



## **Freehold Sunrise Optimist Club Essay Contest**

First Prize: \$250 Scholarship

Second Prize: \$100 Scholarship

**Topic:** Is Optimism the Key to Achieving the Dreams you iMagine?

**Eligibility Criteria:** Contest is open to students under age 19 as of October 1st, 2019 and not enrolled in college already.

**General Rules:** (a complete list of rules are on application)

- Essays must be between 700-800 words (title, footnotes and bibliography are not included in the final word count)
- Application must be submitted with essay
- All paperwork are due February 14, 2020
- Winner will be announced February 21st
- First place winner advances to District Level for the chance at additional prizes

**Contact Maureen Fasano at [maureen.fasano@gmail.com](mailto:maureen.fasano@gmail.com)  
for questions.**

# Application for 2019-2020 Optimist International Essay Contest

Name \_\_\_\_\_ M F  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Province \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_  
 Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Essay 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 or video of my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo in any publication they see fit.*

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsoring Optimist Club Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Language:  English  French

## Please send application to address below:

### Official Topic: "Is Optimism the Key to Achieving The Dreams you iMagine?"

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

- The Optimist International Essay contest is divided into two levels of competition: Club and District.
- 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.
- 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.
- All District-level competitors must have a minimum of 3 contestants participating.
- 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

- 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.
- Contestants are eligible for only one Club's contest during any given year.
- No student who has previously won a District Optimist Essay contest scholarship will be

sponsoring Optimist Club or District. (Deduction of 5 points or fraction based on degree of identification)

- 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.
- The entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner. Covers of any type are not accepted.

#### Section IV - Judging and Timing

- Judging will be completed by a panel of three qualified judges. At the Club level, judges may be Optimist Members, who are not acquainted with the contestants. At the District level, judges must be non-Optimists.
- In an effort to conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be assigned a number by the Essay Contest Chair. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and page 1 of the essay. The title page will then be detached and retained by the Essay Contest Chair. The judges will be given the essay bearing only the assigned number.
- Judges will not discuss or compare essays being judged.
- Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

#### Section V - Scoring

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

#### Section VI - Penalties

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

#### Section VII - Awards

- Club level - medalion
- District level - plaque and a \$2,500 college scholarship for the first-place winner
  - 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.
  - 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.

### For more information contact:

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Phone or Email: \_\_\_\_\_