



2016-2017 THE OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: What are the dates for the 2016-2017 World Championships Contest?

Answer: The Regional Contests will take place on Thursday, June 15, 2017 and the World Championships will take place the following day on Friday, June 16, 2017. There will be a reception for all on site contestants where they will randomly drawing their speak order for the Regional Contests. Remote contestants will have their drawing done by the Chair.

Question: Why should a District send their winner to St. Louis when they can compete remotely via online streaming?

Answer: Testimonials from the previous contest indicate that the contestants attending the contest on-site in St. Louis gain a wealth of appreciation for contestants from other parts of the Optimist world and from watching the Global Contestants compete. The experience has the potential to have a profound, positive life-long effect on the contestants. If you would like a list of actual testimonials by previous contestants, parents, or other attendees, please contact programs@optimist.org.

Question: How many Oratorical Winners will a District be allowed to send to the new Region contest?

Answer: Districts will send one winner. If a District holds separate gender contests, It is suggested that the ranking score be the determining factor, but it will be the District's decision. Districts do not have to change the way they currently hold a contest in any way.

Question: How should a District budget for their winner to come to St. Louis?

Answer: Districts and/or Clubs are strongly encouraged to find the funding for travel and housing for the speaker and a chaperone. Districts should be prepared to cover the contestant's and chaperone's travel (airfare, mileage, etc.) and housing (approx. \$120/night). The hotel will be providing breakfast and Saint Louis University will provide lunches the days of the contests and the Awards dinner on Friday evening. Dinner on Wednesday and Thursday will be on own.

Question: Will there be seminars, workshops or tours offered to the contestants participating at the Saint Louis University site? Something to entice them and/or Optimist members to come to St. Louis?

Answer: Absolutely! Saint Louis University will be giving tours of the campus and students and chaperones will be given a list of tourist sites to visit at their own expense.

Question: How will poise, delivery, and overall effect be judged since the contest will be speaking via live streaming? How will the inevitable technical difficulties be handled? If we use online streaming for competition in St. Louis, will that option have to be made available in our District contests?

Answer: District contests and rules will not change. While all on-site and remote speeches will be judged via online streaming, there will still be audience although the judges will be judging in a separate room via live streaming at Saint University. All students competing whether on site or remotely will be using the same program called FUZE. Saint University will send the student the instructions and provide a practice prior to the actual competition if they are unable to come to St. Louis. If the District is unable to fund the student to compete in St. Louis, they may want to find a place for their student to give their speech in front of a live audience while speaking to the camera. Many high schools, churches, etc. can offer this service. Keep in mind, with today's technology, many job interviews, speeches and presentations are given via online steaming in the work force.

FUZE is the primary videoconferencing platform used by Saint Louis University due to its high reliability, low incidence of technical problems, and ease of use – FUZE will be free for all Regional/World Championship competitors and will not require registration or account creation.

Students will be shot in full body with an 8 x 8 foot area for movement. Please make sure that if your contestant is presenting remotely, they are given the same space in which to make their speech if front of the camera.

Question: Are there any restrictions for the camera and streaming the contestant? Does it need to be stationary or can it be positioned on a tripod, following the contestant? Does it matter if the camera zooms in and out on the contestant, throughout the presentation?

Answer: Try to make the offsite speech as similar to the onsite as possible. Onsite contestants will be given and 12' wide and 8' deep area and be streamed in full body shot. The camera will be stationary but the contestants can move around to speak to the audience.

Question: Should we be concerned about dealing with the volume of contestants in our Clubs and District that will result from vastly increasing scholarship money?

Answer: You Bet!!! Clubs and Districts should be very excited about the volume of contestants!!! We suggest Districts prepare their Clubs, create new Clubs, or even plan to hold At Large contests, if necessary. Optimist International has prepared a new brochure to help Clubs easily approach schools with this exciting new scholarship opportunity for their students. Please ask for some!

Question: How will the contests be judged and how will the judges deal with the different languages that will be used in the World Championship?

