



PRINT ON CLUB LETTERHEAD OR TYPE IN CLUB NAME

CONTACT  
CLUB CONTACT  
CONTACT'S NUMBER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE

## **Local Optimist Club to Sponsor Oratorical Contest for Students**

**CITY, STATE/PROVINCE** – The Optimist Club of **CLUB NAME** is encouraging area students to speak their minds about the topic “Where are My Roots of Optimism?” as part of the Optimist International Oratorical Contest for the 2017-2018 year.

The Optimist Club will judge the local students’ speeches based on content and presentation to determine the top winners. Winners will receive **AWARDS** and the winning speeches will be sent to the Zone level, and possibly the District level for the opportunity to win college scholarships. Winners of the District level will be eligible to compete in a regional competition in St. Louis, Missouri, at Saint Louis University. Winners of the regional contests will compete in the World Championship also held at Saint Louis University. Students could possibly win up to \$22,500 in scholarships! The contest is open to students under the age of 18 as of October 1, 2017.

“As they prepare for their future, many of our local students need experience expressing their thoughts and opinions to an audience,” Club President **PRESIDENT'S NAME** said. “The Oratorical Contest challenges them to do just that and also offers an opportunity for scholarships. In this way, our club hopes to bring out the best in each of them and help them achieve their goals for the future.”

The deadline to hand in speeches is [DEADLINE DATE](#). Students wishing to participate in the oratorical contest can find out more about the contest by contacting the club at [CONTACT PHONE NUMBER](#).

The Optimist Club of [CLUB NAME](#) has been participating in the Optimist Oratorical Contest 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 over 80,000 adult and youth members in almost 3,000 clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Mexico and throughout the world. The Optimist Oratorical Contest is one of the organization's most popular programs, with more than 2,000 clubs participating annually. Carrying the Mission Statement "By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves. 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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