



Facts about Optimist International

Optimist International

Headquarters: St. Louis
Founded: 1919

Number of Optimist Clubs: 2,717
Number of Members: 80,284

Junior Optimist Octagon International

Youth Clubs Organization
Founded: 1988

Number of Youth Clubs: 544
Number of Members: 15,183

Major Service Programs

Optimist International Junior Golf Program: Optimist International Junior Golf Championships July 19-29, 2012, at PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida; Optimist International Tournament of Champions November 10-11, 2012, at ChampionsGate International Golf Course in ChampionsGate, Florida

Internet Safety: Education for young people, their parents and their teachers regarding potential dangers on the internet and offering information about safe practices while online

Optimist Childhood Cancer Campaign: The world's premier childhood cancer eradication program

Oratorical Contest: More than \$150,000 in scholarships awarded annually

Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Patterned after the Oratorical Contest

Essay Contest: Scholarships at the district level and recognition at the international level

Youth Safety: Youngsters learn safe use of bicycles, school buses and skates

Youth Appreciation: Recognizes youth for a variety of accomplishments in school, extracurricular activities and the community

Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence

Scope of Service

More than 65,000 service projects annually

6 million youth directly served each year

More than \$78 million spent annually on community service projects

Officers (year ending September 30, 2012)

President: John "Jack" Creswell, Reading, Pennsylvania

President-Elect: J.C. St-Onge, Saint-Jerome, QC

History

First Optimist Club: Optimist Club of Buffalo, New York, 1911

First International Convention: Louisville, Kentucky, June 1919

The Optimist Creed authored by Christian D. Larson in 1912, adopted by Optimist International in 1922

International Conventions

July 12-14, 2012 – Milwaukee, Wisconsin

July 4-6, 2013 – Cincinnati, Ohio