



## Facts About Optimist International

### Optimist International

Headquarters: St. Louis

Founded: 1919

Number of Optimist Clubs: 3,000

Number of Members: 80,000

### Junior Optimist International

Youth Clubs Organization

Founded: 1988

Number of Youth Clubs: 510

Number of Youth Members: 16,000

### Major Service Programs

- Youth Scholarship Competitions: nearly \$600,000 in scholarships award annually:
  - Oratorical World Championships: thousands of students compete in local, district, regional & international competitions.
  - Communications Contest for the Deaf-and-Hard of Hearing: patterned after the Oratorical Contest.
  - Essay Contest: thousands of students compete in local and district events.
- Optimist International Junior Golf Championships: one of the largest and best-known junior golf programs in the world.
- Optimist Childhood Cancer Campaign: the world's premier childhood cancer eradication program.
- Youth Safety: promoting safe use of bicycles, school buses, skates and the Internet.
- Tri-Star Sports: promotes physical fitness in youth.
- Youth Appreciation: recognizing local youth for their efforts in arts, athletics, academics and community service.
- Respect for Law: honoring law enforcement and public safety personnel for protecting our communities.
- Optimist Non-Violence Day: educating children and parents about violence and providing alternatives and prevention methods.

### Scope of Service

- More than 65,000 service projects annually
- 6 million youth directly served each year
- More than \$78 million spent annually on community service projects

### History

- First Optimist Club: Optimist Club of Buffalo, New York, 1911
- First International Convention: Louisville, Kentucky, June 1919
- The Optimist Creed authored by Christian D. Larson in 1912, adopted by Optimist International in 1922