

## **Junior Optimist International Nations! Worldwide Program** **“joiNations! (JOIN!)”**

**Description:** The “**Junior Optimist International Nations! (joiNations! - JOIN!)**” is crafted around the “Model United Nations Student Program”. The uniqueness of “**joiNations!**” is that it is focused specifically on those Members that are part of the Junior Optimist International program which currently includes 15,000 +/- youth enrolled in primary and secondary educational levels, or Home-Schooled.

**Purpose:** The purpose of Junior Optimist International Nations (**JOIN!**) is to promote the pillars of Junior Optimist International by creating an event at the international convention that encourages global cooperation through public speaking opportunities. Based off of a Model United Nations platform, each club has one or multiple representatives (delegates, if you will) that present an issue effecting the entire international community that they believe is paramount and requires greater action. Once each problem has been introduced and there has been time for supporters and nay-sayers to speak, that problem will be voted on as to whether or not to add to the overall list. Once there have been five issues compiled, they will be voted on, where one problem will receive the most votes and will be the topic of interest for the upcoming year. Each club will return to their communities not only with more mature speaking and persuasion abilities, but also with an issue to conduct a service project for. This allows every club to do what is in their economic capacity to achieve, but still impacts a global calamity that this organization deems most pertinent. It also adds to the “international” component to our international organization, especially as we continue to grow and develop to all corners of the world. This addition is important because many do not feel as though we are truly international past the honoring of the flags in the introduction of the general meeting. Overall, **JOIN!** presents members with an opportunity to enhance their public speaking with a topic they feel passionately about, creates a scenario that forces critical thinking centered on global topics, and impacts an issue that has worldwide effects.

-Amanda Heinzmann  
JOI Board of Directors

### **Objective(s):**

1. As the Junior Optimist International program continues to expand worldwide, the understanding of the concept of “normal” must expand. **joiNations!** and other programs currently being developed and put in place (joiConnect, Jump4JOI, Penny4YourThoughts, joiBoardTalk, etc) by the Junior Optimist International Board of Directors (“JOI Board”) and their team of International Youth Committee (“IYC”) Members this fiscal year will enhance the ability for Junior Optimists to communicate with each other while increasing cultural awareness and global understanding.
2. Initiate the launch of the “joiNations!” at the Junior Optimist International Convention in Ottawa this July with a focus on identifying a “**JOIN! Initiative 2018: \_\_\_\_\_**” as decided on by a vote of the Accredited Delegates to the Convention. The “**JOIN! Initiative 2018:**” will identify a timeline for the initiative, a fundraising period of time for all JOI Clubs to participate, and the distribution method required to meet the “Initiative” goal. Progress reports and results will become part of the JOI Website.
3. Acquire Strategic Partners to facilitate the gathering of Junior Optimists, worldwide, at International Junior Optimist Conventions in the areas of air transportation, housing, and nutrition through the use of marketing efforts including, but not limited to direct contact, social media, and other means of effective communication.
4. Through the Strategic Partners, it is the intent for our **joiNations!** program to become self-sufficient (offset related expenses) within a three (3) year period through in-kind service donations, program sponsorships, and outside donations.