



Santa Claus Optimist Holiday

COLORING CONTEST AND CHRISTMAS PARADE

Submitted by Ronald Fuhrman, Santa Claus Optimist Club, Indiana

The Santa Claus Optimist Club held its annual Holiday Coloring Contest for kindergarten and first grade students at Lincoln Train and Nancy Hanks Elementary schools. The colored pictures were judged and the top 10 winners were given the opportunity to ride on the Optimist float in the Christmas Parade. The winners were given stuffed bears and their pictures were displayed at a local restaurant during the parade for everyone to view their creativity.

The float the students rode on in the parade was a deck boat pulled by a pickup. The Santa Claus Optimist chose a dual theme from the Indiana South District Governor, Mike Underwood and Zone 5 Lt. Governor, Ron Fuhrman. The Governor's theme is "Chart a Course" and the Lt. Governor's theme is "I Believe-Kids First-Action"! The banner on the side of the pickup stated "Charting a Course for the Kids". The wheels on the boat were covered with a sign stating "I Believe-Kids First-Action".

The students riding on the boat held signs that represented many of the projects the Santa Claus Optimist Club do for the youth. They included things such as: Essay Contest, Oratorical Contest, Yellig Park Donations, Christmas Gifts for Kids, Octagon Club, Junior Optimist Club, After Prom, Honors Banquet for top 10% of high school students, HOBY, Scholarships, Junior Achievement, Lincoln Heritage Summer Reading, The Way Donations, Boys and Girls State, HHHS Business

Professionals, Internet Safety, Tri-Star Sports, Avenue of Flags, Respect For Law Camp, Special Olympics, 6th Grade Leadership Awards, 7th Grade Banana Splits, Coloring Contest and Junior Golf.

Members of the Santa Claus Optimist Club walked alongside the float and handed out pencils with the Optimist's Club name on them to the kids along the parade route. The float also included Christmas music playing as they walked along.

Each student and teacher at the participating schools was presented with a pencil from the Club for their efforts in the Holiday Coloring Contest. The winners in the classrooms were recognized and pictures were taken.

The Santa Claus Optimist Club feels strongly about their Club and their ability to tie together the District,

Zone and Club themes in these two combined projects and do everything possible to "Bring Out the Best in Kids".

