



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 100th 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/ pasport 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

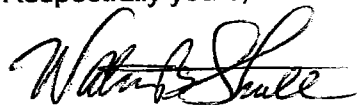
the Club level contests will be held **March 4, 2019** with backup date March 18, 2019. If contestant would like mentoring please indicate that on your application. Return your **application, a written copy of the speech and copy of birth certificate/passport** to the Optimist Club, P.O. Box 105095, 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 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place winners. The District winner will advance to the International Regional level to compete for a \$5000 1st place scholarship and chance to advance to the International World championship level to compete for \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$7,500 scholarships (1st, 2nd, and 3rd 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. The Jefferson City Optimist Club can be contacted by email at 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 Oratorical Contest

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Province/Country _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Age _____

Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Oratorical Contest this school year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Contestant Agreement:

I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all of the requirements.

Contestant's Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

Parent or Guardian Permission:

I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest.

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

Relationship _____

I, _____ grant the Optimist Club/International my permission to use a picture/video of my son/daughter _____ for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo/video in any publication they see fit.

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name Optimist Club of Jefferson City

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number 36210

Language speech will be spoken in: ☒ English ☐ French

Topic: "Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality?"

For more information contact: Bob Henley

Address PO Box 105095, JC, MO 65110 Phone Number: 573-635-0001

Official Rules

Section I — General Rules

1. The Optimist International Oratorical contest will begin at the Club level, proceed to the Zone and District level and end with a contest at World Championships level.
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
3. The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club's Contest Chair.
4. Clubs, Zones and Districts will have a combined gender contests.
5. No Zone, Regional, or District level contest shall have fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants competing.
6. Optimist International has the right to edit, publish and record any speech used in any contest without payment to the author.

Section II — Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1st 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. There is no minimum age.
2. A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in only one Optimist Oratorical contest during a contest year. Once a contestant wins 1st place at the District level and/or competes at the World Regional level, they are ineligible to compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest in a subsequent year.
3. Each contestant shall prepare his or her own speech. The contestant may receive advice in the preparation of the speech and may make minor changes or improvements in the speech at any time.
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 if offering a club scholarship separate from Optimist International.

District winners must provide a copy of the birth certificate or passport with District entry documentation.

5. A printed copy of the speech must be furnished either before or after the speech.

Section III — Contest Rules

1. All contestants must speak on the official topic.
2. A speech may be delivered in English or French.
3. All contestants must state the official topic in the first sentence of the speech. Timing will begin with the first spoken word. A 3-point penalty is automatically assessed by the timekeeper for failure to state the official topic in the first sentence.
4. Any quotation, copyrighted, or largely paraphrased 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 contestant shall be fully responsible for the use of any quoted material and Optimist International shall assume no responsibility. Failure to identify non-original material will result in up to 10 penalty points.
5. The use of props, special costumes or clothing, will result in 10 penalty points.
6. The use of audience prompters will result in disqualification.
7. Notes and lecterns can be used if the contestant desires.
8. The time allowed will be not under 4 minutes or over 5 minutes. Contestants going over or under will not be cautioned, and will be penalized one point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time. This penalty will be determined by the official timekeeper.
9. Timing will begin at the first word spoken. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.
10. No reference can be made that identifies the contestant, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. This will result in a deduction of up to 5 points. Contestants shall not be identified by name or sponsoring Clubs until after the last oration has been presented and the judges and timekeeper have started deliberations.

11. Any protest in the conduct at any level of this contest must be made immediately after the condition is noted.
12. Protests received after the next contestant has been introduced, or in the case of the last contestant, after the judges leave to total the scores, will not be accepted under any circumstances.

12. The Contest Chairperson will decide all protests in accordance with the official rules. The decision of the Contest Chair is final and no higher appeals will be recognized. In the case of Club contests, the Club Contest Chair has this authority. In the case of Zone and District contests, the final authority is vested in the District Contest Chair. The Zone Chair has the authority to handle protests that may arise during the Zone competition with the District Chair having the final authority.

Section IV — Scoring

Scoring in all Club, Zone, District, and World Championships contests will conform to the following criteria.

1. Poise – appearance and personality: 10 points
2. Content of Speech – subject adherence, theme, content, logic and color: 40 points
3. Delivery & Presentation – voice, volume, pronunciation, gestures, eye contact, sincerity and emphasis: 35 points
4. Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect: 15 points

Section V — Penalties

1. Failure to announce the official topic in the first sentence – 3 points
2. Failure to identify non-original material – up to 10 points
3. Use of props, costume, etc. - 10 points
4. Time penalties – 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time.
5. Self-identification – up to 5 points

6. Failure to complete speech – disqualification
7. Use of audience prompters – disqualification

Section VI — Awards

1. Club Level – Medallion
2. Zone Level – Plaque
3. District Regional Level – Plaque
4. District – Plaque and Scholarship

Each winner of the District level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. Three winners awarded scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

5. World Championship Optimist Oratorical Contests – Plaque and Scholarship

- A. Each winner of the World Regional level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. There will be one winner awarded a \$5000 scholarship at the World Regional Level. All winners of the World Regional Contests will be eligible to compete in the World Championship Contest with awards for first, second, and third place of \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000 respectively at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri.
- 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