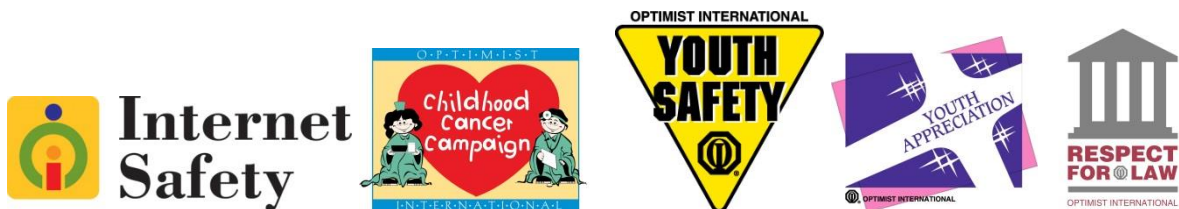




# Everything You Want to Know About

## 2014-2015 Optimist International

### PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES





# 2014-2015 Optimist International Essay Contest

The International Essay Club and District Planning Guides are on the Optimist International website at [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org). The Planning Guides contain instructions, applications and judging forms.

**What is the 2014-2015 topic?**

**“Optimism Should Be a Priority”**

Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner for the Essay, CCDHH and Oratorical contests in addition to the official medallions. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary.

Each District is given one **\$2500** scholarship for their first place winner. Dates for each District's judging are set by the District Essay Chair. The winner's paperwork must be turned in by each District to the Optimist International Programs Department by **April 15, 2015**. Upon receipt of **all** winner's paperwork, the student will be sent a congratulatory letter, an Enrollment Confirmation Statement, and a scholarship provisional.

**When is the Club deadline to submit the essay winner to the District contest?**

The Club deadline for 2014-2015 is **February 28, 2015**.

**Where do I order medallions, etc.?**

Effective October 1, US and Caribbean Clubs can order materials from Shumsky by calling toll free 800.223.2203 or [zmd@shumsky.com](mailto:zmd@shumsky.com). Canadian Clubs can order materials from OptiPromo by calling 855.704.1080 or [info@optipromo.org](mailto:info@optipromo.org).

**What if my District wants to raise the amount of the scholarship or award additional scholarships?**

Districts choosing to increase funding for scholarships or fund additional scholarships will need to manage those funds through other resources, such as District accounts or contributing those funds to the Optimist International Foundations.

**If I have a question about the Essay Contest, who do I contact?**

If you cannot reach your District Essay Chair, contact the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, ext.201, or email [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org).



## 2014-2015 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

The International Oratorical Club and District Planning Guides are on the Optimist International website at [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org). The Guides contain instructions, applications and judging forms.

**What is the 2014-2015 topic?**

**“How My Optimism Will Help Me Press on to Greater Achievements of the Future”**

Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner for the Essay, CCDHH and Oratorical contests in addition to the official medallions. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary.

Each District is given \$5,000 in scholarships. Districts with separate gender contests shall award the top boy and girl winner with a \$2,500 scholarship. Districts with combined gender contests may award two \$2,500 scholarships or a \$2,500, a \$1,500 and a \$1,000 scholarship to the first, second and third place winners respectively.

The District winners' materials must be turned in to the Programs Department no later than **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**. Upon receipt of **all** the winner's paperwork, each student will be sent a congratulatory letter, an Enrollment Confirmation Statement, and a scholarship provisional.

**Where do I order medallions, etc.?**

Effective October 1, US and Caribbean Clubs can order materials from Shumsky by calling toll free 800.223.2203 or [zmd@shumsky.com](mailto:zmd@shumsky.com). Canadian Clubs can order materials from OptiPromo by calling 855.704.1080 or [info@optipromo.org](mailto:info@optipromo.org).

**What if my District wants to raise the amount of the scholarships or award additional scholarships?**

Districts choosing to increase funding for scholarships or fund additional scholarships will need to manage those funds through other resources, such as District accounts or contributing those funds to the Optimist International Foundations.

**If I have a question about the Oratorical Contest, who do I contact?**

If you cannot reach your District Oratorical Chair, contact the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, ext. 201, or email [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org).



# **2014-2015**

## **Optimist International**

# **Communication Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)**

The International Club and District Planning Guides are on the Optimist International website at [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org). The CCDHH Guides contain instructions, applications and judging forms.

What is the 2014-2015 topic?

**“How My Optimism Will Help Me Press on to Greater Achievements of the Future”**

Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner for the Essay, CCDHH and Oratorical contests in addition to the official medallions. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary.

Each District is given one \$2,500 scholarship. The District winner’s paperwork must be turned in to the Programs Department no later than **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. Upon receipt of **all** winner’s paperwork, the student will be sent a congratulatory letter, an Enrollment Confirmation Statement, and list of scholarship provisions.

