

2022-23 Distinguished Grange Program Application and Guidelines

The Distinguished Grange program honors Subordinate and State Granges that fulfill their responsibilities as part of the National Grange, while excelling in areas of membership, fundraising and service to their communities. The 2022-23 Distinguished Granges will be honored for their work done from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

The award for being named a Distinguished Grange is presented annually at the National Grange Convention at a special program and mentioned in the convention program. They will receive a certificate to commemorate their achievement. Granges that qualify as a Distinguished Grange for five consecutive years will receive a plaque for their Hall.

Submitting your Application

The postmark or online submission deadline to submit your materials to be considered for Distinguished Grange is August 1, 2023. Applications received after this deadline will not be awarded Distinguished Grange.

You can choose any one of three ways to submit your application for Distinguished Grange.

- **Option 1**

Please complete the application attached and send along with any supporting documents by mail to National Grange, 1616 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20006, ATTN: Distinguished Grange.

- **Option 2**

You may choose to submit your application via a single online form, the link to which will be made available at www.nationalgrange.org/distinguished starting January 1, 2023.

- **Option 3**

Finally, you can choose to submit your application and supporting documents via email to lwashington@nationalgrange.org. Our servers only accept emails of 5.0 MB or smaller, so you may have to send documents in follow up emails. If so, please indicate DG – Grange Name in each subject line.

Review & Assessment Prior to Deadline

If you wish to have your application material reviewed as you believe something your Grange has completed may qualify or meet a requirement, please contact Loretta Washington at lwashington@nationalgrange.org prior to the August 1 deadline.

2023 DISTINGUISHED SUBORDINATE GRANGE APPLICATION

Grange & Number: _____

Name of Submitter: _____

Current position held in Grange: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Years Awarded Distinguished Grange prior: _____

Required

___ **Submit all quarterly reports and dues on time to your State Grange** (State Grange must provide verification email or letter to you; attach to application).

___ **Send at least one Delegate** (or member if you are ineligible to send a delegate or delegates) **to State Grange Convention.**

Name _____

Name _____

___ **Send at least two Subordinate Grange Officers or Members to another National Grange, State Grange or regional event.**

Name _____ **Title** _____
Event _____

Name _____ **Title** _____
Event _____

___ **Submit a community service report to your state. (Oct. 2022)**

In addition to completing all the requirements above, you must complete some or all of the following, with points adding to 100 or more in order to qualify as a Distinguished Grange.

___ Maintain membership or increase membership. (20 pts.) Members as of 7/1/22 _____
Members as of 6/30/23 _____

___ Achieve a net gain in your Junior Grange or Junior 1+ members. (15 pts.)

___ Host at least one visit by a State or National Grange representative to your Subordinate Grange and allow them to offer information/a message to your membership. Attach Description (including date, etc.) (10 pts.)

___ ***Host/organize a program on Mental health for your Grange and the community as part of the Rural Minds Program (send photo of event. If you do this, you will qualify as a "Golden Distinguished Grange" (20 pts)***

___ Invite a Youth from another Grange, or from FFA or 4-H, to speak at a meeting. (10 pts.)

___ Ensure that at least three members of your Grange have subscriptions to the National Grange quarterly magazine, *Good Day!* (10 pts.)

___ Present a resolution on an issue to your State Grange on something other than Grange Growth or Grange Law. *Make sure your State Grange and/or National Grange do not already have the same policy. (5 pts.)

___ Update your grange.org website with at least meeting time, day and location and contact information for at least one officer/director OR contact the National Grange to have your grange.org website forward to your present website. Site must also include at least a few paragraphs about your Grange's mission or service to the community/relevance. (If you have done this in previous years, thanks! You can count it again IF the information is up-to-date.) (10 pts.)

URL address for your website: _____

___ Establish or ensure current Grange Facebook page is up to date (under About tab) with at least your Grange's meeting information (dates, times, place), and contact information for someone in your Grange. Make sure your page shows a bit of what your Grange does – community service, events, Lecturer's programming, etc., to let visitors know what to expect if they were to join your Grange or visit. (15 pts.)

URL address for your Facebook page: _____

___ Connect your membership with some element of Degree work, ritual, history or foundational documents of the Grange (we recommend use of the Grange Heirloom Program). Attach a paragraph to describe what you did. (10 points)

___ Host/organize at least **three** community service or educational events. (20 pts.) Provide information on each event.

____Host a forum with public officials for your community to attend or hold a legislative event, candidate forum, Grangers Organized to Vote event or make at least one legislative issue contact with a public official on the local, state or national level. (10 pts.) Provide information on each event.

____Host at least one Youth/Young Adult event or youth community service activity. Attach information about the event(s). (10 pts.)

____Host a Junior event or Junior 1+ event or a Junior community service activity. Attach information about the event(s). (10 pts.)

____Hold an open house/public Grange event to introduce your organization to the community, engage in conversation about what needs are currently unmet in your community that a group like the Grange may be able to assist with. Provide a description about the event and community attendance/reactions. (15 pts)

____Honor veterans with a Patriot's Program or nominate a veteran for a Quilt of Valor and host the award ceremony. Please provide the name(s) of those you recognized. (10 pts.)

____Incorporate the National Grange theme, "Raised Right Here," into your programming, activities, outreach or promotions. You can learn more about the theme and ideas by visiting nationalgrange.org/raisedrighthere . Please provide information about how you used the theme.(15 points)

____Take part in a community day, county fair or other event in your area where you have a booth or display that promotes your Grange's activities and provides membership information. (Attach a photo of your booth/display) (10 points) *[Hint: By incorporating Raised Right Here into your display/booth, you may also be able to check off the Raised Right Here 15 points above]*

____ Sponsor or host at least one activity - such as a Lecturer's Program, a community forum, a one-day event, etc. - where you are presenting members and the public with a way in which to support local farms, artists and/or businesses. Please include the title/topic and a bit of information about the event. (10 points) *[Hint: By incorporating Raised Right Here into your display/booth, you may also be able to check off the Raised Right Here 15 points above]*

____Provide at least one press clip showing you are publicizing your Grange, Grange events or have a good relationship with your local press. (5 pts.)

____ Contribute at least \$100 to any fund in the National Grange Foundation (make checks payable to Grange Foundation) on the memo line note which program and/or department. (10 points)

TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS _____
Minimum of 100 points required