

Everything You Want to Know About

2017-2018

Optimist International

PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES





2017-2018 Optimist International Essay Contest

The International Essay Club and District Planning Guides are on the Optimist International website at www.optimist.org. The Planning Guides contain instructions, applications and judging forms.

What is the 2017-2018 topic?

“Can Society Function Without Respect?”

Age Rule: Students under the age of 18 as of October 1, 2017 are eligible to compete.

Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner for the Essay, CCDHH and Oratorical contests in addition to the official medallions. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary.

Each District is given one **\$2500** scholarship for their first place winner. Dates for each District's judging are set by the District Essay Chair. The winner's paperwork must be turned in by each District to the Optimist International Programs Department by **April 15, 2018**. Upon receipt of **all** winner's paperwork, the student will be sent a congratulatory letter, an Enrollment Confirmation Statement, and a scholarship provisional.

When is the Club deadline to submit the essay winner to the District contest?

The Club deadline for 2017-2018 is **February 28, 2018**.

Where do I order medallions, etc.?

US and Caribbean Clubs can order materials from Shumsky by calling toll free (877) 678.2582 or programs@shumsky.com. Canadian Clubs can order materials from Ansell Awards & Specialties by calling (800) 565-7062 or email at info@ansellsawards.com.

What if my District wants to raise the amount of the scholarship or award additional scholarships?

Districts choosing to increase funding for scholarships or fund additional scholarships will need to manage those funds through other resources, such as District accounts or contributing those funds to the appropriate Optimist International Foundation.

If I have a question about the Essay Contest, who do I contact?

If you cannot reach your District Essay Chair, contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130, ext. 218, or email programs@optimist.org.



2017-2018 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

The International Oratorical Club and District Planning Guides are on the Optimist International website at www.optimist.org. The Guides contain instructions, applications and judging forms.

What is the 2017-2018 topic?

“Where Are My Roots of Optimism?”

Age Rule: Students under the age of 18 as of October 1, 2017 are eligible to compete.

Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner for the Essay, CCDHH and Oratorical contests in addition to the official medallions. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary.

Each District is given \$5,000 in scholarships. Districts with separate gender contests shall award the top boy and girl winner with a \$2,500 scholarship. Districts with combined gender contests may award two \$2,500 scholarships or a \$2,500, a \$1,500 and a \$1,000 scholarship to the first, second and third place winners respectively. **Beginning October 1, 2018 all Clubs and Districts will hold combined gender contests.**

The District winners' materials must be turned in to the Programs Department no later than **May 15th, 2018**. Upon receipt of **all** the winner's paperwork, each student will be sent a congratulatory letter, an Enrollment Confirmation Statement, and a scholarship provisional. Districts will need to determine which of the District's winners will be competing in the Optimist Oratorical World Championship contest. Upon completed paperwork the contestant will receive information from Optimist International and Saint Louis University on the details of the contest.

Where do I order medallions, etc.?

US and Caribbean Clubs can order materials from Shumsky by calling toll free (877) 678-2582 or programs@shumsky.com. Canadian Clubs can order materials from Ansell Awards & Specialties by calling (800) 565-7062 or email at info@ansellsawards.com.

What if my District wants to raise the amount of the scholarships or award additional scholarships?

Districts choosing to increase funding for scholarships or fund additional scholarships will need to manage those funds through other resources, such as District accounts or contributing those funds to the appropriate Optimist International Foundation.

If I have a question about the Oratorical Contest, who do I contact?

If you cannot reach your District Oratorical Chair, contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130, ext. 218, or email programs@optimist.org.



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Optimist International and Saint Louis University partner to host the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships. Each Optimist District has the opportunity to send one of their District Oratorical Winners to St. Louis to compete with the winners of the Districts in their Region for a \$5000 scholarship. The winner of each Region (8) will compete with the winner from Saint Louis University's Global Region for a \$15,000, \$10,000, or \$5,000 World Championship scholarship. **There is the potential for a student to win \$22,500 in scholarships!**

The Annual World Championships Contest is scheduled for Thursday, June 28 and Friday, June 29, 2018. Please keep in mind that the 2017-2018 District Oratorical contests will need to be conducted earlier than usual to accommodate this timeframe. **Districts must submit the 2017-2018 winners' paperwork to Optimist International no later than May 15, 2018.** Start planning now to adjust your Oratorical timelines if your District's contest is held at a 3rd Quarter meeting.

With the partnership with Saint Louis University, we are increasing funds for youth scholarships, giving our Optimist organization a higher profile, and Bringing out the Best in Kids!





2017-2018 Optimist International Communication Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)

The International Club and District Planning Guides are on the Optimist International website at www.optimist.org. The CCDHH Guides contain instructions, applications and judging forms.

