



CELEBRATING 72 YEARS OF SERVING THE YOUTH OF JEFFERSON CITY (1946 – 2018)  
P.O. Box 105095, JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65110-5095

November 8, 2018

#### CONTACTS

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#### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 2018-2019

During **Optimist International's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** year, the **Optimist Club of Jefferson City** is encouraging area students, under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2018, to participate in this year's **ESSAY** and/or **ORATORICAL** contests for college scholarships.

This year's **essay subject** is **"When All the World's Problems are Solved, is Optimism Still Necessary?"** Each participant will be required to complete an application and submit it along with the essay. The essay must contain at least 700 words but no more than 800 words (every word in the essay is counted - but does not include the Title, bibliography or foot notes; and hyphenated words count as one word). Further guidance on official contest rules will be found on the application itself which must be submitted with the essay along with a copy of the student's birth-certificate or passport to validate age eligibility. The **deadline for submission of ESSAY contest** will be **January 25, 2019**, and contest application, essay, and copy of birth certificate/ passport should be mailed to Optimist Club, P.O. Box 105095, Jefferson City, MO 65110. Local winners will receive a medal award and advance to District competition to compete for a \$2500 college scholarship.

The Optimist Club will hold a **combined gender oratorical contests** with boys and girls. Interested students should prepare their own speech on **this year's topic, "Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality?"** The contestants may receive advice in the preparation of the speech and may make minor changes or improvements in the speech at any time. The official contest rules are found on the application itself. The speech should be at least four minutes but not longer than five minutes, and any quotations or copyrighted material used in the speech must be identified verbally during the presentation and in the written copy of the speech with the original author's name. The Optimist Oratorical Contest gives young people the chance to speak before others and gain confidence in public speaking. All contestants at each level of competition must furnish a **copy of their birth-certificate or passport** to validate age, **with their entry application** before competing. Local winners at the Club level will receive medallions and advance to Zone, Regional, and District competition to compete for a \$2500 first place, \$1500 second place, and \$1000 third place scholarships at District level. The **deadline for submitting oratorical applications** to the Club will be **February 15, 2019**, and

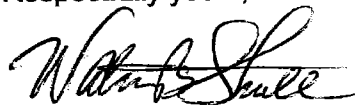
the Club level contests will be held **March 4, 2019** with backup date March 18, 2019. If contestant would like mentoring please indicate that on your application. Return your **application, a written copy of the speech and copy of birth certificate/passport** to the Optimist Club, P.O. Box 105095, Jefferson City, MO 65110 as early as possible to allow time for a mentor to assist. Remember, the club contest is only 16-days beyond the **application deadline** so don't wait until the deadline to request a mentor.

A college scholarship worth \$2500 will be awarded to the winner at the District level ESSAY contest. A \$2500 scholarship, a \$1500 scholarship, and a \$1000 scholarship will be awarded at the District level ORATORICAL contest for the 1<sup>st</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners. The District winner will advance to the International Regional level to compete for a \$5000 1<sup>st</sup> place scholarship and chance to advance to the International World championship level to compete for \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$7,500 scholarships (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places). **Overall, the Oratorical winner has the potential to win a total of \$22,500 in college scholarships.** The Optimist International World championship contest will be held June 18-20, 2019, at St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO. The winner at the Optimist International World championship level will also be given an engraved plaque and recognition in *The Optimist* magazine.

"Young students today have so many fresh ideas about the world and their future," Club President Jim Weber said. "As Optimists, it is our goal to encourage them and do what we can to bring out the best in each of them. This gives them a wonderful opportunity to tap into their creativity and pursue possible scholarships at the same time." The Optimist Club of Jefferson City has been participating in these contests for more than 50 years and has been actively serving the youth in the community since June 1946.

Optimist International is one of the world's largest service club organizations with over 88,000 adult and youth members in more than 2,500 clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Mexico and throughout the world. Proudly supporting the motto "**Bringing Out the Best in Kids**," Optimists conduct over 65,000 positive service projects that reach more than 6,000,000 young people each year. To learn more about Optimist International, please call 800-500-8130 or visit the organization's website at [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org). The Jefferson City Optimist Club can be contacted by email at [JCOptimists@gmail.com](mailto:JCOptimists@gmail.com); on Facebook at Optimist Club of Jefferson City; or by writing the Optimist Club of Jefferson City, P.O. Box 105095, Jefferson City, MO 65110.

