



Illinois State Grange

Secretary Brian Keller

703 E 2nd St, O'Fallon IL 62269

brianjkeller@gmail.com

618-410-9020

President Lynette Schaeffer

Lebanon

Vice-President Karie Blasingame

Belvidere

Lecturer Ethan Edwards

Belleville

Treasurer Mary Donley

Belleville

December 31, 2025

2026 Illinois State Grange Scholarship Applicant:

Please read this material carefully and make certain the application and all supporting documents reach the Illinois State Grange Secretary by **Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 9 p.m.** Sending by email is *strongly* encouraged and receipt will be acknowledged by return email. Please send to: brianjkeller@gmail.com. You may also send material by USPS mail to Brian Keller, 703 E 2nd St, O'Fallon, IL 62269, but it must be postmarked on or before **March 1, 2026**.

The recommendation letter from your Subordinate/Community (local) Grange President must be sent directly to the Illinois State Grange Secretary by him or her. If one of your parents or relatives is the President of your Grange, the recommendation letter must come from another member of your Grange who is not your parent or relative. Winners will be selected by the Illinois State Grange Executive Committee at a meeting soon after the application deadline and winners will be notified shortly thereafter.

Be sure to read and follow the instructions and guidelines carefully. Failure to do so may result in disqualification. Remember that this is a Grange Scholarship, so Grange involvement counts heavily in the selection process.

Applications will be evaluated on the following: Grange Involvement (40%), Academic Performance (20%), School Activities (20%), and Community Activities (20%).

If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact me via email at brianjkeller@gmail.com.

Fraternally,
Brian Keller, Illinois State Grange Secretary

Attachments - Scholarship Guidelines and Information
- Personal Information Form
- President's Letter of Recommendation Form

ILLINOIS STATE GRANGE SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES and INFORMATION

Applicant must be an active member in good standing of a Subordinate/Community (local) Grange for at least one year prior to the application deadline of March 1, 2026.

Applicant must be enrolled as a part-time or full-time student in a college or university, or a vocational, technical, or trade school program.

Applicant MUST:

1. Complete all necessary forms
2. Include most recent school transcripts (an original or a copy of an original transcript that is certified or stamped by the Registrar or Admissions office. This is a requirement for all scholarship applicants.)
3. On a separate sheet of paper, provide a detailed list of Grange activities – include National, State, Regional, Pomona, Subordinate/Community, and Junior (if applicable) for at least the past two years. This is very important.
4. On the page with Grange activities, include a list of extra-curricular activities for school, community service, and work if work is related to community service.
5. Answer the following with an essay using a minimum of 250 to a maximum of 500 words: **“What can I do to help my local Grange grow as an important part of my community?”**
6. Furnish three letters of recommendation from three separate sources other than parents or relatives. Of these three letters, one *must* be from your Subordinate/Community (local) Grange President using the attached form. If one of your parents or relatives is the President of your Grange, the recommendation letter must come from another member of your Grange who is not your parent or relative. All letters of recommendation should be emailed to the Illinois State Grange Secretary at brianjkeller@gmail.com.
7. Applicant must return completed application and all supporting documentation to the Illinois State Grange Secretary via email at brianjkeller@gmail.com by **Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 9 p.m.** While email is preferred and *strongly* encouraged, they may also be sent by USPS Mail to Brian Keller, 703 E 2nd St, O'Fallon, IL 62269, but must be postmarked on or before **March 1, 2026**. If sending by mail, please email or text (618-410-9020) the Illinois State Grange Secretary the date you mailed it so he will know to expect it. Please keep copies of what you sent for reference. Applications or recommendation letters received after the deadline will not be considered.

8. Applicant MUST ATTEND an upcoming statewide Grange event/activity in order to receive their scholarship check. For example: Spring Fling (March 2026), Statewide Grange Picnic (May 2026) or Midwestern Regional Conference (June 2026), State Session (September 2026), GRIT (October 2026), or the Leadership Conference (TBD).

INFORMATION

The President, Vice-President, and Executive Committee of the Illinois State Grange shall have complete control over the awarding of the scholarships and their decision is final.

If the applicant is awarded a scholarship but is unable to use it for any reason this current academic year, then the applicant will be given 30 days to repay the scholarship in full back to the Illinois State Grange. If after 30 days it is not repaid, the applicant will be charged 2% interest until it is totally repaid. The applicant can come before the Executive Committee for an appeal.

**Illinois State Grange Scholarship
Personal Information Form**

1. Name of Applicant _____
2. Address, City, State, Zip code _____
3. Date of Birth _____ Phone _____
4. Parents/Guardians (if applicant under 18) _____
5. Name of Grange _____ No. _____
6. No. of years – Subordinate/Community Grange member _____, Junior Member _____
7. Are you a member of the 5th (____), 6th (____), 7th (____) degree?
8. Name of High School graduated from and year

9. Name of College or University, or Vocational, Technical, or Trade School you will be attending _____

Please check one: _____ Agriculture or related fields, _____ Horticulture,
_____ Education, _____ Nursing or medical field, or _____ Other.

Field of study: _____

Applicant must return completed application and all supporting documentation to the Illinois State Grange Secretary via email at brianjkeller@gmail.com by **Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 9 p.m.** or by USPS mail to Brian Keller, 703 E 2nd St, O'Fallon IL 62269, postmarked on or before **March 1, 2026**. Emailing is strongly encouraged and recommended. Failure to send the application and all required documents by the deadline will eliminate the applicant's name as a scholarship candidate.

Applicant hereby certifies that all information provided is true and complete to the best of the applicant's knowledge, and any falsification of information will cause the application to be rejected.

Date

Signature of Applicant

PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FORM

This section of the Illinois State Grange Scholarship application is to be completed by the President of the Subordinate/Community Grange of the applicant and must be emailed to the Illinois State Grange Secretary at brianjkeller@gmail.com by March 1, 2026 at 9 p.m.

Name of Applicant _____

NOTE: If the President is a parent or relative of the applicant, then please ask someone else in your Grange who is not a parent or relative of the applicant to complete this form.

In the letter of recommendation (use a separate piece of paper), include the following information about the applicant:

- ◆ Attendance at meetings
- ◆ Offices held
- ◆ Membership promotion
- ◆ Ritualism - Degree work – do they hold an office or fill in sometimes
- ◆ Committee participation
- ◆ Community Service involvement
- ◆ Other Comments

This signed recommendation form must accompany any additional pages containing the above information.

Signature of President or Representative _____

Grange Name & No. _____ Date _____

Notes: _____

If emailing is not possible, this form and accompanying information must be mailed to Brian Keller, Illinois State Grange Secretary, 703 E 2nd St, O'Fallon, IL 62269, and be postmarked on or before **March 1, 2026**.