



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.

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.



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, fulfilled a research grant commitment of \$1 million to John Hopkins, the leading pediatric oncology research institute in North America. Optimist Clubs continue to provide funding to the United States and Canadian research hospitals 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.

Other Programs

- Youth Safety
- Youth Appreciation
- Respect for Law
- Tri-Star Sports

For more information about Optimist International Programs, please visit www.optimist.org, e-mail programs@optimist.org or call us at 800-500-8130.



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Mission

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

Purposes

To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; to inspire respect for the law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.

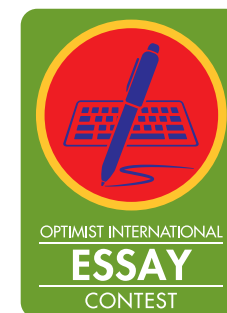
For more information about joining an Optimist Club, please visit our website at www.optimist.org

Scholarship Contests



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.

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!



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.

