

The Dictionary Project

The Grange is a proud supporter of the Dictionary Project through its Words For Thirds program. Through the tireless efforts of the Grange's network of more than 300,000 volunteers, the Grange has presented third grade students across the nation with more than 100,000 dictionaries.

Other worthy organizations are jumping onto the bandwagon and distributing dictionaries in schools as well, and Granges may find themselves competing with these organizations to distribute dictionaries! The National Grange and the Oregon State Grange are encouraging all Granges to present school students in their communities with dictionaries. You need not limit yourselves to just 3rd grade students, as The Dictionary Projects sells dictionaries for nearly every grade throughout school.

The Dictionary Project program packets are available to help Granges institute this program in their communities. The packets include: an instruction and presentation guide, a sample letter to send to schools, a dictionary project overview and order form, a label template, a participation form, sample press release, and sample media advisory. For information about this program or to request a packet, please contact The National Grange at 1-888-447-2643.

- Besides contacting the National Grange, additional information can be obtained from:

The Dictionary Project
PO Box 1845
Charleston, SC 29402
843-856-2706
www.dictionaryproject.org

- The dictionary is for the child to keep. Each child can take the dictionary into future grades and use it throughout their school career. Reading is the most important skill of all. It is the starting point for all of the economic and social opportunities this world has to offer.

- We believe the power of the gift resides in the giving. Volunteers visit with each third grade class for 10 to 15 minutes to give the students a pep-talk to use the dictionary and telling them to always "look it up" when they meet a new word.
- This is an excellent way of involving the Grange in our communities and meeting some new "young" friends on the way. Labels can be put in each dictionary to let the student know your Grange donated their dictionary to them.

There are numerous ways we can become involved in our communities. For some great ideas on projects, go to the National Grange website, www.nationalgrange.org, then go to the Program Resources and National Community Service. There are many interesting ways your Grange can become involved in your community. Make yourself and your Grange well informed of the needs in your community. Be creative and above all...Good luck and have fun!