### **Where do I order medallions, etc.?**

Effective October 1, US and Caribbean Clubs can order materials from Shumsky by calling toll free 800.223.2203 or [zmd@shumsky.com](mailto:zmd@shumsky.com). Canadian Clubs can order materials from OptiPromo by calling 855.704.1080 or [info@optipromo.org](mailto:info@optipromo.org).

### **What if my District wants to raise the amount of the scholarships or award additional scholarships?**

Districts choosing to increase funding for scholarships or fund additional scholarships will need to manage those funds through other resources, such as District accounts or contributing those funds to the Optimist International Foundations.

### **If I have a question about the contest, whom should I contact?**

If you cannot reach your District Chair, contact the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, ext. 201, or email [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org).



# Internet Safety

## **What is this program?**

Statistics show that 99% of all teens have access to the internet and 94% of students admitted to being cyber bullied and did not tell an adult. The importance of protecting the children in your community is a major undertaking and your Club can play a vital role.

Internet Safety became an Optimist International program in December 2008. The program is underwritten by the Optimist International Foundations and was developed through a partnership with the Internet Keep Safe Coalition.

## **Adult Internet Safety Education Program**

### **What is this program?**

This program is geared for adults to be presented in groups, large or small with an interactive discussion format being utilized and is designed so that Clubs can make the presentations with as few as two people or as many as they choose.

## **Life in the Online World – a program for teens**

### **What is this program?**

Optimist International is proud to have partnered with Junior Optimist Octagon International to develop an Internet safety program geared toward teens. The program is for teens by teens. The goal is to acknowledge that teenagers use the internet on a daily basis and to encourage diligence, awareness and safe practices. Topics discussed include posting inappropriate pictures or damaging information on social networking websites, internet predators, identity theft and cyber-bullying.

## **Faux Paw the Techno Cat**

### **What is this program?**

The Faux Paw the Techno Cat program teaches Internet Safety to children 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Where do I find the Internet Safety Program materials?**

Clubs may request one packet of information for free and the packet will include a Club Member Education DVD, the Adult Safety Education DVD, Adult supplemental documents that provide instruction on how to present the program CD, Life in the Online World DVD, Teen Safety supplemental documents CD, and the Faux Paw CD with presentations and supplemental documents.

The supplemental documents that provide instructions on how to present the programs and information that can be utilized during the presentations are also available on the Optimist International website [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org).

For more information or to request a packet, please contact the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, ext. 235, or e-mail [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org).



# Optimist Childhood Cancer Campaign (CCC)

“Providing the Care, Finding the Cure”

## What is this program?

Cancer has resulted in more deaths among children than any other disease. Optimist International has developed a program suited to the strengths and resources of its members. Clubs and Districts have the opportunity to provide assistance and services directly to children receiving treatment for cancer, their care partners and service providers, as well as contribute to ongoing research efforts.

## What is the focus of this program?

Optimist International is committed to being the leading force to rid the world of childhood cancer. In December 2009, Optimist International met a \$1 million commitment to establish the Endowed Research Fellowship at Johns Hopkins. The organization has pledged an additional \$500,000 to fund and create the Optimist International Innovative Research Fund at Johns Hopkins. To donate to this worthy cause, please send funds to the US Optimist International Foundation and designate they are for “childhood cancer research” on the check memo line or in an attached letter.

Optimist Clubs and Districts sponsoring CCC projects may apply for a matching grant from Optimist International to maximize the impact made on childhood cancer patients, their families and their healthcare providers. An application can be found on the Optimist website at [www.optimist.org/ccc](http://www.optimist.org/ccc).

## How can I get involved?

Optimist International annually hosts an organization-wide walk to promote childhood cancer awareness and raise much needed funds. All Clubs are asked to sponsor a CCC Walk during June, Optimist International Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. This show of unified support will demonstrate the organization’s mission to “be the leading force to rid the world of childhood cancer.”

## What materials are available?

A Resource Packet, which contains an operations manual, program brochure, CCC bank order form, suggested program ideas and a lesson plan guide is available upon request. A guide on how to organize a CCC walk in your community is also available.

## Where do I order support materials?

Contact Optimist International by calling 800-500-8130, ext. 235, or via fax at 314-371-6006, or email [ccc@optimist.org](mailto:ccc@optimist.org). Orders for Canadian delivery may be ordered by calling toll-free 800.363.7151 or faxing 514.721.1104.

**For more information, call the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, ext. 235 or email [ccc@optimist.org](mailto:ccc@optimist.org).**

# YOUTH SAFETY



## What is this program?

The Optimist International Youth Safety program encompasses all of the activities originally included in the Safety on Wheels Program.

## What kind of projects can my Club plan?

The Youth Safety Community Activities Planning Guide has numerous project ideas from bike inspection and skating skill events to a comprehensive school bus safety program. The Planning Guide is available on the Optimist website, <http://www.Optimist.org>

For more details, call the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, ext 201, or email [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org).

