



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

August 14, 2020

DON'T LET THE CONNECTION GO COLD

As we are not permitted to meet, we ask you to share these newsletters by forwarding this or printing and mailing to your Grange friends

Become a Positive Influence for the upcoming school year

By Samantha Wilkins, National Junior Grange Director

My goodness our world changed in the last six months!

With our students thrown into an entirely new school system, to weeks of not being able to leave the house. In what we thought would be a short-lived experience that only impacted the last half of school, here we are watching our school boards debate. We did not expect to be making alternative plans for our children's education as schools continue to flip-flop their choices on whether we will have an in-person class or a continued extension of online schooling.

Many unknowns about how the next few months will shake out has many of us on edge. Trying to explain to our children that plans could change day by day or that they won't be going back to a traditional classroom for a while is tough.

I know myself as a parent had to break the news to my kiddos that many of our plans for the fall would have to wait. Currently our school is planning hybrid schedules for some grades while others will go every day and then some groups will be completing a virtual education. I look at the fall schedule that has been presented for my family and I am stressed.

We have all dealt with a lot over the last few months and we still see many months of unknowns and sudden changes ahead of us. I cannot control the world around me, but I can make sure that my feelings of doubt and frustration do not rub off on my children.

During this time, it is important to know that we as parents or teachers and even Junior Grange leaders play a significant role in how our children will react to the upcoming school year. It does not matter if you are planning to be virtual, hybrid, full time, or any other alternative education schedule it is important for us to continue to remain positive.

Reinforcement by definition is the act of strengthening a certain behavior so that it is more likely to be repeated. This can and does involve specific acts such as praise, recognition, rewards, or appreciation for a job well done. When we use this positive reinforcement, we give it power to inspire and motivate our learners.

It is so incredibly important that we integrate positive reinforcement into our learning environment no matter what that environment may look like.

According to the eLearning Industry there are six ways in which we can create and encourage positive learning behaviors.

- 1) Personalize your Praise
- 2) Offer positive constructive feedback
- 3) Reward positive behavior immediately
- 4) Design activities that focus on progress and improvement
- 5) Don't offer rewards on a regular basis
- 6) Recognize top learners by integrating leaderboards or other reward systems (this can work well with multiple children in the home)

Other ways that you can create a positive learning environment for your children is by keeping yourself positive- do not express your frustrations about a teacher or an assignment in front of your children. When you express these frustrations the learner may mimic similar frustration and as a result make it hard for them to build a positive relationship with both their teacher and education.

Junior Leaders and Granges- what can you do?

Understandably many of our Junior Granges have not been meeting in regular form due to the pandemic and some of us may have felt a disconnected from our Grange families. With this a lot of questions about how we can recreate that connection again arise. Without a doubt your Juniors may be feeling some of the stress related to the start of the new school year. I want to encourage you to find creative ways to reach out to your Juniors- since gatherings are discouraged see what other things you can come up with that are not computer based. Our children could be spending countless hours in front of a screen and we really want to give their little eyes and brain a rest.

Here are a few ideas that you could maybe implement with your Juniors:

- 1) Send them cards- Kids love getting mail and a card encouraging them the continue the good work would mean so much to them
- 2) Offer tutoring or lending a hand in another capacity- parents that will have kiddos home over the school year are going to have times where they need some help. That help may be in the form of tutoring or just a break from the day to day routine that will also give the Juniors a break.
- 3) Have your Grange sponsor activity baskets- provide your Juniors with a basket full of goodies- such as bubbles, chalk, coloring books, age appropriate books, gift cards to their favorite ice cream shop etc.
- 4) Arrange a small group activity at your Grange- A movie night or hike or even an evening where you can all get together and create entries for the Junior Contests.
- 5) Set up photo scavenger hunt throughout town or around your Grange.
- 6) A virtual karaoke or BINGO night

The possibilities are endless- but what I really encourage is for you to begin thinking outside of the box on how you can encourage your Juniors, create positive environments, and most of all have fun. Let's get away from spreading negativity and turn this into a positive experience. Life and school will be stressful enough- let's do our part in creating something good!

For questions or to share your ideas- contact National Junior Grange Director, Samantha Wilkins at junior@nationalgrange.org



Avoid Contact Tracing Scams

From the FCC

Contact tracing is a public health technique used to identify individuals who have had close contact with someone known to have the virus. Because of the urgent need to notify those that may have been exposed and prevent larger outbreaks, tracers will often use a variety of methods to contact the individual, including calls and text messages.

Scammers follow the headlines and have started impersonating contact tracers. Patrick Webre, Chief of the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau recently addressed this scam in an interview with ABC New York's 7 On Your Side. <https://abc7ny.com/7-on-your-side-covid-scams-coronavirus-covid-19/6345390/>

Be aware, legitimate contact tracers will not ask for:

- Insurance information
- Bank account information
- Credit card numbers
- Social Security numbers
- or payment


If a caller asks for any of the above, hang up.

Contact tracers will also never reveal the identity of the person who tested positive. They will also be able to provide current local testing locations.

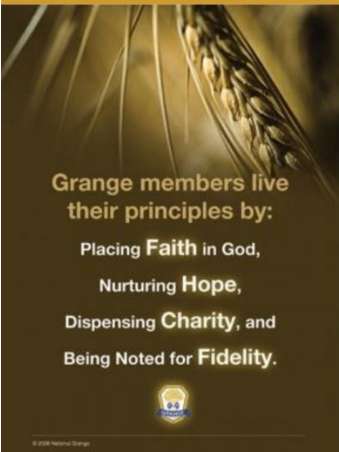
Scammers are also using text messages to impersonate contact tracers. Never click on a link in a text message from an unknown sender, it may install malware onto your device or take you to a phony website designed to collect personal information.

Learn more about contact tracing scams by visiting: <https://www.fcc.gov/fear-fuels-covid-19-contact-tracing-scams>.

Check with your state's health department or COVID-19 task force to learn how they are implementing contact tracing and how they plan to contact individuals who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Contact tracing methods may vary by state. The FCC's [COVID-19 Consumer Guide](#) has information about coronavirus scams and how you can avoid becoming a victim, along with helpful tips on cell phone hygiene and optimizing your home wireless network, and more.

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For questions, email Amanda at communications@nationalgrange.org



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These supplemental benefit policies pay cash directly to the members for members to use as they see fit. Members will never receive a 1099 or be taxed in any way on the cash benefits paid from these policies.

Cash benefits are paid if Grange members (policy holders) have an accident and use the services of a hospital emergency room or urgent care center, contract internal cancer, experience a heart attack or stroke, need major organ transplants, use certain services of their dentist and more.

Please go to www.aflac.com/nationalgrange or call Theon Karabatsos at 561-398-1204 or email theon_karabatsos@us.aflac.com

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