

# Youth Sponsored Awards & Contests for All Ages

## Sign-A-Song Contest

(Oregon and National Program)

The National Grange and Oregon State Grange are extremely proud to sponsor this deaf awareness program. The Grange encourages communication among all individuals, groups and communities. Through communication, we learn to know each other better. Communication is essential to practicing the inclusion of all individuals and solving problems. The world in which we live is full of opportunities for improvement. However, without communication, these improvements would be few and far between.

The Sign-A-Song contest promotes the use of non-verbal skills of communication. We encourage Grange members to learn sign language and use it to sign-a-song. It is a beautiful form of communication for many individuals.

### State and regional categories

- Novice: One who is beginning to learn to sign, has had no more than three sign language classes and has entered the sign-a-song contest no more than two years.
- Hobbyist: One who signs on an occasional basis and strictly for fun and has entered the sign-a-song contest no more than two years.
- Group: Two or more people signing. (*Note: If there is a professional signer in a group entry, they are eligible only in the Expert category.*)
- Expert: One who signs professionally or is an instructor (*paid for signing in any capacity.*). They may participate at state as a demonstration in the effort to encourage others to learn sign language. Experts are ineligible for Best of Show and regional competition.

### Rules:

- Participants must be Grange members.
- Participants must supply their own music. A CD player and speakers will be available.
- Three copies of the words that are being signed must be supplied for the judges and turned in to the State Youth Directors prior to the competition.
- Signers must use total communication techniques: Sign language, facial expressions, mouthing of words for lip reading, finger spelling if appropriate, and body movement.
- Props and costumes are not allowed; rhythm is optional.

- Only one song may be signed during the competition.
- Participants must sign their own name and song title.
- Participants must inform the audience and judges what type of sign language they will be using (Pidgen, ASL, ESL, etc.).

### Judging guidelines

Utilization of total communication skills:	Max pts
Sign language ability, signs clearly with correct interpretation	32
Body expression, displays emotion, expresses key thoughts with body movement, mouths words for lip reading	30
Presentation, interprets with confidence, uniformity (group)	25
Appropriate song selection, with a clear meaning and suitable for the contestant's signing ability	10
Signed their own name	1
Signed title of song	1
Informed judges and audience of type of sign language being used	1

Those planning to enter must notify the State Youth Directors by **May 15** so that qualified judges can be identified. An entry form can be downloaded from [www.orgrange.org/youth/](http://www.orgrange.org/youth/).

State prize: 1st place: \$25; certificates for all participants.

Regional competition: Oregon may send one entry in each category to the regional competition. The State Grange will pay mileage to and from the carpool departure point, two-nights shared lodging, and registration, which includes group meals.

National Grange will provide ribbons for each regional contest for first, second and third. 1<sup>st</sup> place: \$20, 2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> place: \$10.

The Best of Show at the Western Regional Conference will receive a special award plus \$25 and be eligible to participate in the showcase at the National Grange Convention in November. If the Best of Show is from Oregon, the State Grange will pay round-trip airfare and up to \$30 per day (Thursday – Sunday) reimbursement for meals upon presentation of receipts. Showcase acts will receive \$100 from National Grange for participating (*provided after the Evening of Excellence at National Convention.*)