Respectfully yours,



Walter B. Shull

Optimist Club Youth Activities Chairman

Enclosures: Two copies for each of Official Entry Form Applications with their contest rules (feel free to duplicate additional copies of the applications/rules or you can download them from the Optimist website: <http://www.optimist.org/member/scholarships1.cfm> ; and then click on the Essay Contest or the Oratorical Contest respectively, then click on application).

# Application for 2018-2019 Optimist International Essay Contest

Name \_\_\_\_\_ M F Parent or Guardian Permission: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest.  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ I, \_\_\_\_\_ grant the Optimist Club/International my permission  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ to use a picture or video of my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ for their public relations  
 Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo in any publication they see fit.  
 Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Essay Contest this school year? ☐ Yes ☐ No Sponsoring Optimist Club Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contestant Agreement: Sponsoring Optimist Club Number 36210  
 I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all of the requirements. Language: ☒ English ☐ French  
 Contestant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please send application to address below:

## Official Topic: "When All the World's Problems are Solved, is Optimism Still Necessary?"

Each contestant must be given a copy of the rules and complete the entry form. The rules contain information about the contest, judging and awards.

### Section I - General Rules

1. The Optimist International Essay contest is divided into two levels of competition: Club and District.
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club, or an At-Large contest if a local club is not available. An At-large student may not have competed in an Optimist International or District contest in the same year.
3. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others. Webster's dictionary defines an essay as an analytic or interpretative literary composition. Works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.
4. All District-level competitions must have a minimum of 3 contestants participating.
5. Optimist International will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to the author.

### Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to students under age 19 as of October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current Optimist International Contest year (October 1 - September 30) and is not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution. Students must enter in the District in which they reside. U.S. students attending school on military installations outside the U.S. are eligible to enter in their last home of record.
2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's contest during any given year.
3. No student who has previously won a District Optimist Essay contest scholarship will be

- eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.
4. All contestants at each level of the contest must show proof of age before competing. Optimist Clubs may require a copy of birth certificate or passport before participating if offering a Club scholarship separate from Optimist International. District winners must provide a copy of birth certificate or passport with the District entry documentation.
  5. Sponsoring Optimist Club or District. (Deduction of 5 points or fraction based on degree of identification)
  9. An essay may be written in either English, French, or Spanish if the language used is an official language of the country in which the sponsoring Club is located.
  10. The entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner. Covers of any type are not accepted.

### Section IV - Judging and Timing

### Section III - Contest Rules

1. Participants must write on the official topic.
2. Each entry must begin with a title page containing: the official topic, number of words, writer's name, address, phone number, name of school and date of birth.
3. At the top of page 1 should be the official topic and the number of words (penalty of 2 points for lack of topic and 5 points for failure to identify the total number of words correctly).
4. Essays must be typewritten and double-spaced. (Deduction of 5 points)
5. Essays must contain at least 700 words but no more than 800 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title, bibliography or footnotes. Hyphenated words count as 1 word. (Deduction of 5 points for each 25 words over/under limit).
6. Each page of the essay must be numbered starting with page 1 of the essay, not the title page. The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.
7. Any quotations or copyrighted material used must be identified properly. For example, use of a specific writer's format (such as MLA) may be specified by the instructor overseeing the contest. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
8. No references can be made in the essay that identifies the student, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District.

### Section V - Scoring

- Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.
1. Material Organization - logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic: 30 points
  2. Creativity - 10 points
  3. Vocabulary and Style - phrasing and continuity: 30 points
  3. Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: 20 points
  4. Neatness: 5 points
  5. Adherence to Contest Rules - prepared in the proper format: 5 points

### Section VI - Penalties

1. Failure to list official topic: 2 points
2. Failure to accurately identify total number of words: 5 points
3. Failure to type essay and double-space: 5 points
4. Failure to stay within the 700-800 word limit: 5 points for each 25 words or fraction based on degree of identification.
5. Self-identification: 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification

### Section VII - Awards

1. Club level - medallion
2. District level - plaque and a \$2,500 college scholarship for the first-place winner
  - A. Scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundation in the U.S. and Caribbean or the Canadian Children's Foundation in Canada. Scholarships awarded are for use at a college, university or trade school only.
  - B. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
  - C. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
  - D. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

### For more information contact:

Contact Person: Walter Shull  
 Contact Address: Optimist, P.O. Box 105095  
 Jefferson City, MO 65110-5095  
 Contact Phone or Email:  
 573-295-4505 [wbsnull@earthlink.net](mailto:wbsnull@earthlink.net)