

Illinois. State Grange Lecturer's Contests and Programs 2025-2026

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The Lecturer's Department maintains a rich tradition of encouraging excellence in expressions of cultural, educational, and creative pursuits in our Granges and their members. In tht tradition, these are the categories for competition and display for 6he 2026 Illinois State Session.

Note, the National Grange Lecturer's programs (including quilt blocks, photography, and garden design) have not been formally announced and are independent of the state contests. Please check the National Grange website for details of submitting entries. Deadlines in other years have been in early September.

Please look at the breadth of categories and see what appeals to you and your skills. I would like have at least one entry from each Subordinate Grange, if possible.

ILLINOIS LECTURER'S CONTEST CATEGORIES

- One entry per member may be submitted in each category. Items should be created during the current Grange year.
- Each entry must be clearly mared with
 - Member name
 - Member address
 - Grange name and number
 - Specific contest category
 - Age bracket
 - Name of responsible party (if entrant not in attendance at State Session)
- Eligibility – All Subordinate and Junior Grange members. Junior entries may also include children and grandchildren of Subordinate members.
- Photos may be submitted electronically via email, text or USB drive at least 1 day prior to opening of the State Session Printed photos should be mounted on a sturdy backing but without glass.
- Classes – One adult class and 3 classes for Juniors: ages 5-7, 8-10, and 11-14
- The Illinois State Lecturer reserves the right to choose to not display any entry deemed inappropriate within Grange values. Themes including nudity, obscenity, or violence will not be accepted.

Photography

Color and black and white photography will be judged in the same category. Images should not be edited or altered with the use of photo editing software. No professional photography accepted. The categories are intentionally loose. Creativity in capturing the category will be considered in judging.

Categories:

- Action
- Vacations
- At Home

Media Arts & Crafts

General guidelines

- We seek to recognize all types of visual arts
- Work must be original
- Fragile items are displayed at the entrant's risk

Painting/Drawing/Pastels

Any subject or theme. All media (oils, watercolors, pencil, etc) will be judged in one category.

Dimensional Media

Any subject or theme. Sculpture, pottery, weaving, textiles, paper-making, etc., are appropriated for this category and will be judged together. Basically, this is any artwork that is not flat on a canvas or paper.

Patriotic Collage

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States with a patriotic collage. You may use a combination of photos taken from print materials or simply use pieces of paper and glue to create a suitable image that pays tribute in some way to what we consider uniquely American.

Personal Collection

Assemble and display 12 related items. Make sure each item's relation to the collection is apparent. Provide a short description of the collection and its personal significance to the collector. The items should be anchored securely in a box or baseboard for display.

Handcrafted. Holiday Tree Ornaments

Use your skills to make three ornaments (just one ornament for Junior entries) suitable for decorating a tree. Ornaments can represent any holiday or season. The ornaments should not be identical but should be related by theme or technique.

There are two divisions:

- Ornaments involving sewing, needlework, or textiles
- Ornaments using other materials or techniques

Seasonal Door Decoration

Craft a decoration to hang on or beside your door. Use any materials that can create a sturdy, weatherproof item to hang, such as wood, metal, cloth, etc. The theme can be one of general "Welcome" or related specifically to a holiday or season.

Origami Animals

Create three animals from traditional paper folding techniques. Items can be of any size. I hope to sponsor a Zoom session where we can practice this craft together. (There are lots of websites and books from the library with instructions for paper folding.)

Creative Writing

I'm bringing back this contest from a few years ago. The purpose is to inspire of the Grange to submit their writings which will promote creativity, encourage writing skills, and provide exposure for writers. Entries can be prose or poetry and should not exceed two typed pages. (Note, this is independent of the National Grange Creative Writing Contest).