



2026
NC GRANGE
CONTEST
GUIDE

table of contents

Grange of the Year.....	3
Family of the Year	4
Farm of the Year	4
Granger of the Year	5
Grange Public Relations	5
Community Service / Junior Community Service	6
Legislative Affairs Report	7
Program Directors Report	8
Junior of the Year	8
Junior Grange of the Year	9
Educator of the Year	9
Church of the Year	10
Fire Department of the Year	11
Firefighter of the Year	11
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year	12
Military Person of the Year	12
Writing Contest	13
Secretary of the Year, Art, Photography	14
Crafts & Baking	15

GRANGE OF THE YEAR

RULES

1. A contest form must accompany each nomination submitted. The contest form must serve as the cover page for the report.
2. All contest forms must be submitted to the State Grange office for review by the selection committee and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
3. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

REQUIRED INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN REPORT

Granges are to complete the online form. Your Grange must enter a Community Service entry and Program Director entry to be eligible for the Grange of the Year contest. These reports will be gathered and considered when judging Grange of the Year.

Information to include on online entry form:

- Grange Name
- List any donations your Grange made
- Our Grange had a net membership gain
- Started a new Junior Grange or have a net membership gain in an existing Junior Grange.
- Sent representative to at least one State event (Family Conference, State Convention, Camp, Winter Youth Conference, Young Adult Meeting)
- Sent representative to at least one National event (Legislative Fly-In, Grange Growth Summit, National Convention, Regional Conference, Regional Leaders Conference or Lecturer's Conference)
- Our Grange had delegates at State Convention in 2025
- Host at least 4 community service/educational events.
- Update your Grange website to include at least your meeting time, days and location and contact information for at least one of your officers and a link to your Grange's Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.
- What is your Grange's website?
- Social media addresses/handles
- Did you submit at least one article with a high resolution photo to the National Grange communications department for print or web publication?
- Did you submit at least one article with a high resolution photo to the State Grange for print or web publication via email?
- Host at least one Youth or Junior activity.
- All 4 quarterly reports were on time to the State Office.
- Host a legislative event, candidate forum, Grangers Organized to Vote event; or make at least one legislative issue contact with a public official on the local, state or national level.
- Submit at least one resolution to State Convention in 2026.
- Provide a list of your Grange officers.
- Briefly describe the fellowship your Grange offers.

FAMILY OF THE YEAR

RULES

1. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
2. All questions must be briefly answered. The report may be accompanied by three photographs.
3. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

REQUIRED INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN REPORT

- Name family members
- Family address
- Email of nominee
- Grange entering
- Length of Grange membership of each family member.
- List local, state, and/or national offices held by any of the family members.
- Describe family members' involvement and accomplishments in Grange activities.
- Describe family members' involvement and accomplishments in non-Grange activities and organizations.
- 3 Photographs

MONETARY AWARD: \$150

FARM OF THE YEAR

RULES AND INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN NOMINATION

1. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
2. All questions must be briefly answered. The report may be accompanied by three photographs.
3. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ENTRY

- Farm Name
- Family members
- Farm address
- Email of nominee
- Nominating Grange
- Length of Grange membership of each family member.
- List local, state, and/or national offices held by any of the family members (Grange or otherwise).
- Describe family members' involvement and activities on the family's farm.
- For crop producers: list crops along with acreage for each crop.
- For livestock producers: list livestock amount raised.
- For horticulture producers: list types of horticulture, and the size of each operation.
- List each farm building along with its purpose.
- List any conservation practices incorporated into the operation.
- List management practices for environmental protection.
- List major pieces of machinery used in the operation.
- Describe new innovations adopted during the year (e.g. new technology, management or cultural practices, new machinery or equipment).
- List previous awards received by family members, both Grange and non-Grange.
- Include any additional information about your farm.
- 3 Photographs

MONETARY AWARD: \$150

GRANGER OF THE YEAR

RULES

1. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
2. All questions must be briefly answered. The report may be accompanied by three photographs.
3. One form submitted per Grange.
4. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

ELIGIBILITY

Any adult members nominated by a local Grange are eligible. A local Grange may nominate one adult person in the Granger of the Year contest. Nominations must be made by the Grange where the Granger's membership exists.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ENTRY

- Grange name and number
- Length of Grange membership
- Offices held in local, state, and/or National Grange
- Membership and/or offices held in other organizations
- Briefly describe accomplishments and activities in the Grange.
- Briefly describe accomplishments and activities in non-Grange activities or organizations. List any previous awards received.
- 3 Photographs

MONETARY AWARD: \$150

GRANGE PUBLIC RELATIONS

RULES

1. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
2. All questions must be briefly answered with appropriate links.
3. Granges may submit up to 5 entries on the form.
4. One form submitted per Grange.
5. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

ELIGIBILITY

Any active Grange.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ENTRY

- Grange name
- Grange website
- Grange social media handles
- Grange publicity item or link. If this is a physical item (booth display, signs, clothing, etc.), please upload a photo. If it is digital (newsletter, brochure, flyer, etc.), please share the file in picture or pdf form. If it is online, please share the link.

COMMUNITY SERVICE & JUNIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

RULES

1. The qualifying period for each project reported is July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
2. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
3. One form submitted per Grange.
4. All questions must be briefly answered with appropriate links.
5. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ENTRY

Select your top three community service projects. Answer the following on the entry form about each project.

- Chairperson for the project
- Chairperson's email and phone
- How long did it take to plan and implement your project?
- How many of your members worked on this project?
- How many man hours did your Grange contribute?
- Did you partner with any other organizations for the project?
- Did you face issues completing the project?
- Will you do it again? If so do you think you will change anything?
- 3 Photographs

MONETARY AWARD:S

First Place: \$250

Second Place: \$200

Third Place: \$150

Fourth Place \$100

Junior Grange: First Place: \$250

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS REPORT

RULES

1. The qualifying period for each project reported is July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
2. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
3. One form submitted per Grange.
4. All questions must be briefly answered with appropriate links.
5. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ENTRY

- Meetings attended
 - A. What meeting was attended?
 - B. How many Grange members attended?
 - C. What topics were discussed?
- Host a “meet the candidates” night or debate
 - A. Date, time and location
 - B. Type of election
 - C. How was the event publicized?
 - D. Number in attendance
 - E. Comments
- Write a short summary of how your Grange’s political activity has been of benefit to your members, community, North Carolina and/or the nation.
- Attach the following that applies
 - A. Governmental/legislative information presented to your local Grange and the handouts/supplemental information provided to members.
 - B. Include copies of letters sent to Representatives and/or Senators concerning state or national issues.
 - C. Include copies of Governmental Affairs articles sent for potential publication in Grange News.
- Coordinate a visit to the Legislature with Laurie Barnhart, NC Grange Legislative Director
- 3 Photographs

MONETARY AWARD: \$150

PROGRAM DIRECTORS REPORT

RULES

1. The qualifying period for each entry is July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
2. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
3. One form submitted per Grange.
4. All questions must be briefly answered with appropriate links.
5. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ENTRY

- A short description of the program at each of your meetings or an agenda.
- Any handouts associated with each meeting.
- 3 Photographs

JUNIOR OF THE YEAR

RULES AND INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN NOMINATION

1. The qualifying period for each project reported is July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
2. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
3. One form submitted per Grange.
4. All questions must be briefly answered with appropriate links.
5. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

ELIGIBILITY

Any Grange Junior, ages 5-13, who is a member of a local Grange in North Carolina. Each Grange can sponsor one nominee for the award.

MONETARY AWARD: \$150

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ENTRY

- Nominee Name
- Address
- Birthday & Age
- Parent/Guardian of Nominee & Email
- School & Grade
- Sponsoring Grange
- List any hobbies and other interests you have.
- List any local and state Grange offices you have held as a Junior Granger.
- List any state events, meetings and activities you have attended in the past year (since August 1, 2025)
- Please list and describe service projects you have participated in over the past year for local, and state Grange (since August 1, 2025)
- Please include an essay answering the question: "What does the Grange mean to me?" The essay should be included as part of your 2 additional pages.
- 3 pictures that show your Grange involvement.

JUNIOR GRANGE OF THE YEAR

RULES AND INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN NOMINATION

1. The qualifying period for each entry is July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
2. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
3. One form submitted per Grange.
4. All questions must be briefly answered with appropriate links.
5. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

MONETARY AWARD: \$300

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ENTRY

- Junior Grange
- Junior Director & Email
- Current # of Junior Members
- Number of New Junior Members since August 1, 2025
- Number of meetings held since August 1, 2025
- Please list and describe service projects your Junior Grange has held and /or participated in over the past year (since August 1, 2025).
- Please list the number of Junior members from your Grange that attended the following State Grange events: Family Conference, Grange Camp, State Convention
- Please list and describe any meeting programs and special activities that your Grange offered its Junior members in the past year, since September 1, 2025.
- How has your Grange recruited new Junior members in the past year?
- Please provide a current roster of your Junior Grange members.
- 3 photographs may be submitted with report.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

RULES

1. The qualifying period for each entry is July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
2. One form submitted per Grange.
3. Nominee must be an active, employed educator.
4. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
5. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ENTRY

- Grade and/or subjects taught.
- Any certifications the teacher has received.
- Membership in any professional organizations
- Positions held since the beginning of the educator's career.
- List trainings educator has completed from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
- Honors or recognitions received.
- Special initiatives or projects in which the educator has participated.
- A special success story.
- 3 photographs may be submitted with report.

MONETARY AWARD: \$100

CHURCH OF THE YEAR

RULES

1. The qualifying period for each entry is July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
2. One form submitted per Grange.
3. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
4. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ENTRY

- Worship Service
- Teaching of the Bible
- Music
- Church Membership Training
- Fellowship
- Specialized Ministries
- Church administration/organization
 - List staff, officers, and workers
 - Stewardship Growth and Development
- Describe the church in the community (suggestions include, but are not limited to:)
 - Health/retirement work
 - Underprivileged/special needs
 - Denomination/interdenominational activities
 - World and home missions
 - Stewardship
- Any additional information you wish to include about the church
- 3 photographs may be submitted with report

MONETARY AWARD: \$250

FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR

RULES

1. The qualifying period for each entry is July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
2. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
3. One form submitted per Grange.
4. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ENTRY

- History of department
- Physical plant and equipment
- Training programs
- Fire prevention and safety programs
- How many fire calls has your station called on July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026?
- How has your department been involved with the community this year? (School field days, car seat checks, etc.)
- 3 photographs may be submitted with report

MONETARY AWARD: \$250

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

RULES

1. The qualifying period for each entry is July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
2. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
3. Nominee must be an active, paid firefighter.
4. One form submitted per Grange
5. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ENTRY

- Any certifications the firefighter has received.
- Any volunteer work the firefighter has completed.
- Membership in any professional organizations.
- Positions held since the beginning of the firefighter's career.
- Trainings attended in the past year.
- Honors or recognitions received.
- Special initiatives or projects in which the firefighter has participated.
- A special success story.
- 3 photographs may be submitted with report.

MONETARY AWARD: \$250

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

RULES

1. The qualifying period for each nomination is July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
2. Nominee must be actively working as a law enforcement officer.
3. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.
4. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ENTRY

- Any certifications the officer has received.
- Any volunteer work the officer has completed.
- Membership in any professional organizations.
- Positions held since the beginning of the officer's career.
- Trainings attended in the past year.
- Honors or recognitions received.
- Special initiatives or projects in which the officer has participated.
- A special success story.
- 3 photographs may be submitted with report.

MONETARY AWARD: \$100

MILITARY PERSON OF THE YEAR

RULES

1. The qualifying period for each nomination is July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
2. All contest forms must be submitted online by August 1, 2026.
3. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.
4. Nominee must be currently serving on active duty.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ENTRY

- Any volunteer work the military person has completed.
- Positions held since the beginning of the military person's career.
- Trainings attended in the past year.
- Honors or recognitions received.
- Special initiatives or projects in which the military person has participated.
- A special success story.
- 3 photographs may be submitted with report.

MONETARY AWARD: \$100

WRITING CONTEST

RULES

1. Contestants must be members in good standing.
2. All entries must be the original work of the contestant.
3. All work must have been completed from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
4. Only one entry per person, per category (2 maximum).
5. Essay topics are to be a minimum of one page and maximum of 2 pages.
6. All entries must be typed and double-spaced.
7. All entries must follow the theme "Imagine you woke up with the superpower of time travel."
8. All entries must be submitted online.
9. Judges have the right to not make an award. Decision of the judges is final.
10. All contest entries must be submitted electronically online and must be received by AUGUST 1, 2026.

MONETARY AWARDS:

<u>Adult</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Junior</u>
1st: \$45	1st: \$35	1st: \$25
2nd: \$35	2nd: \$25	2nd: \$15
3rd: \$25	3rd: \$15	3rd: \$10

Age Groups: ADULT YOUTH (AGES 14-20) JUNIOR I (AGES 5-8) JUNIOR II (AGES 9-13)

Categories: POEM CREATIVE WRITING (ESSAY)

OTHER AWARDS / CONTESTS

Secretary of the Year: This award is given to the local Grange Secretary who demonstrates the most outstanding organizational and record-keeping skills in his/her Grange. This recognition is based on the timely manner in which the Secretary files his/her quarterly reports, and is selected by the NC Grange staff and State Grange Secretary. Monetary award is \$150.

Photography Contest

Divisions:	Hometown Pride	Heads Up
	Light & Darkness	Strength

Rules:

1. Entrants must be dues-paying Grange members in good standing to participate in any Grange contest.
2. Age groups for entries are as follows: Junior I (5-8), Junior II (9-13), Youth (14-20), Adult (21+)
3. All entries must be a 5x7 printed photo, in a matted 8x10, white mat.
4. Entries must have been completed since September 1, 2025.
5. Entries must be submitted online prior to convention, and no later than noon, September 8, 2026.
6. Only one entry per person, per division, for a max of 4 photographs per person.
7. All entries must be received at the designated location of convention. Times will be published prior to convention.
8. Entries will be judged based on composition, arrangement, interest, presentation, quality and adherence to the contest entry rules.
9. A printed copy of your entry form will be emailed to you following your submission. Print a copy, sign it, and bring it with your entry to convention.
10. Judges are non-Grangers and decisions of the judges are final.

Art Contest

Divisions:	Watercolor	Pen / Pencil / Ink
	Pastel / Charcoal	Oil / Acrylic

Rules:

1. Entrants must be dues-paying Grange members in good standing to participate in any Grange contest.
2. Age groups for entries are as follows; Junior I (5-8), Junior II (9-13), Youth (14-20), Adult (21+)
3. All entries must be the original work of the entrant.
4. Only one entry per person, per division for a maximum of four pieces of art.
5. Entries submitted for judging must have been completed since September 1, 2025.
6. Entries must be submitted online prior to convention, and no later than noon, September 8, 2026.
7. A printed copy of your entry form will be emailed to you following your submission. Print a copy, sign it, and bring it with your entry to convention.
8. All entries must have a title.
9. All entries must be mounted or matted for stability.
10. All entries must be received at the designated location of convention. Times will be published prior to convention.
11. Judges are non-Grangers and decisions of the judges are final.

Baking Contest

Rules:

1. Entrants must be dues-paying Grange members in good standing to participate in any Grange contest.
2. Age groups for entries are as follows; Junior I (5-8), Junior II (9-13), Youth (14-20), Adult (21+)
3. Recipes may use pre-made pie crusts.
4. Only one entry per person, per division and category, making for a total of 8 entries per person.
5. Entries must be submitted online prior to convention, and no later than noon, September 8, 2026.
6. A printed copy of your entry form will be emailed to you following your submission. Print a copy, sign it, and bring it with your entry to convention.
7. Individuals may not submit a previous winning recipe.
8. Baked goods must arrive in a disposable container. Non-disposable containers are the responsibility of the entrant, not the State Grange.
9. No entries will be refrigerated. Do not submit any entries that require refrigeration.
10. Entries will be judged on flavor, texture, appearance, creativity and adherence to contest rules.
11. Judges are non-Grangers and their decisions are final.
12. All entries must be received at the designated location of convention. Times will be published prior to convention.
13. Entries will be made available on Saturday evening for the Annual Tasting Party.
14. All recipes become property of the NC State Grange, and selected recipes will be published in Grange News.

Divisions:	Pound Cake	Apple Pie
	Chocolate Chip Cookies	Pumpkin Bread
	Cupcakes	Jams/Jellies
	Gluten Free	

Craft Contest

Rules:

1. Entrants must be dues-paying Grange members in good standing to participate in any Grange contest.
2. Age groups for entries are as follows; Junior I (5-8), Junior II (9-13), Youth (14-20), Adult (21+)
3. All entries must be handmade by the entrant. Craft work from kits and commercially or mass produced items are not acceptable and will be disqualified.
4. Crafts must have been completed since September 1, 2025.
5. Entries must be submitted online prior to convention, and no later than noon, September 8, 2026.
6. A printed copy of your entry form will be emailed to you following your submission. Print a copy, sign it, and bring it with your entry to convention.
7. Only one entry per person, per division is allowed, for a total of nine craft entries per person.
8. All entries must be received at the designated location of convention. Times will be published prior to convention.
9. Judges are non-Grangers and decisions of the judges are final.

Divisions:	Crochet	Quilts
	Holiday	Recycled
	Jewelry	Sewing
	Knitting	Woodworking
	Miscellaneous	

<u>Adult</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Junior</u>
1st: \$45	1st: \$35	1st: \$25
2nd: \$35	2nd: \$25	2nd: \$15
3rd: \$25	3rd: \$15	3rd: \$10