

Public Speaking Contest

The purpose of this contest is to aid in the development of public speaking abilities and to build self-confidence in the participating Grange members.

There will be three categories for the public speaking contest along with three age groups.

Categories

- A. Prepared speech: Contestants will choose a topic and speak on it for a minimum of four minutes and a maximum of seven minutes. They will also answer one question related to their speech topic.
- B. Elevator speech: The scenario for this category is you have met someone in an elevator or been stopped in a restaurant and asked, "What is the Grange?" Your task is to explain what the Grange is to this person in one and one-half minutes (90 seconds).
- C. Impromptu speech: An impromptu speech is delivered without preparation or thought ahead of time. Participants will draw two topics, select their choice of the two, and return the other one. Topics will be provided by the State Youth Co-Directors. The time minimum is one minute and maximum is seven minutes.

Age categories

- 13-19 years of age
- 20-29 years of age
- 30+ years of age

Rules

- This competition is open to Grange members only.
- State competition will be held during the annual state Grange session.
- State contestants are required to submit three copies of the manuscript of their speech to the State Youth Director by **Sunday** of state session.

- A panel of three judges with public speaking abilities will judge. The judges will score each contestant on an individual basis and then collectively determine the rankings of the contestants. Score sheets will be returned at the state contest but not at the regional and national contests. A time for private evaluation with the judges will also be offered to each speaker only at the state contest.
- A time keeper will hold up hand when the one minute mark has been reached and then signal when 30 seconds remain.
- The state winner in each category will receive a certificate plus \$25. The second place winner will receive a certificate and \$15. The third place winner will receive a certificate and \$10.
- Those wishing to enter must notify the State Youth Co-Directors by **May 15**.

Scoring guidelines

- One point will be deducted for every 30 seconds a participant goes over the time limit.
- Score sheets will be returned to entrants.

Elevator Speech

Text	Max
Content: Information gathered and included in speech	15
Composition: The speech was compiled in a manner that was easy to understand	15
Delivery	
Voice: Spoke clearly, easy to understand	10
Stage Presence: Dressed neatly and appropriately, posture, nervousness	20
Expression: Delivered speech with enthusiasm and emotion	20

Prepared Speech

The score sheet is same as for the elevator speech except the answer to impromptu

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question will also be judged. The maximum is 80 points.

Impromptu answer	
Response was thought out and delivered without much hesitation	20

Impromptu Speech

	Max
Voice: Spoke clearly, easy to understand	10
Stage Presence: Dressed neatly and appropriately, posture, nervousness	
Expression: Delivered speech with enthusiasm and emotion	20
Confidence in speaking, Content of speech	15
Clarity of thoughts and ideas on topic	15

- One overall winner from each region will be selected to showcase at the National Grange Convention and receive \$100.00.

Regional Competition

- Regional competition will be held in August. Those eligible to participate in the regional competition will have their motel, registration, and travel expenses paid. Oregon contestants who win at the regional competition will be awarded three night's hotel and travel expenses to the national competition.
- If the first place winner is unable to compete at the next level of competition, the second place winner will be allowed to take their place in the competition and will receive the travel benefits.
- At the regional competition, National Grange will provide ribbons to the top three entrants in each division and age category along with cash prizes: 1st place: \$20, 2nd place: \$15, 3rd place: \$10.
- The Best of Show winner will receive a special award and \$25. Impromptu public speaking category entries are not eligible for Best of Show.