



THE TORCH

SUMMER 2019



A JOI-ful Convention

More than 200 Junior Optimists from around the world joined their adult counterparts for the JOI Convention in Louisville, June 30 to July 2.

Junior Optimists joined the adult group for a combined Opening Ceremony on Sunday, June 30, where JOI members carried flags representing the countries of Optimist International.

After the opening ceremony, the group quickly turned its attention to service. Group members made 75 blankets of tied fleece for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kentuckiana. They also performed the Art with Optimism service project, where they worked on projects with children from the Cabbage Patch Settlement House.

After learning about Parliamentary Procedure from Past Optimist International President Ken Garner, delegates voted on a Policy for Governance change, participated in breakout sessions, learned about the history of JOI and the OI Centennial, did icebreakers, and produced more than 20 talent show acts. The 2019-20 JOI Board was elected and finished up with the always popular JOI Banquet and President's Dance.

During the 2019-2020 year, Julia Cooper, of Whitby, Ontario will serve as president and Cole Mullins, of Coronado, California, will serve as past president. They will be joined by Board Members Sophie-Chanel Bourré, of Ottawa, Ontario; Maya Gluck, of Altamonte Springs, Florida; Abigail Proctor, of The Valley, Anguilla; and Alice Potvin, of Métabetchouan, Quebec.

The Pony Scouts JOI Club of Bonita, California also received special recognition for winning the Reel Optimism contest, and also for raising \$8,600 for childhood cancer research at Johns Hopkins Children's Center.

The Junior Optimists also want to express a special thanks to the JOI Committee for making this convention a success: Chair Mark Claussen, Vicky Buteau, Sean Mueller, Donna Priester and Janet White.



Reel Optimism Winners



Optimist International is pleased to announce the winners of the 2019 Reel Optimism contest.

Adult Category:

Optimist Club of Riverside, Ontario

Junior Optimist International Category:

Pony Scouts of Bonita, California

Each winning Club will receive a \$1,500 grant to improve their community.

The Riverside Optimist Club is still deciding what to do with their grant, President Dwight Phillips said.

Members of the Pony Scouts are likely going to use their grant award to benefit a horse-rescue organization, said Adviser Deanna Haro.

Watch the Pony Scouts video here!



Norfolk JOI members removed coins from The River in the atrium of Children's Hospital on Wednesday, July 17th, with help from JOI members in Council Bluffs and Underwood, Iowa!





The North Florida District Optimist International & Junior Optimist International district conference was held this past weekend in Jacksonville. Some highlights of the JOI conference were assembling over 500 blessing bags for homeless veterans and making over 300 dog toys to distribute to animal shelters. The District oratorical contest was also held this weekend.





ADVISORS:

UPDATE YOUR ROSTERS ON OPTIMIST LEADERS!

Using your e-mail address:

- Go to www.optimist.org and click on “Optimist Leaders – Login”
- Enter your personal e-mail address as it appears on your Club roster
- Enter your password**
- Click the “Log-in” button.

** Note: You may retrieve your password using your personal e-mail address through the instant password recovery function on the login page. Your password retrieval e-mail address must match the information on your Club roster in the Optimist International database.

Have you been receiving our weekly e-mails? If not, let us know so that you get these important messages and information from our very own Junior Optimist Board of Directors.



DEADLINES

Application and support materials need to be submitted by September 30 for the following awards:

Honor Club Award/Distinguished Honor Club Award

Distinguished Junior Optimist International Governor

Outstanding Junior Optimist International Governor/Governor of Excellence
Club Project Awards

Submit to:

Optimist International
Junior Optimist Department
4494 Lindell Boulevard
Saint Louis, MO 63108

or

Fax: 314-371-6006

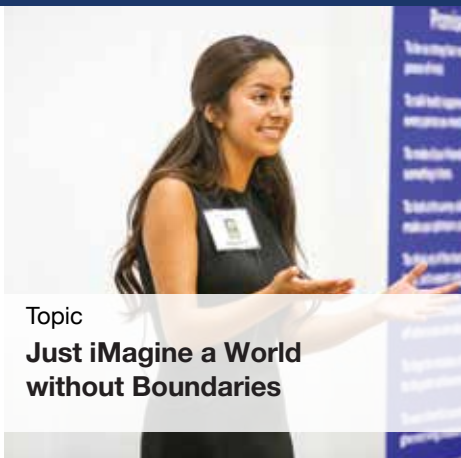
or

junioroptimist@optimist.org

Visit junioroptimist.org and click the joinUS button for an easy step-by-step checklist for new and existing Clubs!

Please contact junioroptimist@optimist.org to get your stories and project featured in the next issue of The Torch!

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONTESTS 2019-2020



ORATORICAL CONTEST

Beginning in 1928, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program of Optimist International. The contest is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with an opportunity to compete for multiple college scholarships with a pre-assigned topic.

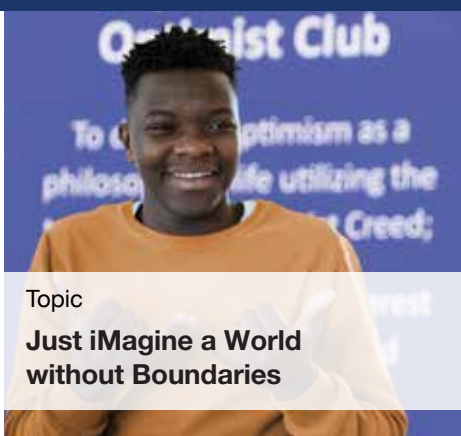
District Scholarships:
First Place: \$2,500 • Second Place: \$1,500 • Third Place: \$1,000
**with a chance to win up to \$22,500 at the
World Championships level**

ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live.

The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

One District Scholarship of \$2,500



COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

This contest offers an opportunity for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to present their thoughts in the community, gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship.

One District Scholarship of \$2,500

KIDS SPEAK OUT! SPEECH CONTEST

All young people can compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The "Kids Speak Out" contest is a "pre-Oratorical" program that provides a more equitable competition for younger speakers.



Follow complete Official Rules posted on www.optimist.org

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Connect with Junior Optimist International!


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