What is the 2017-2018 topic?

“Where Are My Roots of Optimism?”

Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner for the Essay, CCDHH and Oratorical contests in addition to the official medallions. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary.

Each District is given one \$2,500 scholarship. The District winner's paperwork must be turned in to the Programs Department no later than **June 16th**. Upon receipt of **all** winner's paperwork, the student will be sent a congratulatory letter, an Enrollment Confirmation Statement, and list of scholarship provisions.

Where do I order medallions, etc.?

US and Caribbean Clubs can order materials from Shumsky by calling toll free (877) 678-.2582 or programs@shumsky.com. Canadian Clubs can order materials from Ansell Awards & Specialties by calling (800) 565-7062 or email at info@ansellsawards.com.

What if my District wants to raise the amount of the scholarships or award additional scholarships?

Districts choosing to increase funding for scholarships or fund additional scholarships will need to manage those funds through other resources, such as District accounts or contributing those funds to the appropriate Optimist International Foundation.

If I have a question about the contest, whom should I contact?

If you cannot reach your District Chair, contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130, ext. 218, or email programs@optimist.org.



Offering a friendly basketball, baseball, soccer, football, in-line or ice hockey skills, lacrosse, curling, volleyball, or golf competition may be just what your Club needs to serve your community's youth. The Tri-Star program enables your Club to run one or several successful sports skills contests efficiently and with as little manpower as possible. More than 1,000 Optimist Clubs across North America currently participate in or sponsor sports leagues or teams.

Similar to a punt-pass-kick skills competition, the Tri-Star Sports Skills Contests are the perfect way to bring together the youth of your community in a spirit of fun competition. Each skill offers exciting opportunities to promote self-confidence and physical fitness, even if your Club has limited resources. Because this program does not involve physical contact or advanced skills, it is an ideal activity for every child, even those who may be physically challenged.

Tri-Star Sports Skills Contests are designed for youth ages 8-13, and test three skills in the sport of your choice:

- Baseball:** Base-running, Hitting, and Throwing
- Basketball:** Dribbling, Passing, and Shooting
- Football:** Passing, Place-kicking, and Punting
- Soccer:** Dribbling, Shooting, and Throwing
- Hockey:** Shooting, Skating, and Stick-handling
- Curling:** Drawing, Hitting, and Scoring
- Golf:** Drive, Chip, and Putt
- Volleyball:** Serving, Passing, Hitting

If I have a question about Tri-Star, whom should I contact?

You may download a Tri-Star Planning Guide from optimist.org or contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130, ext. 218, or email programs@optimist.org to have a copy mailed or emailed to you.



Optimist Childhood Cancer Campaign (CCC)

“Providing the Care, Finding the Cure”

What is this program?

Cancer has resulted in more deaths among children than any other disease. Optimist International has developed a program suited to the strengths and resources of its members. Clubs and Districts have the opportunity to provide assistance and services directly to children receiving treatment for cancer, their care partners and service providers, as well as contribute to ongoing research efforts.

What is the focus of this program?

Optimist International is committed to being the leading force to rid the world of childhood cancer. In December 2009, Optimist International met a \$1 million commitment to establish the Endowed Research Fellowship at Johns Hopkins. The organization has pledged an additional \$500,000 to fund and create the Optimist International Innovative Research Fund at Johns Hopkins. To donate to this worthy cause, please send funds to the US Optimist International Foundation and designate they are for “childhood cancer research” on the check memo line or in an attached letter.

Optimist Clubs and Districts sponsoring CCC projects may apply for a matching grant from Optimist International to maximize the impact made on childhood cancer patients, their families and their healthcare providers. An application can be found on the Optimist website at www.optimist.org/ccc.

How can I get involved?

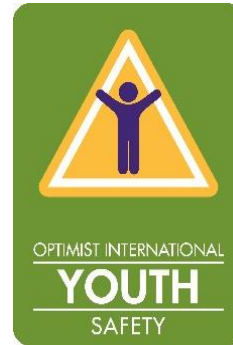
Optimist International annually hosts an organization-wide walk to promote childhood cancer awareness and raise much needed funds. All Clubs are asked to sponsor a CCC Walk during June, Optimist International Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. This show of unified support will demonstrate the organization’s mission to “be the leading force to rid the world of childhood cancer.”

Where do I order support materials?

Contact the Optimist International Foundation in the United States and Caribbean or the Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation in Canada.

For more information, call the appropriate Optimist International Foundation.

YOUTH SAFETY



What is this program?

The Optimist International Youth Safety program encompasses all of the activities originally included in the Safety on Wheels Program.

What kind of projects can my Club plan?

The Youth Safety Community Activities Planning Guide has numerous project ideas from bike inspection and skating skill events to a comprehensive school bus safety program. The Planning Guide is available on the Optimist website, <http://www.optimist.org>

For more details, call the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130, ext. 218, or email programs@optimist.org.

