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## **JOOI's Youth Volunteers Team Up with Summer Scholars to Boost Literacy**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. – The young volunteers of Junior Optimist Octagon International are teaming up with Summer Scholars to brighten the summer for local elementary students in Denver, Colorado.

JOOI is made up of youth volunteers ages 6 to 19 who strive to make the world better through service projects in their schools and their local communities. Hundreds of JOOI volunteers from throughout North America will travel to Denver July 5-7 for the organization's annual convention. While in Denver, they will work on a project to deliver backpacks and recreational site kits to Summer Scholars, an organization that partners with Denver Public Elementary Schools to operate a summer literacy and recreation program, Scholars After School and a family literacy program. The mission of Summer Scholars reflects one of JOOI's main focuses, the JOOI of Reading, in which JOOI volunteers promote the fun and importance of reading among their peers.

During their convention, JOOI volunteers will assemble 150 backpacks full of pens, pencils, other school supplies and age-appropriate books. The JOOI members will deliver the backpacks to students at Columbine Elementary School and read books to the children. JOOI volunteers will also put together between 15 and 20 site kits full of recreational and playground equipment such as kickballs, footballs and jump ropes. These will also be delivered to the Summer Scholars program. This project has been made possible through the JOOI Legacy Fund and contributions from JOOI Clubs and Optimist Clubs.

"We love having the opportunity to give back to the community that will be so welcoming to our convention this summer," said Marie-Pier Tremblay, JOOI president and member of a club in St-Honore, Quebec. "We can't wait to deliver backpacks to the young students in Denver to add some fun to their summer and get them off on the right track for school in the fall."

Summer Scholars serves more than 1,300 students in 20 elementary schools in Denver Public Schools. For information visit [www.summerscholars.org](http://www.summerscholars.org).

JOOI has a membership of nearly 17,000 students in 620 clubs throughout the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. To learn more about JOOI, call (314) 371-6000 or go to [www.jooi.org](http://www.jooi.org).

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