

Youth Sponsored Awards & Contests for All Ages

Public Speaking Contest

(Oregon and National Contest)

The purpose of this contest is to aid in the development of public speaking abilities and to build self-confidence in the participating Grange members.

Age categories (as of January 1):

- Youth: 14-21 years of age
- Young Adult: 22-35 years of age
- Adult: 36+ years of age

Rules

- This competition is open only to Grange members.
- Those planning to enter must notify the State Youth Director by **May 15** so qualified judges can be identified. An entry form can be downloaded from www.orgrange.org/youth/.
- The state competition will be held during the State Grange Convention.
- State contestants in the prepared speech and radio spot categories are required to submit three copies of the manuscript to the State Youth Director prior to the competition.
- A panel of three judges with public speaking abilities will judge. The judges will score each contestant on an individual basis and then collectively determine the rankings of the contestants. Score sheets will be returned to entrants. After the state contest a time for private evaluation with the judges will also be offered to each contestant.
- The state winner in each category will receive a certificate. Each participant will receive a National Achievement Award.
- One point will be deducted for every 30 seconds, or fraction thereof, a participant goes under or over the time limit.

Prepared Speech

Contestants will choose a topic and speak on it for a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of five minutes. A timekeeper will keep the time but provide no time prompts.

The contestant will be required to answer one question related to their speech topic at the end of their speech.

Props will be allowed, but must be appropriately sized for the room. Points can be deducted for props.

At the National Grange Convention, regional winners' speeches will be judged and the best two will present at the Evening of Excellence. Showcase speakers will

receive \$100 from National Grange for participating (provided after the Evening of Excellence at National Convention).

Judging Criteria

Judging Criteria	Points
Text	
Content: Information gathered and included in speech	15
Composition: The speech was compiled in a manner that was easy to understand	15
Delivery	
Voice: Spoke clearly, easy to understand	10
Stage Presence: Dressed neatly and appropriately, posture and nervousness	20
Expression: Delivered speech with enthusiasm	20
Impromptu Answer	
Response was thought out and delivered without much hesitation	20

Radio Spot

A radio spot is an advertisement promoting the Grange. Pretend that you are a "DJ" and you are reading a commercial for the Grange.

Radio spots should exactly 60 seconds in length and may include a musical or sound effect introduction and/or background, but may not include a spoken introduction or "tag" by anyone other than the contestant. If music or a sound effect is used, the contestant must provide and operate the sound-making device.

The contestant will provide a complete written script (including notations about music/sound effects) to the timekeeper to aid in timing accuracy. Musical/sound effect introductions and endings are considered a part of the radio spot and must not cause the 60 second time to be exceeded.

The spot should relate to the Grange, be original and created by the contestant.

Judging Criteria

Judging Criteria	Points
Text	
Content: Related to the Grange	15
Composition: The spot was compiled in a manner that was easy to understand	15
Creativity: Original matter than captured attention of audience	15
Delivery	
Voice: Spoke clearly, easy to understand	20
Expression: Delivered speech with enthusiasm and emotion	20

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Impromptu Speech

An impromptu speech is delivered without preparation or thought ahead of time. Participants will draw two topics, select their choice and return the other one. Topics will be provided by the State Youth Director.

For the competition at the Oregon State Grange Convention, participants will be given ten minutes to prepare and one note card to record their thoughts.

The minimum time is one minute and maximum is five minutes. The timekeeper will hold up a hand at one minute to signal the minimum and again when the four minute 30 seconds mark has been reached. One point will be deducted every 30 seconds a participant is under or over the time established.

For the Western Regional participants need not participate at state, but must notify the National Director of intent to enter. Contestants will speak immediately with no note cards.

Judging Guidelines:

Criteria	Points
Voice: Spoke clearly, easy to understand	10
Stage Presence: Dressed neatly and appropriately, postures appropriate, nervousness controlled	20
Expression: Delivered speech with enthusiasm and emotion	20
Confidence in speaking, Content of speech	15
Clarity of thoughts and ideas on topic	15

Regional Competition

Oregon can send up to three speakers to the Western Regional competition in August. Selection is as follows:

- The first place winner of each age category in the Prepared Speech category has first priority to travel to the regional competition.
- If there are fewer than three Prepared Speech winners, the best Radio Spot speakers will be given the opportunity to travel and compete at the Regional competition.
- Oregon's representatives will receive mileage to and from the carpool departure point, two-nights shared lodging, and registration, which includes group meals. Speaker must attend Friday through Sunday for expenses to be paid. If a speaker attends only Saturday evening to compete, no financial compensation will be provided.
- National Grange will provide prizes and ribbons to the top three entrants in each division and age category. Prizes for Prepared Speeches: 1st place: \$20, 2nd place: \$15, 3rd place: \$10. Radio Spot and

Impromptu: 1st place: \$15, 2nd place: \$10, 3rd place: \$5.

- One overall winner (a Prepared Speech or Radio Spot) from each region will be selected to compete at the National Grange Convention. If the Best of Show is from Oregon, the State Grange will pay round-trip airfare or mileage and up to \$30 per day reimbursement for meals upon presentation of receipts.