

Illinois State Grange Lecturer's Contests and Programs 2020-2021

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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 members. In that tradition these are the categories for competition and display for the 2021 Illinois State Session and National Contests. Because so much of our competition from last year was made impossible by the health crisis, many of the contests are being repeated. There are a couple new categories and some new photography themes.

Please look at the breadth of categories and see what appeals to you. I would like to get as many people involved this year as possible with the goal of having at least one entry from every Subordinate Grange.

NATIONAL CONTESTS

Absolute details of the National Lecturer's contests will become available after the 2020 National Session in November. Specific rules and information will be distributed via the Illinois Granger when they become available. The best source of information is to refer to the National Grange website where all rules will be posted.

National Photography Showcase:

We can send up to two photographs—for adults and for juniors. Photos are displayed at the National Session.

Publicity Items

This is a contest that has been put in place the last couple years. You can submit any sort of publicity items you have created for your Grange's activities and programs.

Unfinished Quilt Block

The pattern for 2021 was announced in the 4th Quarter “A Quarter’s Worth” Lecturer’s Newsletter. The official entry form is yet to be posted, but at least the pattern and general instructions have been posted.

2021 National Grange Quilt Block Contest



RULES

- A. The National Grange Quilt Block Contest is open to everyone.
- B. All contest entries must be received by the National Grange Lecturer by **October 31, 2021**. Send entries to:
Christine Hamp, National Lecturer
16418 N. Birdie Road
Nine Mile Falls WA 99026
- C. Any entries received after the deadline will not be judged. However, all entries received will be exhibited at the 155th National Grange convention in Wichita, Kansas.
- D. The quilt block you enter in the contest for judging must be made by you.
- E. There is no limit on the number of quilt blocks a person may submit, but choose one quilt block per person to be judged.
- F. All entries will be retained by the National Grange to be made into finished quilts and other items to be sold at a later date.
- G. A 2021 Quilt Block Contest Entry Form must be completed for the block to be judged.

GROUPS

- Group I – Adult (Age 14+)
- Group II – Junior (Age 13 and under)
- Group III – MEN (Age 14+)

PRIZES

- Monetary prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each Group.
- Ribbons will be awarded to all entrants.

PINWHEEL

Fabric: All fabric used should be cotton.




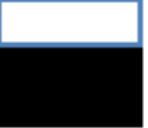



Constructing the Quilt Block:

Fabric A: Cut one (1) 8" square and four (4) 2½" x 8" rectangles. All plain white (not white-ish).
(The plain white is what will tie the blocks together into beautiful finished quilts.)

Fabric B: Cut one (1) 8" square of any color of your choice.

Fabric C: Cut four (4) 6" x 8" rectangles of the same fabric, any color or pattern of your choice.

All seams are ¼".

<p>Step 1: Cut the Fabric A 8" square in half diagonally, each direction, creating four (4) triangles.</p> 	<p>Step 2: Cut the Fabric B 8" square in half diagonally, each direction, creating four (4) triangles.</p> 
<p>Step 3: Place a Fabric A triangle and a Fabric B triangle right sides together and sew together to form one large triangle. Keep the white on the left. Repeat to form all four (4) triangles.</p> 	<p>Step 4: Place a Fabric A rectangle and a Fabric C rectangle right sides together and sew together to form one large square. Keep the white on the top. Repeat to form all four (4) squares.</p> 
<p>Step 5: Lay a ruler across the square from bottom left to top right and cut into two (2) triangles. Set aside the bottom right triangle (not used in this block).</p> 	<p>Step 6: Sew a Step 3 triangle unit and a Step 5 triangle unit together to make a 7½" square. Make sure the white rectangle and the white triangle are in contact on the right.</p> 
<p>Step 7: Lay out the four (4) squares to make the pinwheel. Sew together the top row, then the bottom row. Press the center seam for each row toward Fabric B. When you flip the second row upside down the seams will nest together for better accuracy in seam matching. Pin well. Press all seams. Clip and remove all threads.</p> <p>Each finished quilt block should measure 14" x 14".</p>	

Evening of Excellence Talent Contest

- Broad range of talents accepted: music, movement, speaking, anything you excel at
- One winner from State Session can appear at the National Session.
- Not to exceed 5 minutes.

The state talent contest is held each year on Saturday night at the State Session. This is a great opportunity to entertain each other and share our talents.

We apply a wide definition of talents and seek to present an array of great charm and diversity. Possibilities include but are not limited to:

- Music performance
- Spoken word and storytelling
- Dance and movement
- Physical skills (juggling, baton twirling, etc.)
- Practical arts (cooking demonstration, flower arranging, coaching)

Entries can be solo or group.

Illinois will select one Best of Show talent representative to perform in the Evening of Excellence event at the National Session in Wichita, Kansas in November 2021.

Remember that all acts are representing their home Grange and presentation is a major component of any performance, so contestants are encouraged to dress and act appropriately.