YOUTH APPRECIATION



Are there specific dates for this program?

No, Youth Appreciation activities can be scheduled anytime, according to your Club's preference.

What kind of projects can my Club plan?

The Youth Appreciation Community Activities Planning Guide contains all types of ideas ranging from Youth in Government Day, parades, parties, banquets, to recognizing a Youth of the Month. The Planning Guide is available on the Optimist website at www.optimist.org.

For more information, contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130, ext. 218, or email programs@optimist.org.

Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence



Are there specific dates for this program?

No, Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence activities can be scheduled anytime, according to your Club's preference.

What kind of projects can our Club plan for this program?

Projects can include law enforcement officer awards, citizen awards, a family rally, victims of violence vigil or child fingerprinting, for example. Ideas are detailed in International Programs Planning Guide available on the Optimist website.

Contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130 ext. 218 or email programs@optimist.org for more details.

Fundraising

Where should my Club go for help on raising funds?

The International Programs Planning Guide is filled with information and ideas to assist your Club in conducting a well-organized and successful event. This packet is available on the publications page of the Optimist website, www.optimist.org





Club Pride Report

Where can I find and fill out the Club Pride Report?

The form can be accessed by Club officers at <http://www.optimistleaders.org>. It can be filled out and submitted via the website. If you would like to print a copy of the form, it is available on the Forms page of the Optimist website, <http://www.optimist.org>. **Submission of a completed form is an Honor Club requirement as a Club must sponsor at least three service projects a year.**

Copies will be mailed only upon request. Faxed or photocopied forms will be accepted, if legible.

When is the report due?

The completed form is due to Optimist International by **September 30**. Any questions on this form, contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130, ext. 218, or email programs@optimist.org.

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR CLUB'S WORK

Your Club can help Optimist International improve the quality and effectiveness of the International Programs and Community Activities that our great organization provides to young people in the United States, Caribbean, and Canada. All it takes is for your Club Officer to complete the Club Pride Report and submit it to Optimist International. The report provides a wealth of information that shows which programs and activities Clubs are participating in and which ones may need to be reviewed to encourage participation.

Why Optimist International NEEDS Your Club's Input:

While submission of the President's Pride Report is a requirement for both Honor and Distinguished Club, this information is needed from ALL Clubs to ensure that our programs are meeting the needs of Optimists and the children they serve throughout the organization. Optimist International is trying VERY hard to obtain sponsorship and grant money from other companies and organizations to help support our efforts. Without the information obtained from your Club Pride Report we cannot explain who and what we are. So PLEASE make sure you submit this form each and every year!

How to Submit:

The 2016-17 report can be filled out online at www.optimistleaders.org or printed and completed by hand at www.optimist.org. There are a few demographic questions about the size and age of your Club. The report also asks officers to indicate which projects your Club has conducted, what organizations you have partnered with and the fundraisers you have held during the Optimist year. You will be asked how many children you have served, the cost of your activities and whether funds were distributed to other charitable organizations.

Your Club Officer can enter and change information on a periodic basis by clicking on the "Save" button. When the form have been entirely completed, an Officer should click on the signature button and then click "Submit." Once your Club Officer has clicked "Submit," no changes can be made to the form.

Programs Support Materials

Where do I order support items and awards?

US and Caribbean Clubs can order materials from Shumsky by calling toll free (877) 678-2582 or programs@shumsky.com. Canadian Clubs can order materials from Ansell Awards & Specialties by calling (800) 565-7062 or email at info@ansellsawards.com.

The International Programs Planning Guides

The International Programs Planning Guides are available for download from the Optimist International Website. The guides are dedicated to the following programs and community activities: CCDHH, Essay, Oratorical/Kids Speak Out!, Tri-Star Sports, Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence, Youth Appreciation and Youth Safety.

WHO DO I CONTACT AT OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT PROGRAMS?

St. Louis Office - International Headquarters Programs Department

☎ Phone (800) 500-8130, ext. 218

✉ Email programs@optimist.org

Canadian Service Centre

☎ Phone (800) 363-7151

✉ Email canadianservice@optimist.org

PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT DEADLINES AND DATES

Date	Program
February 28, 2018	Club winning Essay submitted to District Chair deadline
April 15, 2018	District winning Essay submitted to Optimist International deadline
May 15, 2018	District deadline to submit District Winners of District Oratorical Contest AND declare the one District winner's information to Optimist International to compete in the Regional/World Championships contest.
June 15, 2018	District deadline to submit CCDHH winners to Optimist International.
September 30, 2018	Club deadline to submit 2017-2018 Club Pride Report to Optimist International for Awards. Can be submitted at any thereafter.