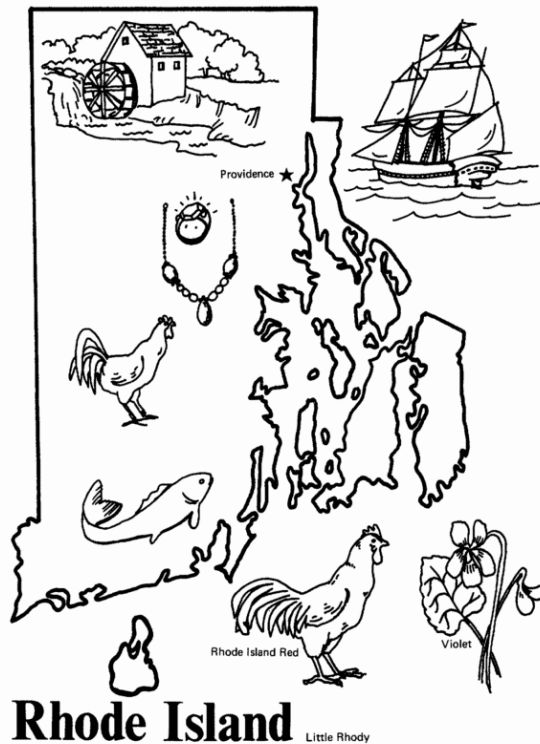




Rhode Island State Grange

Youth Activities Program 2025-26

Youth Co-Directors

Tom and Laura Gotauco
Email: stateyouth@rigrange.org

Committee

Danielle Hartley
Nettie Hartley
Walter Hartley
Eileen Hebert
Gina Poulos
Roxanne Nelson

RISG Youth Department Calendar of Events – 2025-2026

Subject to change

Month	Day	Time	Activity	Location	Notes
To be announced			Karaoke Night	Details to be announced	
January	17	3:00PM	Grange Trivia & Snacks	OakLawn	
March	1		Reservations for bowling		Tom or Laura
March	15		Sign up for digital scavenger hunt		Eileen
March	15	3:00-5:00PM	Bowling Night	Wickford Lanes North Kingstown- Wear Green	Make reservation with Laura or Tom by Mar 1
March 21	Thru June 20		Digital Scavenger Hunt	State wide	Runs for 14 weeks
April	1		Sign up for Bean Bag Baseball tournament		Tom or Laura
May	30	10AM	Youth Activity Day	WCP Fairgrounds	Bean Bag BB Other activities
**June	1		Entries due for: Public Speaking Sign-a-song		To State Youth Director
**September	1		Entries due for: Outstanding Young Adult Youth Night Attendance Youth Night Report		To State Youth Director
**September	1		Entries due for: Youth and Young Ambassador		To National Grange Youth Director
October	2		Session Banquet	RI State session	

** Subject to change when National Grange releases youth department information for next year

**Unless otherwise stated, the contest year for contests will run from
September 1, 2025 thru August 31, 2026**

Bowling Afternoon

(Subject to change)

Youth, Young-at-heart and Friends are invited to join together to enjoy 3 hours of bowling at Wickford Lanes, 7555 Post Rd, North Kingston, RI on Sunday, March 15th at 3:00PM. The cost for this event is \$15.00 (subject to change) for of bowling and shoes included. Please contact (email or call) Tom or Laura by March 1st to let us know you will be attending, so that a sufficient number of lanes can be reserved.

Bean Bag Baseball

To be held in conjunction with Youth Activities Day. Many granges are still playing Beanbag baseball at their meetings and youth nights, so let's have the World Series of Beanbag BB! Any 5 members can be a team, juniors included. Please let either Tom or Laura know if your grange wants to step up to bat (or bag).

Grange Baseball

If you are not up to throwing beanbags, perhaps some intellectual baseball is right down your alley. Come and impress us with your knowledge about the Grange. Field one, two and three base questions or try to knock one out of the park with a homerun answer. This contest is sponsored by the National Grange Youth Department. All are welcome to participate at the state level, but only youth, ages 14-25 are eligible to compete at National.

