



PRINT ON CLUB LETTERHEAD OR TYPE IN CLUB NAME

CONTACT  
CLUB CONTACT  
CONTACT'S NUMBER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE

## **Local Optimist Club to Sponsor Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

**CITY, STATE/PROVINCE** – Through the annual Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Optimist Club of **CLUB NAME** is encouraging students to express themselves using either speech or sign language to expand on the thought “Where Are My Roots of Optimism?”

Each year the Optimist Club of **CLUB NAME** conducts the contest to give students who are deaf or hard of hearing an opportunity to present their ideas to an audience and better prepare themselves for the future.

“Many local students have a need to express their thoughts and ideas, and the members of our Optimist Club believe we should give the students a chance to do just that,” Club President **PRESIDENT'S NAME** said. “This is a wonderful opportunity for youth who are deaf or hard of hearing to present their ideas to the community.”



The Optimist Club will judge participants based on content and presentation and will award **AWARD** to the top student. The winner will then move on to the district level, where they will have the opportunity to earn scholarships.

The contest is open to students through **GRADE LIMIT**. To qualify, students must submit results of an audiogram completed no longer than 24 months prior to the date of the contest by a qualified audiologist. Students must be certified to have a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more, which must be supported by the audiogram in order to be eligible to compete.

Students wishing to participate in the contest can find out more about the contest by contacting the club at **CONTACT INFORMATION**.

The Optimist Club of **CLUB NAME** has been participating in the Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for **NUMBER** years and has been active in the community since **CHARTER YEAR**. Other programs and service projects that the Club is involved in include **CLUB PROJECTS**.

Optimist International is one of the world's largest service club organizations with 75,000 adult and youth members in 2,600 clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Mexico and throughout the world. Each year, almost 300 Optimist Clubs participate in the Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Carrying the motto "Bringing Out the Best in Kids," Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than six million young people each year. To learn more about Optimist International, please call (314) 371-6000 or visit the organization's website at [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org).

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