

How to Initiate New Grange Members

When the Grange receives an application for Grange membership, this following process is how the applicant is brought into full Grange membership:

1. A person who wishes to become a member of your Grange submits an application accompanied with the appropriate application fee (set in your Subordinate/Community Grange By-Laws)
 - a. The application should be given to the Secretary of your Grange
 - b. The applicant may also pay their dues at the same time they submit their application.
 - c. Applicants for membership in the Subordinate/Community Grange must be at least 13½ years old
 - d. The application should include a recommendation from two current Grange members who sign the bottom of the application
2. At the next Grange meeting, the Secretary will read the names of those who have applied for Grange membership under item number 4 in the Order of Business
3. After the Secretary reads the names from all the applications, the Grange will vote on the applications (this is item number 5 in the Order of Business)
 - a. There are two methods of voting on membership applications:
 - i. 1. Using a ballot box (traditional method)
 - ii. 2. Using paper ballots
 - b. If there is more than one candidate for membership, the Grange may vote on the applicants as a group or individually
 - c. If an application is rejected, then the dues are returned to the applicant, but the Grange has the right to keep the application fee.
 - d. Most Granges ask applicants/candidates to step outside the meeting while their application is being voted on and then bring them back in after voting has concluded.
4. When the Grange has approved the application(s), then the candidate(s) will go through one of three processes (this is item number 6 in the Order of Business)
 - a. The 1st through 4th Degrees
 - i. These are the traditional ritualistic initiation ceremonies. It is uncommon for Granges to do these at every meeting
 - b. The Obligation Ceremony
 - i. A short ceremony where the candidates give a pledge that uses some of the Grange's traditional language
 - ii. The Official Grange Obligation Ceremony is contained on pages 80 to 86 of the 2013 edition of the Manual of Subordinate Granges

- c. The Welcoming Ceremony
 - i. A short ceremony where the candidates give a pledge that uses more modern language
 - ii. The Welcoming Ceremony is contained on pages 76 to 79 of the 2013 edition of the Manual of Subordinate Granges. **A copy has been included in this Resource Binder as well.**
5. After an applicant has taken the obligation, or witnessed the degrees, they are a full member of the Grange.
 - a. All applicants (except for those wishing to join as Associate members) **MUST** be present at a Grange meeting to receive the one of the three methods listed above to attain membership.
 - b. If an applicant does not take the Obligation through one of the three outlined methods, they are not a Grange member
 6. All new Grange members when they are initiated should receive a copy of *The Grange and You* and the Grange Declaration of Purposes, both available from the Oregon State Grange or the National Grange.

The language of just the obligation of membership (not the full ceremony) is below

Junior 1+ Ceremony

To receive a youth as a Junior member (age 5 to 13½) the ceremony is as follows

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

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

During the appropriate agenda item for Obligating new members, the Master 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 candidates in the center. The Master will approach and stand between at the Altar with 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 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 Granger 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. “

“I will now give the Pledge in short sentences and ask you to repeat after me.”

(Master gives the Pledge, stopping at each pause long enough to allow the candidates to repeat the phrase.)

“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 their station.

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