Youth Activities Day

To be held at the Washington County Fairgrounds on May 30, 2026, starting at 10:00AM. Many activities are being planned such as Bean bag baseball, colors training session, line dancing, a community service project making poppies and thank you cards for veterans, and the cookie baking contest.

S'mores Cookie Contest

Judging at the youth activities day, due by 10AM, and must use recipe supplied. Recipe will be available under the youth department at <http://rigrange.org/books.html>

Youth Night Attendance Contest

We are encouraging all youth and young-at-heart members to attend Youth Nights during the year and enter the Youth Night Attendance Contest. There are two categories: youth and young-at-heart. Keep track of the youth nights that you attend between October 1, 2025 and September 1, 2026 using this form. Entries must be submitted to the Youth Co-Director – Tom & Laura Gotauco by September 15, 2026. Awards will be given at the RI State Grange Session for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category based on the number of youth nights attended.

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Name: _____

Youth member: _____ **Young at heart member:** _____ (Check one)

Grange name: _____

Youth Nights – 2025-2026

Date	Time	Location	Check if attended	Program
October 16	7:00	Newport Cty @ Kickemuit		
February 18	7:30	RW-Rumford		
February 25	7:00	Providence Cty @ Chepachet		
March 2	6:00	Hope Valley		
March 4	7:30	Moosup Valley		
March 9	7:00	Kickemuit		
April 17	7:00	Richmond		
April 21	7:30	Chepachet		
April 26	7:00	Washington Cty @ Perryville		
June 12	7:30	Slocum		

Outstanding Youth/Young Adult

This award is presented to an individual who is actively involved with Grange, on a Subordinate, Pomona or State level. A grange member, Subordinate Grange or a Pomona Grange can make the nomination for this award. An essay containing the following information must be submitted by the person nominating the candidate for Outstanding Young Adult.

1. Member must be 14 to 25 years of age when nominated
2. Nominee must have been a grange member for a minimum of one year
3. This entry must be made by nomination
4. The following information must be provided about the nominee:
 - A. Name, address, Subordinate Grange, Pomona Grange and degrees held
 - B. List of offices held and committees served on
 - C. Describe three major Grange activities and accomplishments
 - D. List school, religious and community organizations
 - E. List Grange contests or awards won

There will be one winner selected and announced at the annual State Grange Session.

Deadline is September 1 to the State Youth Co-Director, Tom & Laura Gotauco

The committee may also select an "Outstanding Young Adult" at their discretion.

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Digital Scavenger Hunt

This is a contest just for fun – it doesn't involve meetings, being talented in needlework or art, and can be done on your own schedule.

Sign up by March 1– email to Eileen - editor@beacon.rigrange.org

1. Contest is open to all subordinate members
2. There will be 2 age groups: Youth-age 14-20 and Adult-age 21+
3. You must have a smart phone, digital camera, or take pictures on film and scan them to a digital image.
4. Each picture must be taken by the person submitting it. No sharing of a picture taken by one person with other people. Exception to this rule: There may be items or subjects on highways, where it would be unsafe to stop to take a picture, so the driver could not take that picture. In this case, someone in the car could take the picture for the driver. I am certainly NOT encouraging people to take pictures while they are driving the car!
5. Pictures do not have to be perfect, as long as the item is distinguishable. This is a scavenger hunt not a photo contest.

Logistics

1. Each picture will be considered the current scavenger item for 7 days. The subject will be published on Saturday morning at 7:00AM. Entry time for this photo shall start at that time and continue thru the following Saturday 7:00AM, at the end of the week.
2. Beginning March 21 (Saturday) at 7:00AM, all participants will receive the current search item for the upcoming week. You have one week to take a picture and send it to Eileen at the above email address. Please include the word "Scavenger" in the subject.
3. The last item will be published on June 20, 2026 and the hunt will finish on June 27, 2026 at 7AM.

You may take a picture of the item at any time, but if it is received after the next item is sent out (1 week), you will receive only 1 point for it.

