28@yahoo.com

***and the Junior Ambassadors***

**2023-2024** – Gayle Reyburn (Chester County) and Braden Thomson (Warren County)

Contact Philip Vonada to 'book' the Junior Ambassadors for your Grange meetings or events, or to have Philip or another Committee member attend!

## Junior Grange of the Year Report

*Report for September 2022-August 2023*

**Due Date:** Sept 15th

**Complete and mail to:** Philip Vonada, Junior Director 358 Clinton Street, South Williamsport, PA 17702

<b>Junior Grange Name &amp; Number</b>	<b>Junior Grange Town/Location</b>	<b>Junior Director/Leader</b>
<b>Director Address</b>		<b>Is your Junior Grange</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Chartered <input type="checkbox"/> 1+ (i.e. operating under a Subordinate charter)
<b>Director Phone Number</b>	<b>Director E-mail Address</b>	
<b>Are all adults (age 18+) who work with your Juniors on the PA State Grange volunteer list, with valid clearances on file?</b> More information: <a href="https://bit.ly/PAJGClearances">https://bit.ly/PAJGClearances</a> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (please explain)		<b>Did any Juniors attend statewide Junior Grange events?</b>
<b>How many meetings did you hold in the 2022-23 year?</b>	<b>Total Junior Membership</b>	<b>Average Attendance</b>
<b>Number of New Members:</b>	<b>Number of Juniors graduated</b> (please list names on a separate page):	
<b>Please check all that apply to members of your Junior Grange:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Participated in at least one PA State Junior Grange contest <input type="checkbox"/> Completed at least one National Junior Grange passport from the National Grange OR used the National Junior Grange Quarterly Focus Area <input type="checkbox"/> Held at least one meeting using the JG ritual (do not include camp) <input type="checkbox"/> Completed a program/event that also involved Community or Pomona Grange members (can include leading a program at a Grange meeting) <input type="checkbox"/> Invited the PA Junior Grange Ambassadors to participate in at least one of your events or programs <input type="checkbox"/> Graduated Juniors successfully moved to Subordinate membership	
<b>Please attach/include the following information:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. List of Juniors, including names, addresses, birthdates, and emails (of parents).</li> <li>2. List all adults working with your Juniors, including names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails.</li> <li>3. <b>PROGRAMMING:</b> Please include a list or other way to show the programs/events your Juniors participated in this year. This can include community service programs/projects, programming/work at meetings, camps, etc.</li> <li>4. <b>MEMBERSHIP:</b> Outline membership/growth promotion efforts by the Junior Grange members and leaders.</li> <li>5. Comments or suggestions for the betterment of the PA State Junior Grange Program.</li> </ol>	