

# Application for the 2025-2026 Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Name \_\_\_\_\_ M F

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing this school year?  Yes  No

## Audiologist Verification:

I verify that the contestant listed above has a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic: "The Moment I Realized I Belonged — My Definition of Community"

## Contestant Agreement:

*I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all the requirements. I understand entries will be run through plagiarism and AI detection software.*

Contestant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Parent or Guardian Permission:

*I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

*I, \_\_\_\_\_ grant the Optimist Club/International my permission to use a picture/video of my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo/video in any publication they see fit.*

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send your application to the address below.**

## Official Rules

### Section I - General Rules

1. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
2. The CCDHH District Chair is responsible for all phases of the contest and his or her rulings in accordance with the official rules are final.
3. All competitions must be conducted by Optimists only.
4. The contest date, time and place will be determined by the Contest Chair.
5. All contestants must comply with the official rules of the contest.
6. The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club's Contest Chair.
7. All Zone, Regional and District level contests must have a minimum of 3 contestants participating.

### Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. **The contest is open to contestants through grade 12 in the United States and Canada, to CEGEP in Quebec and the equivalent in the Caribbean and the rest of the world.** Contestants must have an uncorrected hearing loss of 40 decibels or more in order to be eligible to participate. Participants must submit an audiogram or a Cochlear Implant Programming Report done within 24 months of the date of the contest from a qualified audiologist.
2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's contest during any given year.
3. Each contestant must prepare his or her own presentation with limited assistance on content. Improvements to the presentation can be made at any time.

4. A contestant who has won a District CCDHH or CCHI scholarship is not eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.

### Section III - Contest Rules

1. All contestants must make a presentation on the official contest topic and submit a typed copy of the speech.
2. Contestants can present in sign language, orally or using a combination of both.
3. Presentations may be delivered in a language other than English or French.
4. The interpreter is to be provided by the sponsoring Optimist Club/Zone/District.
5. All contestants must give the official contest topic in the first sentence of their presentation. If a contestant fails to do this, a 3-point penalty will be automatically assessed by the timekeeper.
6. Any quotation, copyrighted, or largely paraphrased material used in the presentation must be identified with the original author's name. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
7. The use of props, special costumes or clothing, will result in 10 penalty points.
8. The use of audience prompters will result in disqualification.
9. Notes and lecterns can be used if the contestant desires.
10. The time limit is not under 4 minutes and no longer than 5 minutes. Contestants going over or under will not be cautioned, and will be penalized one point each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the time limits. This penalty will be assessed by the timekeeper.

11. Timing will begin with first word or sign. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.
10. No reference can be made that identifies the contestant, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. This will result in a deduction of up to 5 points.
11. Contestants must not be identified by name, school or sponsoring Club until all judges have started deliberations.
12. Any protest in the conduct at any level of this contest must be made immediately after the condition is noted. Protests received after the next contestant has been introduced, or in the case of the last contestant, after the judges leave to total the scores, will not be accepted under any circumstances.
13. The Contest Chair will rule on all protests in accordance with the official rules. The decision of the Contest Chair is final and no higher appeals will be recognized.

### Section IV - Judging and Timing

1. Each contest must have three judges, one timekeeper and one certified interpreter.
2. The judges must be qualified to evaluate the presentation methods of all contestants with or without the assistance of an interpreter.
3. The judges and timekeeper must not be identified in any pre-publicity or at the contest until after the contest has been completed.
4. Judges are not permitted to discuss or compare scores or opinions on any of the contestants with anyone or each other. Judges must evaluate each presentation independently.
5. The judges' scores and penalties are confidential and should not be viewed by anyone except the Contest Chair.

### Section V - Scoring

1. Material Organization – subject adherence, theme, content, color and logic. The maximum point award is 40 points.
2. Delivery & Presentation – delivery, gestures and emphasis. The maximum point award is 30 points.
3. Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect. The maximum point award is 30 points.

### Section VI - Penalties

1. Failure to give official topic in the first sentence – 3 points
2. Failure to identify non-original material – up to 10 points
3. Use of props, costume, etc. – 10 points
4. Time penalties – 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the limit
5. Self-identification – up to 5 points
6. Failure to complete speech – disqualification
7. Use of audience prompters - disqualification

### For more information contact:

SPONSORING CLUB SHOULD POST CONTACT INFORMATION HERE

Contact person:

Contact address:

Contact phone or email: