



2025 STATE GRANGE CONTESTS PACKET

FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS:

Contests that are held at Winter Youth Conference!

Check out these contests for a chance to compete on regional and national levels!

Big Prizes are in store for contest winners, so don't miss out on your chance to show off your skills or learn some new ones!



**Public Speaking
Contest**

**Impromptu
Speech
Contest**

**Sign-a-Song
Contest
(Group or
Individual)**

How to Enter:

Select the contest you would like to enter on your registration form for Winter Youth Conference.

**CONTESTS WILL BE
HELD SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 15, 2025,
AT WINTER YOUTH
CONFERENCE.**

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

RULES and DETAILS:

1. Participants MUST be Grange Members.
2. Participants can compete once in each Category for their age division.
3. Participants must follow the rules for each type of speech category.
4. Participants must follow time requirements for each category.
5. For state, regional and national public speaking contests, props will be allowed, but must be appropriately sized for the room. Points can be deducted for props.

AGE DIVISIONS

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

CATEGORY A: PREPARED SPEECH

Topic: Contestant's choice

Time Limits: Minimum 3 minutes, Maximum 5 minutes

Details: Contestants are required to answer an impromptu question at the end of their speech. The question will be related to the speech topic.

CATEGORY B: IMPROMPTU SPEECH

Topic: Participants draw 2 topics, selects one of the two, and returns the other topic not used.

Time: Minimum of 1 minute, maximum of 5 minutes.

Details: An impromptu speech is delivered without preparation or thought ahead of time. Participants can sign up for this contest at the conference.

Timekeeper: Timekeeper will hold up hand at the 1-minute mark, then again at the 4½ minute mark so speaker knows when to stop.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- **Technical Elements**: Waited till audience was ready; good use of hands; used good eye contact; used appropriate gestures (facial expressions, body language); good articulation; spoke loudly enough; used English appropriate to the speech context; dressed professionally.
- **Organizational elements**: captured the audience's attention immediately; formulated a clear thesis; followed an organizational pattern (introduction, body, conclusion); attempted appropriate specificity.
- *One point will be deducted for every 30 seconds a participant is under or over the time established.*

PRIZES

- **State Contest**: NC Grange will award ribbons to the top 3 contestants. First place winner in the prepared speech category will receive a trip to compete at the Regional Conference.
- **National Contest**: State winners will compete at the national level for a chance to win \$100.

SIGN-A-SONG CONTEST

DESCRIPTION:

Participants learn how to sign a song of their choice in sign language and perform it for the contest.

CATEGORIES:

- A. SINGLE Sign-a-song:** one person signs a song in sign language
- a. Novice: beginner; has had 3 or less sign language classes; entered contest 2 or less years
 - b. Hobbyist: signs occasionally for fun; entered contest more than 2 years
- B. GROUP Sign-a-song:** 2 or more people sign a song together

RULES and DETAILS:

1. Participants choose a song and sign the words with the song.
2. Participants must provide their own music, either CD or ipod / mp3
3. Participants must be Grange Members.
4. Participants must provide 3 copies of the words they are signing (for both State AND Regional contests).
5. Props and costumes are permitted.
6. Anyone who is a professional instructor or receives money for signing may not enter.
7. Only one song may be signed during the competition performance.
8. Participants must sign their own name and song title.
9. Participants must inform the audience and judges what type of sign language they will be using (pidgin, ASL, ESL, etc).
10. Songs must be appropriate for a youth audience and must not contain vulgar language.

JUDGING GUIDELINES:

POINTS

• Use of total communication skills, sign language ability, signs clearly, correct interpretation	32
• Body expression, display emotion, express key thoughts with body movement, mouth words	30
• Presentation, interpret with confidence, uniformity (group)	25
• Appropriate song selection suitable for the participants' signing abilities	10
• Signed own name	1
• Signed title of song	1
• Informed judges and audience of type of sign language being used	1
TOTAL	100

PRIZES

1. **State Contest:** NC Grange will award ribbons to the top 3 contestants in each division. First place winners in each category receive a trip to compete at Regional Conference.
2. **National Contest:** State winner will compete in national contest for a chance to win \$100.

CONTEST ENTRY FORM

To sign up for contest entry, please visit the Grange Website at www.ncgrange.com and register for contests online when you register to attend the 2025 Winter Youth Conference.

NOTE:

All contests will be held at the Winter Youth Conference, Saturday February 15, 2025, at Camp Caraway in Asheboro, NC. Depending on the contest(s) you enter, please do not forget to bring required items such as music, song lyrics, speech outlines and appropriate attire.

Contestants winning First Place in Prepared Public Speaking, Group and Individual Sign-a-Song will be invited to compete on the national level.

For questions about contests, contact Jennie Gentry, State Youth and Young Adult Director, jenniegentry@ncgrange.com.

Deadline to Enter: February 1, 2025