

From the desk of the *Editor*

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April is recognized as Grange Month by the National Grange. It is a time when Granges across the country showcase their community impact, honor members, and welcome new friends through open houses and special events. On social media, Grangers show off their Grange pride during Spirit Week or highlight their projects and events.

But just because April has officially been designated for this purpose doesn't mean the spirit of Grange Month has to be confined to a single page of the calendar. In fact, any month—whether it marks an anniversary, a local festival, or simply a renewed energy within the Grange—can be a time for your Grange to shine.

For some Granges, another month may hold even greater significance: Maybe your Grange was chartered in July, or your town hosts its most significant event in September; maybe December is when you feel the strongest connection to your community through holiday service projects. Whatever the case, "Grange Month" is not just about a time of year, it's about an attitude and a commitment to engaging with your community year-round.

Keeping the Spirit Alive All Year Long

The enthusiasm that surrounds Grange Month can serve as a launching pad for activities that sustain excitement and engagement throughout the year. April's open house can become an annual tradition, where members invite guests to learn more about the Grange and get involved. If your Grange typically plans a recognition night for community leaders, why not use that as inspiration to spotlight dedicated individuals every few months?

Every month presents new opportunities for service, education, and advocacy. With its connection to National Heart Month, February might be the perfect time for a CPR training class. August, a peak time for agriculture, could highlight local farmers through a farm-to-table dinner or an agricultural awareness event. When you think about it, every season provides an opportunity to showcase the values that the Grange upholds.

A Personalized Approach to Community Engagement

Each Grange and community is different, so celebrating Grange Month at the right time for your Grange is key. Have conversations about what might work best for your members and neighbors. If your town's annual fair is in August, consider making that the focus of a Grange-hosted community event, with a Grange



exhibit and member drive. If school starts in September, that might be the perfect time to launch an essay contest or supply drive, working with the local PTA.

The important thing is that your Grange remains visible and active. It's easy to generate momentum in April when other Granges celebrate, but sustaining that energy requires thoughtful planning and consistent outreach.

A Call to Action

At its core, the Grange is about service. Whether it's through fundraising, legislative advocacy, or educational programs, we exist to strengthen rural and small-town communities alike. By extending the spirit of Grange Month beyond April, we reinforce our commitment to the community around us and ensure that our neighbors know they can rely on us in every season.

Grange Month is more than just a moment—it's a mindset. By making every month an opportunity for outreach, service, and celebration, we strengthen our Granges and deepen our ties to our communities.

So this year, take Grange Month beyond April. Make it personal, make it relevant, and most importantly, make it impactful. No matter when you celebrate, the Grange's message of community, family, and service remains the same, and that's something worth sharing every single month.

If you want to make it "extra" official and personalized for your Grange, work with your local or state legislators to get a proclamation for your Grange. Be sure to invite these officials to your events so they can see the tremendous impact your Granges have on the local economy and the people who make your community unique.

Remember: Every month should be Grange Month. Let's make it happen!