Points will be awarded as follows:

First picture received	5 points
Second picture received	4 points
Third picture received	3 points
All others received	2 points
After deadline	1 point

First, second and third place winners will be announced at the Youth/Lecturer's Banquet in October.

National Grange Youth Program

Information on National Youth Programs

As of December 1, 2025, the National Grange has not made a 2026 youth program available. The three contests that RI Youth Comm. had listed in last year's book are again listed in the 2026 book for reference, but it is up to the National Grange Youth Department whether they will continue in 2026. We will let everyone know as soon new information is available.

Age Requirements

Grange Youth/Young Adult Ages have recently changed. Please note that the following changes will take a rolling effect over the next 2 years.

Effective **November 2025** - **Grange Youth**- Age 14-20 **Grange Young Adult** - Age 21-25

Although the National Grange Programming ages are changing the State Granges are still encouraged to continue their own Young Adults programs to a later age. Members older than 25 should now be stepping into the role of a Grange mentor and encouraging the younger generation to become involved members as they make the transitions into full adulthood.

Program, contests, awards

The following is a list of Programs, Contests and Achievement Awards sponsored by the National Grange. For the current rules, date requirements and entry forms, please refer to the website: www.nationalgrangeyouth.org

The 2026 National Grange Youth and Young Adult Program Guide will also be available at a future time at:

<http://rigrange.org/books.html>

Sign-A-Song Contest

NEW - States will be responsible for hosting a sign-a-song competition. Each state is to declare one best of show winner for their state contests. State winners will then qualify to participate in the National Grange Sign-A-Song Contest which will be held during the National Grange Convention. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners will receive a cash prize.

Novice – one who is beginning to learn sign, has had no more than three sign language classes and has entered the sign-a-song contest no more than two times.

Hobbyist – one who signs on an occasional basis and strictly for fun. One who has entered the sign a song contest more than two times.

Group – two or more people signing.

Rules

1. The contestant must be the best of show winner from their state.
2. Contestant must provide music to the National Youth Director by November 1 along with their notification of entry.
3. Day of competition contestant must provide 3 copies of their lyrics for the judges.
4. Signers will be judged on
 - a. Communications Skills- Utilization of total communications skills, sign language ability, sign clarity.
 - b. Expression- Body expression/display of emotion, expression of key thoughts through body movement, mouthing words for lip reading
 - c. Overall Presentation- Dressed appropriately, Confidence, Timing/Uniformity
5. Props and Costumes are permitted.
6. Contestants must sign their own name and song title before beginning.
7. The contestant must inform the audience and judge what type of sign language they will be using (Pidgin, ASL, ESL, etc.)

Anyone who is a professional instructor or receives money for signing may not enter and will be deemed ineligible for the National Contest- they are encouraged to participate in the state level as a demonstration only.

National Public Speaking Competition

Notification (to National Youth Director) of participation due November 1

States will be responsible for hosting a public speaking competition. Each state is to declare one best of show winner for their state contests. State winners will then qualify to participate in the National Grange Public Speaking Contest which will be held during the National Grange Convention.

Age Categories:

Youth: 14-20

Young Adult: 21-25

Alumni: 26+

There will only be one category for public speaking and that will be a prepared speech category. States are encouraged to host an impromptu speech contest as a way to encourage the development of public speaking skills within their state. Only Prepared Speech winners will be allowed to move on to the National competition. 1st – 3rd place winners will receive a cash prize.

Prepared Speech:

Topic: Open category- contestants may choose to present a prepared speech over any topic of their choosing.

Time: Speeches must meet the minimum requirement of 3 minutes and a maximum of 5 minutes.

Presentation: The contestant may use a slide show presentation with their speech. However, if the contestant plans to use this presentation at the National Competition, they must share the presentation in advance (By Nov 1) to present it at the National Convention.

Outline: A paper outline must be provided for the judges. Please prepare at least 3 copies.

