



Announcing



DUE TO SCHEDULING CONFLICTS-CONTEST DATE CHANGE

Optimist International Speech (Oratorical) Contest Presented by **The Sunrise Optimist Club of Freehold**

This contest is open to students under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2025. There is no minimum age and no grade level requirement prior to college level.

Submit your 4-5 minute double spaced speech, application on **“The Moment I Realized I Belonged-My Definition of Community”** and a copy of your birth certificate or passport, to the Sunrise Optimist Club Oratorical Contest Chairperson Bill Woodard (wwood2105@aol.com) by **March 7, 2026**. The contest will be held on Saturday, **March 14, 2026** from 9 AM to 12 Noon at the Centra State Health Awareness Center.

Participants will be evaluated based on the following:

- Strict adherence to the time allowed
- Poise
- Content of speech
- Delivery and presentation of speech
- Overall effectiveness
- Level of professionalism

1st place winner receives a \$500 scholarship and 2nd Place winner will receive a \$250 scholarship and the 1st and 2nd Place winners will compete in the District contest for, 1st Place \$2,500, 2nd Place \$1,500 and 3rd Place \$1,000. The winners from the eight other Optimist districts will compete for a chance to win a \$5,000 scholarship. The winner of the Regional competition will advance to the International level and compete for \$15,000, \$10,000 or \$5,000 in World Championship Scholarships.

Applications and a complete set of rules are available at:

www.optimist.org or www.sunriseoptimistcluboffreehold.com

[Potential Total Scholarships of \\$23,000.00 for First Place Winner](#)

Any questions: Contact Bill Woodard (732-446-9782) or wwood2105@aol.com