
Public Speaking Contest

(Oregon and National Contest) Notify by May 15th

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 are required to submit three copies of an outline of the speech 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

Grange Commercial

A Grange commercial is an advertisement promoting the Grange. Prior to regional contest participant(s) must film and edit themselves doing a commercial for the Grange. Can include up to five people in the commercial. Commercial should last between 30-60 seconds. The participants must provide a written script. Commercials must be submitted to the National Grange Youth Director prior to the competition.

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

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.

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

- The first-place winner of each age category in the Prepared Speech category will be eligible to travel to the regional competition.
- The best Grange Commercial speakers in each age category 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.
- National Grange will provide ribbons to the top three entrants in each division and age category
- One overall winner (a Prepared Speech or Grange Commercial) 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 (Thursday – Sunday) reimbursement for meals upon presentation of receipts. The National Grange will award \$100 to each regional Best of Show that showcases at the National Grange convention

Youth Ambassador/Young Patron Prepared Speech

State Ambassador and Young Patrons are required to give a prepared speech at their regional conference the year they apply for the National Grange Youth Leadership Team. They must present a speech on one of the following topics:

- What does Grange mean to me?
- What is leadership?

- How can you apply the National Grange mission statement to your future endeavors in the Grange

The same guidelines as Category A should be followed. Speeches in this category WILL NOT be chosen for Best of Show. Ambassadors/Young Patrons wanting to compete for Best of Show shall enter additionally in prepared speech.