Question: The contestant will be asked an impromptu question at the conclusion of their speech. This question will relate to the speech topic. The contestant will have one minute to answer.

Rules:

- The contestant must be the Best of Show winner from their state contest.
 - In order to qualify for the National Contest, the contestant must notify the National Youth Director no later than November 1 of the year in which they are competing.
 - The contestant must be a Grange member in good standing.
 - Speeches must meet time requirements: minimum 3 minutes and maximum of 5 minutes.
 - Outlines must be given to the National Youth Director, prior to presentation. 3 copies.
- Contestants will be judged on Text- Content, Composition, and Topic
Delivery- Voice, Command of Audience, Stage Presence, Expression, Mannerisms & Gestures
Impromptu Answer- Response
Other- Time limit, Speech Outline

Youth & Young Adult Ambassador Program

Application Deadline to National Grange: September 1

The purpose of the Ambassador program is to provide the opportunity for Youth and Young Adults to become a representative of their state Grange and a mentor to their peers across the country.

State Ambassadors will have the opportunity to attend the National Grange Convention as a representative of their state. During the Convention they will have the opportunity to build onto their leadership skills, broaden their view of the Grange from a National perspective, receive educational training to be utilized in their own states, and build relationships with Grangers across the nation.

Each State Ambassador will have the opportunity, if they choose, to run for the **National Grange Leadership team**. This team will be composed of leaders from the Youth and Junior Grange departments. The individual(s) selected for the National Leadership team will have the opportunity to be the voice and face of the National Grange youth department for a one-year term. It is at the discretion of the National Grange Directors/President and Interview board how many members are selected to become a member of this team.

Each state may send up to four (4) representatives from their state that meet the following criteria:

- Youth and Young Adult Ambassadors must be between the ages of 16 and 25. Having observed their 16th birthday but not their 26th birthday by December 31 of the year that they attend the National Grange Convention. If under the age of 18 they must have their parents' consent to participate.
- Ambassadors must have been a Grange member in good standing for a minimum of one year at the time they attend the National Grange Convention.

Submit the following by September 1.

Application (use form in National Grange Youth book)

Letters of Recommendations: Subordinate Grange President (or Secretary), State President, State Youth Director (if applicable), and from a person outside the Grange (i.e., teacher, club leader, coach etc.)

Ambassador portfolio- ½ inch binder with photos and highlights from your time in the Grange.

Biography- 500 words to include information about you, your family background, your education, Grange journey, and any other details you see fit.

If running for National Leadership team also include a 1-page essay on why you believe you could make a positive impact as a member of the National Leadership team.

3 4x6 photos- to include a headshot, participation in a Grange activity, and a family photo.

Ambassadors may only run for the National Grange Leadership Team one time as a youth participant and one time as a young adult participant.

Participants will be required to attend National Grange Convention beginning Wednesday evening -Saturday evening.

All Ambassador participants, who have yet to be inducted into the G.R.O.W. Club will be invited to become a member of this elite alumni association of the Grange Youth Department.

A small stipend may be awarded to each candidate based on their participation.

Youth Night Report

Submit the completed form to the Youth Director by September 1st

Name of Grange :

Name of Youth chairperson(s):

Date of youth night:

Visiting youth attendance: _____ **Your own youth attendance:** _____

Did you invite the State Officers and/or State Youth Director to attend? _____

Briefly describe your program for youth night:

Number of participants in program: _____ **Did everyone have fun?** _____

Report is due to State Youth Director by September 1st with any pictures you would like to submit-
use as many pages as necessary to complete report

Sign-a-Song Entry Form

Due to the State Youth Director by June 1st

Name:

Grange Affiliation :

Address:

Phone no: _____ **email (optional)** _____

Performance category: ☐ Novice ☐ Hobbyist ☐ Group

If Group, please list names of all participants:

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Public Speaking Entry Form

Due to the State Youth Director by June 1st

Name:

Grange Affiliation :

Address:

Phone no: _____ **email (optional)** _____

Age category: ☐ 14-20 years ☐ 21-25 years ☐ 26+ years

