

### Essay Contest

Optimist International will promote an annual Essay Contest under guidelines approved by the Board of Directors. Optimist International will provide scholarships in an amount approved annually by the Board, contingent upon funding by the Optimist International Foundations. Scholarships paid by the Optimist International Foundation of Canada will be paid in Canadian funds for winners of contests held after October 1, 2001. The contest is open to students under the age of 18 as of October 1 of the current Optimist year.

### Oratorical Contest

Optimist International will promote an annual oratorical contest under guidelines approved by the Board of Directors. Optimist International will provide scholarships in an amount approved annually by the Board, contingent upon funding by the Optimist International Foundations. Scholarships paid by the Canadian Children's Foundation of Canada will be paid in Canadian funds for winners of contests held after October 1, 2001. The contest is open to students under the age of 18 as of October 1 of the current Optimist year.

#### District Oratorical Contests

The costs of all District oratorical contests above Club level shall be budgeted by the District administration. Contestant registration and/or entry fees and allocation from the District's general fund, or combination thereof, are the only allowable means of defraying costs of District contests. The expense and elaborateness of Zone or other District elimination contests should be held to an absolute minimum, because such contests are merely preliminary steps in the District contest.

#### Optimist International Regional Oratorical Contests

The costs of the Optimist International Regional Oratorical Contests held at Saint Louis University shall be budgeted by Optimist International and Saint Louis University. Contestant registration and allocation from Optimist International's general fund and/or Saint Louis University may be supplemented with donor or corporate donations or sponsorships. The travel, housing, and meal expenses incurred by contestants and chaperones will be the responsibility of the District, Club, or individual.

#### Saint Louis University Global Region Contest

The costs of the Saint Louis University Global Region Contest held at Saint Louis University shall be budgeted by Optimist International and Saint Louis University. Contestant registration and allocation from Optimist International's general fund and/or Saint Louis University may be supplemented with donor or corporate donations or sponsorships. The travel, housing, and meal expenses incurred by contestants and chaperones will be the responsibility of the District, Club, or individual.

Optimist International Oratorical World Championships Contest

The costs of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships Contest held at Saint Louis University shall be budgeted by Optimist International and Saint Louis University. Contestant registration and allocation from Optimist International's general fund and/or Saint Louis University may be supplemented with donor or corporate donations or sponsorships. The travel, housing, and meal expenses incurred by contestants and chaperones will be the responsibility of the District, Club, or individual.

Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

1. Districts are to conduct one contest combining genders and methods of communication (verbal or sign).
2. District contests must involve no fewer than three contestants District-wide in order to qualify for scholarship funds.
3. Optimist International will provide scholarship in an amount approved annually by the Board, contingent upon funding by the Optimist International Foundations. Scholarships paid by the Optimist International Foundation of Canada will be paid in Canadian funds for winners of contests held after October 1, 2001.
4. District CCDHH reports must be received at Optimist International within 30 days of the completion of the contest, but in no case later than June 15.
5. Students interested in participating in the contest must submit the results of an audiogram conducted no earlier than 24 months prior to the date of the contest from a qualified audiologist.
6. Students must be certified to have an uncorrected hearing loss of 40 decibels or more by a qualified audiologist and supported by the audiogram to be eligible to compete.

Optimist International Community Projects include:

Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence

Youth Appreciation

Youth Safety

Tri-Star Sports Skills Contests

Internet Safety

The Childhood Cancer Campaign will be supported by the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Childrens Optimist Foundation.

**International Programs Evaluation Scale**

If the number of Clubs participating in an International Program falls below 30% on a two-year average, the program could be discontinued as an International program and will lose its funding. The Program will then become a non-funded Community Activity.

This applies only to International scholarship programs. The Junior Optimist International and the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships are exempt as they are self-sustaining.

**Community Activities Scale**

If the number of Clubs participating in a Community Activity falls below 20% Club participation on a two-year average, it could be removed from the list.

This applies only to Community activities, which include the Tri-Star Sports Skills Contests, Youth Appreciation, Youth Safety, Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence, Internet Safety. The Childhood Cancer Campaign is administered by the Optimist International Foundation and Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

(June 1987; Mar 1989; Dec 1993; Mar 1994; Jun 2001; Dec 2005; Dec 2007; Mar 2010; Dec 2013; Oct 2014; Apr 2015; Dec 2015; Dec 2016)