# OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONTESTS 2019-2020





#### **ORATORICAL CONTEST**

Beginning in 1928, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program of Optimist International. The contest is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with an opportunity to compete for multiple college scholarships with a pre-assigned topic.

District Scholarships:
First Place: \$2,500 • Second Place: \$1,500 • Third Place: \$1,000
with a chance to win up to \$22,500 at the
World Championships level

#### **ESSAY CONTEST**

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live.

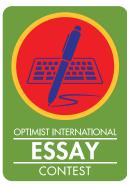
The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the

opportunity to win a college scholarship!

One District Scholarship of \$2,500



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







### COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

This contest offers an opportunity for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to present their thoughts in the community, gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship.

One District Scholarship of \$2,500

### KIDS SPEAK OUT! SPEECH CONTEST

All young people can compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The "Kids Speak Out" contest is a "pre-Oratorical" program that provides a more equitable competition for younger speakers.





## OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS



#### JUNIOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Junior Optimist International is an all-inclusive youth organization sponsored by Optimist International and share a common goal to make communities a better place through volunteering. Junior Optimist is a service-learning organization that connects all of the Clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and throughout the world.



#### OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF

The Optimist Junior Golf Program is one of the largest and most prestigious junior golf events in the world. Each year more boys and girls, ages 10-18, compete in Optimist District tournaments, Junior Tour Events and through International Federations to advance to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship. The Championship is ranked with *Golfweek*, Junior Golf Scoreboard and receives AJGA

Performance-based stars. In the fall, the Optimist Tournament of Champions is an invitational and known for its strength of field and highly ranked as well.



#### CHILDHOOD CANCER CAMPAIGN

Since the program's inception, Clubs have participated in various activities focused on raising awareness of the disease, providing assistance to children and their families, and supporting research to find a cure. Optimist International, through donations collected by Optimist Clubs, has contributed over \$1.3 M to Johns Hopkins, one of the leading pediatric oncology research institutes in North America. Optimist Clubs continue to support local Childhood Cancer projects including hospitals, camps and support programs throughout the United States, Canada and Caribbean every year.

In addition, Clubs can apply for up to \$1,000 through the Childhood Cancer Campaign Matching Grant Program to help with a local project supporting Childhood Cancer efforts.



#### CHILDHOOD HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Childhood Health & Wellness Program will build on the highly successful Childhood Cancer Campaign to expand our impact. Clubs and Districts will now have the opportunity to initiate projects and services to improve the quality of life for children in their communities across a broader spectrum of needs.

Childhood Health & Wellness will include four focus areas (not limited to the examples below):

Healthy Lifestyles (Child Obesity, Healthy Eating, Physical Fitness, Happy Heart Advice, March of Dimes)

Chronic Diseases (Childhood Cancer, Juvenile Diabetes, HIV, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Sickle Cell Anemia)

Mental Health (Depression, Bullying, Abuse)

Disabilities Physical, Intellectual & Developmental (Autism, Special Olympics)

The Optimist International Foundation will accept contributions for Childhood Health & Wellness. In addition, Clubs can apply for up to \$1,000 through the Childhood Health & Wellness Matching Grant Program to help with a local projects.

Contributions previously made to the Childhood Cancer Campaign will be used to support Childhood Cancer projects.

#### OTHER PROGRAMS

Youth Safety
 Youth Appreciation
 Respect for Law
 Tri-Star Sports