# YOUTH APPRECIATION



## Are there specific dates for this program?

No, Youth Appreciation activities can be scheduled anytime, according to your Club's preference.

## What kind of projects can my Club plan?

The Youth Appreciation Community Activities Planning Guide contains all types of ideas ranging from Youth in Government Day, parades, parties, banquets, to recognizing a Youth of the Month. The Planning Guide is available on the Optimist website at [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org).

For more information, contact the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, extension 201, or email [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org).



# Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence



## Are there specific dates for this program?

No, Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence activities can be scheduled anytime, according to your Club's preference.

## What kind of projects can our Club plan for this program?

Projects can include law enforcement officer awards, citizen awards, a family rally, victims of violence vigil or child fingerprinting, for example. Ideas are detailed in International Programs Planning Guide available on the Optimist website.

Contact the Programs Department at 800-500-8130 extension 201 or email [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org) for more details.

# President's Pride Report



## Where can I find and fill out the President's Pride?

The form can be accessed by Club officers at <http://www.OptimistLeaders.org>. It can be filled out and submitted via the website. If you would like to print a copy of the form, it is available on the Forms page of the Optimist website, <http://www.Optimist.org>. **Submission of a completed form is an Honor Club requirement as a club must sponsor at least three service projects a year.**

**Copies will be mailed only upon request.** Faxed or photocopied forms will be accepted, if legible.

## When is the report due?

The completed form is due to Optimist International by **September 30**. Any questions on this form, contact the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, extension 201, or email [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org).



# Community Project Awards



The following CPA categories are endorsed by the Optimist International Activities Committee in order to sufficiently acknowledge the wide array of youth, community and fundraising projects completed by Clubs each year.

**Best Film (.mp4 format)** – Clubs are asked to showcase their project through a 10-minute moving video clip. The questions on the Project Story should be answered during the video. Clubs are encouraged to use the video not only to display the project being worked on but to use the time to explain how another Club could replicate the activity in their own community. Please be sure that the video clip is a moving video and not just pictures spliced together. Be creative!

**Best Writing in a CPA Entry (.pdf format)** – Clubs are welcome to complete the Project Story by typing in the information and developing all the materials as they have previously for the CPA program. Then instead of printing them out and putting them in a binder, just save everything to a CD in .pdf format.

Clubs can enter any type of project (youth, community service or fundraising) in either of the categories.

**Best Youth Activity** is not a submission category. All youth activity projects submitted will be considered for this award.

**Entries in both the Digital and Electronic Document categories should be submitted on CD to Optimist International. The deadline for submissions is December 15 the following fiscal year.**

## Fundraising

### Where should my Club go for help on raising funds?

The International Programs Planning Guide is filled with information and ideas to assist your Club in conducting a well organized and successful event. This packet is available on the publications page of the Optimist website, [www.Optimist.org](http://www.Optimist.org)

The Online Resource Library features suggested ideas and successful fundraising projects completed and documented by Clubs. The Resource Library can be found on the Optimist website, [www.Optimist.org](http://www.Optimist.org)



# Programs Support Materials

## Where do I order support items and awards?

Effective October 1, US and Caribbean Clubs can order materials from Shumsky by calling toll free 800.223.2203 or [zmd@shumsky.com](mailto:zmd@shumsky.com). Canadian Clubs can order materials from OptiPromo by calling 855.704.1080 or [info@optipromo.org](mailto:info@optipromo.org).

## The International Programs Planning Guides

The International Programs Planning Guides are available for download from the Optimist International Website. The guides are dedicated to the following programs and community activities: Childhood Cancer Program, CCDHH, Essay, Oratorical/Kids Speak Out, Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence, Youth Appreciation and Youth Safety.

*If you are interested in any section of a guide, visit the Optimist International website.*  
We no longer send out separate Club kits unless requested.

## WHO DO I CONTACT AT OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT PROGRAMS?

### St. Louis Office - International Headquarters Programs Department

☎ Phone 800-500-8130, Ext. 201 or 235

☎ Fax 314-371-6006

✉ Email [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org)

### Canadian Service Centre

☎ Phone 800-363-7151 ☎ Fax 514-721-1104

✉ Email [canadianservice@optimist.org](mailto:canadianservice@optimist.org)

## PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT DEADLINES AND DATES

Date	Program
December 15, 2014	Club deadline to submit 2013-2014 CPA Entries to Optimist International
February 28, 2015	Club winning Essay submitted to District Chair deadline
April 15, 2015	District winning Essay submitted to Optimist International deadline
June 15, 2015	District deadline to submit Oratorical and CCDHH winners to Optimist International
September 30, 2015	Club deadline to submit 2014-2015 President's Pride Report to Optimist International