



Some Benefits of an Optimist Club

**Proposed (NEW AREA NAME) Optimist Club
(CITY, STATE)**

Administrative

- **Liability**
 - Your Club's events are covered by a million dollar liability insurance policy.

- **Improved Recognition and Status**
 - Your club will be associated with an internationally recognized organization already endorsed by: Boy Scouts of America, Scouts of Canada, Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY), Camp Quality (U.S. & Canada).

- **Reduced Costs**
 - Your Club may be eligible for non-profit postage rates.
 - Your Club may be eligible for discounts on goods and services normally given to charitable organizations.
 - Your Club may be exempt from state sales tax on certain purchases.

- **Improved Organization**
 - Your club will have an administrative structure in place to promote longevity.

Fund Raising

- **Increased Contributions**
 - Your Club may be eligible to receive grants from other organizations.
 - Your club will have access to already successful fundraising ideas through Optimist International's resource library.
- **Added Volunteers**
 - Your Club can partner with other Optimist Clubs on larger fund raising opportunities.

Projects:

- **Continued Flexibility**
 - Your club chooses its' own projects to participate in
- **Increased Opportunities**
 - Your club will have access to already successful community service ideas through Optimist International's resource library.
- **Expanded Network**
 - Your Club will have support from other Optimist Clubs in your area.
- **Simplified Project Execution**
 - Many community events require groups have special insurance coverage, which is provided to your Club.

Individual Member Benefits

- **Improved Learning Opportunities**
 - Your clubs members will have leadership building opportunities through Optimist training conferences.
 - Members will be able to develop their personal skills through training available and interaction with other club members and community group

Starting an Optimist Club

A minimum of 15 charter members are required

Cost of charter membership is \$35.00 (OR YOU CAN CHANGE)

Based upon 15 members, the club will collect \$525.00 (CORRECT IF YOU CHANGED ABOVE) from the charter members

Fees to Optimist International:

Charter fee = \$425.00

The club retains the remaining \$100.00 (CORRECT IF YOU CHANGED ABOVE) to begin its treasury and activities.

The Charter roster remains open for 15 days after the organizational meeting date. (or until September 30th) All the charter fees from additional members stays with the new (the club keeps \$35)(CHANGE IF NEEDED)

To organize and become a chartered Optimist club the following needs to be in place: (as a minimum)

15 members who have filed an application and membership fee

The group is ready to adopt the Standard Optimist Club Bylaws

The group is ready to elect officers and directors

At least 9 of the charter members are required to attend the official organizational meeting

The officers and directors need to be prepared to attend a Board of Directors meeting immediately after the organizational meeting. At this meeting, basic club policies and procedures will be adopted.

Time requirement for the meetings:

Organizational meeting = approximately 45 minutes to one hour

Board of Directors meeting = approximately 45 minutes