

Horizon Leadership Ambassador Program

The purpose of the Horizon Leadership Ambassador program is to provide an opportunity for youth and young couples, selected to represent their state at a National Grange convention, to build their individual leadership potential, to broaden their view of the Grange by experiencing a National Convention, to receive educational training to use in their own states, to build relationships with Grangers throughout the nation by having fun.

The National Grange Horizon Leadership Ambassador program is an opportunity for youth selected by their state to participate in activities as guests of The Grange Foundation, Youth Leadership Fund. The National Grange will provide scholarship assistance toward room and meal costs at the National Grange convention.

Each state may send two youths and/or one young couple who meet the following criteria:

1. Youth ambassadors must be 16-21 years of age, have observed their 16th birthday, but not their 22 birthday by December 31 of the year they attend the National convention. These individuals must also be single, never been married, have no children, and must not marry and/or have children during term of service. If under 18, must have parents' consent.
2. Young couples must be between the ages of 18-35, have observed their 18th birthday, but not their 36th birthday by December 31 of the year they attend national session.
3. Ambassadors/Young Couples must have been a Grange member for a minimum of one year.
4. Previous state Ambassadors/Young Couples who have participated in this program at the National Grange Convention are not eligible. Exception: Young Couples who are former Youth Ambassadors are eligible to participate.
5. Ambassadors/Young Couples must meet their state's requirements.
6. Ambassadors/Young Couples must be able to attend the national convention to represent their state during Youth Activities Days (Wednesday evening through Saturday). Ambassadors/Young Couples must complete three seals in the Oliver Hudson Kelley Achievement Award.
7. Ambassadors/Young Couples must also complete the requirements for a minimum of two seals of any of the achievement awards between September 1 of the previous year and by October 15 of the current year.
8. Ambassadors/Young Couples must attend a regional youth conference in the past two years before national session.
9. Each Horizon Leadership Ambassador/Young Couple will be expected to complete a Grange Trivia Challenge with a score of at least 80% prior to attending the convention. Trivia Challenge must be returned to the National Director by **October 15** of the current year. Trivia Challenges may be obtained from the National Director or the National Grange website www.nationalgrangeyouth.org.
10. The official application form must be completed and postmarked by **September 10**. Send to the National Grange Youth Development Director. The application must include a summary of your Grange activities in the following areas: Fellowship, activities, recognition, fun, leadership, service, and membership.
11. The following letters of recommendation are to be sent with the application:
 - Subordinate/Community Grange, preferably Master or Secretary
 - State Master
 - State Youth Director

12. Horizon Leadership youth ambassadors will be housed together at the National Grange Convention with up to three other official participants per room.
13. Young Couples will be housed in the same area.
14. Horizon Leadership Ambassadors/Young Couples will be recognized at the National Convention during the Evening of Excellence.
15. Ambassadors/Young Couples or individual states are responsible for their own transportation and convention registration fee.
16. The Grange Foundation Youth Leadership fund will provide each ambassador with the following tickets:
 - Tour
 - Pizza Party
 - Junior Tour
 - Banquet
 - Invitation to AOLE Dinner

Additional State Requirements

- All applicants must submit an essay of at least 500 words but no more than 750 words on “How would you change the Grange?”
- Applicants must attend 50% of their Subordinate/Community Grange meetings and one Pomona meeting from June 30 of the previous year to July 1 of the current year.
- Young Couple applicants must earn at least 300 points for leadership activities and at least 300 points for community involvement or involvement in other organizations (see application) in order to be eligible. These activities don’t have to be completed in the year you are applying but must be completed since you became a Grange member.

- The application package must be submitted to the State Youth Co-Directors by **May 15**.
- A three-person committee appointed by the State Master and/or State Youth Co-Directors shall select the state winners.
- Judges will score applicants on the following items:

Personal essay	100 pts
Application	50 pts
Letters of recommendation (2)	50 pts
Total possible	200 pts

- Winners will be announced at the youth banquet Thursday evening of the state session. Each will receive a certificate and will represent Oregon at the regional conference and the national convention the year of their reign.
- The Horizon Leadership Ambassadors will serve a one-year term on the State Youth Committee and will be available as a state resource to help plan, promote, and conduct Grange activities.