Illinois State Grange Lecturer's
Contests and Programs
2024-2025

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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 2024 Illinois State Session and National Contests.

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

For most accurate information about the National Contests you should refer to www.nationalgrange.org. (Under "Programs" choose "Lecturer Programs" and then "Lecturer Contests."

Details will be finalized by the time of the National Session in November and will be published in the Illinois Granger when available. Be sure to check the deadlines for these contests as lately they are much earlier than our state session and rely on direct submission of entries.

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 my be submitted electronically, via email, text, or USB drive or printed and moutned on a sturdy backing.
- 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

Rules:

- Color and black and white photography will be judged in the same category.
- No altering of still images with use of photo editing software is allowed.
- No professional photographers (an individual who's primary living is from photography) may enter.
- Photos may be submitted electronically or as prints. Prints should be at least 5x7 and mounted on some firm backing; no glass. Digital and print photos will be judged together.
- National Lecturer's categories are included in our contest, but it is completely independent of the National Showcase.

Categories: (once announced, the three National Categories will be added to these)

- Plant
- Animal
- Mineral

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".

Art Journal

"Art journaling is an open-ended form of art on loose paper or in a bound journal where the focus is on the process of creating and of self-expression rather than a particular end result." This is a very free form form of expression, using any techniques of drawing, writing, painting, coloring, pasting, cutting, etc. that you want to include. The goal is to present something interesting, challenging, beautiful, thought-provoking. I'll be publishing some more information about this later in the year for those for whom this is a new idea. It is something that is accessible to anyone of any age. Entry should encompass from 2 to 6 pages, loose or bound.

Nature Collage

A composite presentation of aritcles taken from nature arranged and mounted to create a visual image—either representational or abstract. Entries will be judged on overall effect, variety of materials, and creative design. Materials may include leaves, dried flowers and plants, twigs, feathers, eggshells, etc....basically anything that occurs naturally without being manufactured. Collages may be any size but should be no larger than a standard poster board. All items must be securely attached to a sturdy backing.

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

Birdhouse

Craft a birdhouse. You can use any materials and any style of decoration. It can be completely functional or completely decorative. It should, though, be scaled appropriately and have doorway, nesting chamber, roof, and perch of some sort (that at least, theoretically, a bird could live in it. Entries will be judged on workmanship and visual appeal. Creativity in materials and decorations is encouraged.

Origami Animals

Create three animals from paper folding techniques. Items can be any size. (There are lots of websites and books from the library with instructions for paper folding.)