

Mandy Project

Cindy Greer, Director

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The purpose of the Mandy Project is to help children with hearing loss to become productive citizens and to provide assistance to a family experiencing hardship due to a child's hearing loss.

As many children will be helped as possible and as funds are available. Families with a child who has a hearing loss will be chosen through the application process to receive funding assistance to help cover costs of hearing aids, speech therapy, surgery or other related expenses.

Brochures can be obtained by contacting the State Director.

Granges who sponsor a special fundraiser or make a donation to the Mandy Project will receive a special certificate at State Convention.

Every Grange should have a "Do You Know the Signs" poster up in their hall or in the building where they meet if at all possible. Brochures with the same information are available and should also be available for distribution at your meeting place.

Granges are encouraged to give these posters and brochures to their local schools, pre-schools, and Kindergarten classes. Early intervention is important to a child's learning when hearing loss is involved. Posters and Brochures can be obtained through the Mandy Project Director.

Granges are encouraged to collect Campbell's product UPC Symbols for the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. Bring the symbols to the State Grange Convention and we will pass them on to the school.

Granges might also sponsor sign language classes in their halls.

Subordinate And Pomona Grange Activities Suggestions

- A. Sponsor, host, or promote Sign Language classes or a Sign A Song contest for the community.
- B. Support legislation and encourage assistance for the hearing impaired.
- C. Sponsor a special fundraiser for the Mandy Project and assist in distributing Mandy Project flyers/brochures.
- D. Promote Hearing Testing
- E. Assist Lecturer with a program educating members and non-members about deafness or hearing loss.
- F. Write articles about Grange Deaf Activities Projects and send to local news media during May, which is a special month for deaf awareness.
- G. Each Grange should have posters up on Signs of Deafness or Hearing Loss for
 - 1) Adults
 - 2) Children
- H. Promote Finger Spelling Bees, Sign Language Challenges, and Sign A Song competitions.
- I. Create a container to hold Campbell's product UPC symbols so members can bring them to a central location



for the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind.

Sign A Song Contest

Regional opportunities will be held in conjunction with the State Lecturer. Participants will be eligible to participate in the Great Plains Regional Youth conference in July.

1. Participants are to submit three copies of the words to the song they are signing.
2. Participants must provide their own music. A cassette and CD player will be available.
3. Anyone who is a professional instructor or receives money for signing may not enter.
4. Signers must use total communication techniques: Sign Language, facial expressions, mouthing of words for lip reading, finger spelling if appropriate, and body movement.
5. Props and costumes are not allowed, rhythm is optional.
6. There are three categories
 - A. **Novice** — one who is beginning to learn sign, has had no more than three sign language classes and has entered the Sign a Song contest no more than two years.
 - B. **Hobbyist** — one who signs on an occasional basis and strictly for fun. One who has entered the Sign a Song contest more than two years.
 - C. **Group** — two or more people signing.
7. Only one song may be signed during the competition performance. Medleys are not allowed.
8. Participants must sign their own name and song title. First place winners will receive \$25.

Youth Program

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The Youth Department is open to all ages with only a couple of contests restricted to age. Thus, anyone from very youthful to youthful seniors can enter these contests!

Youth/Junior Officers — will be opening the Colorado State Grange Session on Saturday morning. We need youth age and Junior age Grangers to serve as officers. Following the opening and the Junior Luncheon, a special Fun Activity will be planned.

Hospitality Room — The Youth department will operate the Hospitality room at State Session. Food donations and monetary donations are appreciated.

Family Camp — Watch *The Colorado Granger* for details. There are many contests and activities available for the youth. Please submit your ideas and suggestions to the State Youth Department. Send your email and/or snail mail address to the State Director to receive upcoming information. Check the National Grange website (www.nationalgrange.org) and the State Grange website (www.coloradogranger.org/youth) for youth programs and updated information. Remember you are a Grange member!! Participate in all Grange activities and programs. Help make the Grange GROW!

Great Plains Regional Leadership Conference will be hosted by Kansas in June. Public Speaking, Sign A Song, Grange Jeopardy and Parliamentary procedure contests will be held.

National Grange 151st Convention will be November 7-11, 2017, in Spokane, Washington. Youth Officers, Ambassadors, Young Couples, Legislative experience participants re opportunities for those who meet the qualifications. Youth have the opportunity to participate in workshops, tours, contests and parties.