Answer: The contest will be held in English and French only and translators will be available on site, as needed. There will be plenty of judges for the contest and their biographies will be provided after the contest. Regions will be judged independently from each other. Contests will be judged using the standard Optimist International judging forms and criteria at all contest levels. The Saint Lawrence Region will be judged by three French or bi-lingual judges. The World Championship Contest will be judged by five judges and at least two of them will be bi-lingual. Optimist International and Saint Louis University will make every effort to have all five judges bi-lingual.

Question: Will there be a different set of judges for the Regionals and World Championships?

Answer: Yes.

Question: How soon after the Regional level of competition, will the contestants know their placement?

Answer: Once the winners of the Regional Contests are determined at Friday's lunch, the contestants will draw their speaking order.

Question: How and when will the speaking order of the contestants be determined?

Answer: All contestants in a Region will compete in the same block. Order will be determined randomly by a drawing by the contestants that are on-site. The Chair will draw for any contestant that is competing remotely. There will be plenty of "stand-by" time to make sure that all electronics are working. Keep in mind that if for some reason connection is not made at the time of the speech, the student will not be able to compete. (So please make sure that all is ready the day of the contest).

Question: Will the off-site contestants and audiences be able to watch the others' presentations?

Answer: Yes, all speeches will be streamed online during the contests and recorded for future viewing.

Question: Do you have an estimated time frame of when the speakers will begin? Districts will need to make hotel reservations for contestants traveling a distance.

Answer: Please contact Optimist International Headquarters for a program prior to the event to get an ESTIMATED time for your particular Region's contest.

Question: Who is in charge of the Global Region Contest – Optimist International or Saint Louis University?

Answer: This is joint venture with Optimist International and Saint Louis University. Optimist will provide one contestant from each District and there will be nine Regional contests (eight Optimist Regions and one Global Region). Saint Louis University will coordinate with international partner schools to select seven competitors for the Global Region, with each partner school selecting their own competitor using standard judging criteria and forms from Optimist International, with support from Saint Louis University throughout the selection process. The Optimist International President will appoint The World Championships Optimist Oratorical Contest Chair each year.

Question: Where do the Global Region contestants come from?

Answer: Saint Louis University and Optimist International will have one Global Region with no more than seven contestants. These contestants will be from high schools located outside of the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean. There will be only one student from each school and only one school per country. The contributing countries as of November 2016 are: Belize, Afghanistan, India, Myanmar, Haiti, Botswana, and Columbia.

Question: How will Clubs and Districts will be affected by these changes to the Oratorical Contest?

Answer: The Optimist International Board of Directors feels that this venture will increase our exposure to schools and students and make our scholarships a premier global endeavor for the organization.

Question: What is the age rule for the 2016-2017 year?

Answer: The new age rule is "under the age of 18 as of October 1 of the current Optimist year." In other words, for the 2016-2017 Optimist / School year, the age limit is under 18 as of October 1, 2016.

Question: How much of a financial commitment is Optimist International making and for how long?

Answer: Initially, the Optimist International Board of Directors has committed to providing the cost of the scholarships for two years – totaling \$150,000 for both years. Optimist International is making a concerted effort to solicit external support for some, if not all, the total costs of the scholarships. In the 15-16 year approximately

\$67,000 was raised through private donations and the Optimist Foundations to support the scholarships. Additional scholarships may be awarded to participants by Saint Louis University at its discretion.

Question: Why is New and Additional Funding Needed for the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships?

- Increases the number and the amount of scholarships available.
- Provides a unique opportunity to interact with other youth from around the world.
- Heightens the name recognition of Optimist Clubs.
- Offers partnership with experts in the field of communication, speech, and debate.
- Enhances both the Oratorical Contest and Kids Speak Out programs.
- Stimulates the recruitment of contestants.
- Attracts new members into Optimist Clubs who share our passion for developing public speaking skills in youth.
- Provides opportunities to start new adult Optimist Clubs and Junior Optimist Clubs with emphasis on public speaking activities.

To make a contribution, please visit: <http://www.firstgiving.com/38005/OI-Oratorical-World-Championship>