ILLINOIS LECTURER'S CATEGORIES

- One entry per member may be submitted in each class. Must be made this Grange year.
- Awards in each class.
- Attached to each entry must be:

Member name

Member address

Grange name and number

Specific state contest category

Age bracket (Juniors only)

Name of responsible party (if entrant not in attendance at State Session)

- Eligibility – All Subordinate and Junior Grange members. Junior entries may also include grandchildren of Subordinate members.
- Photos may be printed or submitted electronically. Prints should be at least 5x7.
- Classes- There will be one class for Subordinate Grange members and 3 age groups for Juniors: 5-7 yr old, 8-10 yr old and 11-14 yr old.
- 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

The photography contest seeks to recognize excellence in photographic images.

Rules:

- Color and black and white photography will be judged in the same category.
- Prints or electronic images (.jpg or .png format). No altering of still images with use of photo editing software is allowed.
- Printed photo size should be at least 5"x7". Prints must be mounted on a rigid backing, not to exceed 3/4" beyond the edge of the photograph.
- No professional photographers (an individual who's primary living is from photography) may enter.
- Videos will not be eligible to proceed to National Session.

Categories:

- **Water.** Explore the presence of water everywhere around us—in our homes, in nature, in weather, or anywhere else. Try to capture some aspect of beauty, wonder, or intrigue in what you capture.
- **Tall.** Tall is completely relative to an item's surroundings. A church spire could be tall; a remaining weed in a closely cropped yard; a tall person among children. Use your imagination to capture and image that highlights the feeling of something being "tall."
- **Selfie.** Must be a picture taken by yourself in an unusual or intriguing environment or setting. Pay attention to the overall composition of your selfie; how does your presence fit into the surroundings to make a pleasing image.
- **Time-Lapse.** Show the progression of a slow change through a series of photos taken from the same perspective over time. Successful entries will try to preserve the same view as the subject changes, rather than just taking a series of pictures of a sequence of events. Even if you don't have a tripod, think about how your series would look if your camera was in the exact same spot for all the photos. Try to avoid just taking a photo burst on your phone and selecting images from that; the photos should be separated enough in time that you took them individually.
- **Comedy Video.** Capture a funny event or story through video. Don't think of it having to be a laugh-out-loud joke but rather something delightfully amusing. This year the time limit is reduced to 20 seconds. You will be surprised how much, with some planning, you can tell in 20 seconds.

Creative Writing

General guidelines

- May be handwritten, typed, or printed from a computer. Handwriting must be legible and neat using black or blue ink pen. Typed or printed should be double-spaced, size 12 font or larger. Entries may be submitted electronically.
- Work must be original, the entrant's own creation, not copied from another source.
- Length not to exceed 300 words.

Creative writing prose topic:

Imagine That...

Creative writing poetry topic:

Transformation

Poetry can be written in free verse or in traditional forms. We're looking for poems that move us, that might make us laugh or cry, or teach us something new. Poems should not exceed one page in length.

Media Arts & Crafts

General guidelines

- We seek to recognize all types of visual arts.
- Work must be original, the entrant's own creation.
- No frames or glass. 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. Works should not exceed 30"x30".

Dimensional Media

Any subject or theme. Sculpture, pottery, weaving, textiles, paper-making, etc. are appropriate for this category and will be judged together. Basically this is any artwork that is not flat on a canvas or paper. Works should not exceed 18"x18"x18".

Personal Collection

Assemble and display 12 related items. Make sure each item's relation to the collection is apparent. Provide an overview of the collection theme not to exceed 50 words. All items should be anchored securely to a sturdy base or provided with a box or material on which to display them. The collection may be anything of intellectual or cultural interest: stamps, rocks, stickers, trading cards, dried flowers, postcards, etc. Judging will be based on interest and creativity of the collection theme.

Handcrafted Holiday Tree Ornaments

Use your skill to make three ornaments 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. Materials and methods can be anything you choose. Ornaments will be judged on craftsmanship, creativity, and appearance. Because of the high response to this category, there will be two divisions:

Ornaments involving primarily fabric, sewing, needlecrafts, etc.

Ornaments using other materials or techniques

Before and After

This is a new category that recognizes projects where you transformed something. The possibilities are endless: remodeling a room, redecorating your home, developing a garden where there was none, restoring a car, giving yourself a make-over! We want to honor the spirit and accomplishments of the DIY spirit. Your entry should consist of 2-3 “before” pictures, 2-3 “after” pictures, and a 1-page description describing your project, your challenges, your methods, and primary features of the end project. Your entry can be presented with pictures and narrative mounted on a solid backing (like poster board) or electronically.

GROUP PROJECT: Subordinate Grange Banner

This competition has two purposes:

1. Provide an opportunity for collaboration and group effort in creating an entry.
2. Celebrate our individual Granges in a fun way to share our heritage at State Session.

One entry is allowed from each Subordinate Grange. Create a banner that commemorates your individual Grange identity and influence in the community and state. The banner should be no larger than 30” wide x 36” tall and hang from a dowel rod. It should be primarily constructed of fabric or soft textiles. Additional materials may be used but overall weight should not exceed 3 pounds.

First time entries will be judged and prizes awarded. All banners from previous years will continue to be displayed and recognition for a “People’s Choice Award” (if there are multiple entries) will be based on votes from attendees.