

Guidelines for Educational Grange Fair Exhibits

In keeping with Grange Tradition and Heritage, Grange displays should follow an agricultural theme and attempt to communicate an understanding of the Grange to the general public. We in no way want to abandon the agricultural theme; particularly since these exhibits are placed at Agricultural Fairs! If your Grange has exhibited in the past, think of this as “repackaging” and “updating.”

To assist Granges in developing a display and to provide criteria for judges, the following categories will be considered. It is not necessary for the display to have separate sections for each category. The intention of the display is to capture the interest of passer’s by and create awareness and understanding of Grange and our activities.

At first glance, these guidelines may seem a bit broad and perhaps even “vague.” But judging is that: judging. Instead of focusing o what items are I a booth, we want to focus on how well we communicate with people whose only exposure to Grange may be walking by our displays at the Fair. The overall question exhibitors and judges should ask themselves is “how well are we doing explaining the Grange, its purpose, its members, its activities?”

OVERALL APPEARANCE OF DISPLAY

This includes the use of a theme, proper placement of flag and Bible, neatness and “attention getting.”

Judges will consider:

- Does the display have an “inviting” look? Will people stop? (100 Points Maximum)**
- Will people leave the display with a better understanding of what the Grange is and why they might want to join? (100 Points Maximum)**
- Does the display suggest that being a Grange is fun and carries social and practical benefits? (100 Points Maximum)**
- Does the display have a clearly stated and clearly display Educational theme? (100 Points Maximum)**
- Does the display incorporate most or all of the aspects of Grange? (160 Points Maximum)**

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS

Rather than attempt to fill the display with agricultural items, you are encouraged to include a representation of quality items in an attractive manner. The list that follows is meant only as a “shopping list” of items to include. You are encouraged to include items specific to your Grange. For example, if someone in your Grange is a dairy farmer, include a representation of dairy products (compliments of...Grange Member). Do not allow the booth to take on a commercial look, but do recognize your membership! The message is that Grange Members are good stewards of their land. (40 Points) (Produce may include fresh fruits and vegetables, canned items, pickles, dairy products, eggs, honey and syrup, herbs, grains, grasses, cooked foods, jams and jellies. Remember that many fairs require perishable items to be “preserved” by spraying with lacquer.)

Judges will consider:

- Does the display include a good variety (diversity) of items? (10 Points Maximum)**
- Are the quality of items displayed of good quality? (10 Points Maximum)**
- Are the items displayed attractively? (10 Points Maximum)**
- Does the display “make a statement” about Grange...its heritage, membership, values? (10 Points Maximum)**

FAMILY HEALTH & HEARING

Grange Members also care about their health. As part of your display, show the public your Grange's efforts to promote good health. There are many options in this category...you might demonstrate some of the programs your Grange has done or participates in...you might offer information to fair-goers that not only demonstrates a "healthy outlook" but shows how Grange reaches into the Community to encourage good health. Note that hearing was/is an important issue to the agricultural community! (40 points)

Judges will look for information that is clear and understandable. Variety is less important in this category than the "power of the message."

___ Does the display show Grange's interest in Family Health and Hearing?

(10 Points Maximum)

___ Does the display provide useful health information? (10 Points Maximum)

___ is the message clear and understandable? (10 Points Maximum)

___ Will passers-by leave the display with a better understanding of a least one health matter? (10 Points Maximum)

CHILDREN & WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

This category somewhat replaces the former "Domestic Exhibit." You'll want to demonstrate the talents of your members. Again, more is not necessarily better. "Look what we can do!" in a prideful but not boastful way. If you Grange or Members have won prizes or awards for handiwork...why not include those prizes? An example of "crossover" between categories might be knitting hats for preemies...that's community service too! (40 Points)

Judges will look for a variety of quality products.

___ Is there a variety (diversity) of "handiwork" projects? (10 Points Maximum)

___ Are the projects displayed attractively, without clutter? (10 Points Maximum)

___ Are the projects shown of good quality, creativity, and workmanship?
(10 Points Maximum)

___ Does the display of projects have a message? (10 Points Maximum)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

This is an important category. Your display should show how the Granges has and does serve its community. If you keep a Community Service Book think of this category as putting highlights from your book (not necessarily pages, but information) "on stage." (40 Points)

Judges will award points based on the impact of the projects and the manner of presentation.

___ Is there a variety of projects (formal, informal, time, money, etc.) (10 Points Maximum)

___ Does the display demonstrate the quality of the projects "jobs well done?"
(10 Points Maximum)

___ Do the projects shown indicate a diversity of people served? (Young, old, patriotic, charitable, health related, etc.) (10 Points Maximum)

___ Were the projects visible and did they have a positive impact? (10 Points Maximum)

These guidelines were revised from the Piscataquis Pomona Fair Committee for use at all Maine Agricultural Fairs.