

**SANTA CLAUS OPTIMIST CLUB 05483**  
**SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA**

The Santa Claus Optimist Club was chartered in 1971. Since the formation of the club we have only had one president who served back to back terms. The club has grown in membership and is currently at 101 members in a community of about 2,000 people. The Optimist club is recognized as a leader and a very important part of the community especially in the schools. The club membership is mature with many retired members and many spousal members. Members range in age from 31 to over 80. The club is a hands on club which loves to get involved directly with the youth and community. There are also many other organizations and youth that are supported financially and socially.

The following is a particle list of the activities the Santa Claus Optimist Club does for the youth and community.

**PROJECTS**

- ★ Tri-Star Sports include: basketball, football, soccer, baseball/softball and golf. We award certificates to all participants and medals to the top 3 places in all ages.
- ★ Santa Claus coloring contest for grades K and first. There are about 250 youth who compete in 10 categories and win stuffed animals and ride on the Optimist float in the parade. All participants receive an Optimist pencil.
- ★ Santa Claus parade with active youth, music, toys, marchers and gifts for the youth.
- ★ Dale Fall Festival parade in which we pass out Santa Claus Optimist pencils to youth.
- ★ Sponsor Hoosier Boys and Girls State participants to government conference.
- ★ HOBY leadership camp sponsorship for 10<sup>th</sup> grade student held at Butler University.
- ★ HHHS Honors Banquet for 42 years honoring the top 10 percent of all high school students and parents including a meal. Certificates to 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students and plaques to 12<sup>th</sup> grade plus recognition of an influential person in the student's education.
- ★ At risk tutoring program for middle and high school students.
- ★ Leadership Awards for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- ★ Assistance for child of family who lost home to fire.

- ★ Christmas party with gifts for youth at Community Action Center.
- ★ Polar Plunge for Special Olympics.
- ★ Donations to Special Olympics in Spencer County.
- ★ WRAP (warmth, rest and prayer) project - fleece blankets for Peyton Manning Cancer Center (buy, cut, tie and present to hospital).
- ★ Childhood cancer donations.
- ★ Banana splits for 200 7<sup>th</sup> grade students entering middle school during bonding activities.
- ★ Quarterly recognition for outstanding life skills with ice cream sundaes for elementary students.
- ★ Award scholarships to boy and girl graduate from high school.
- ★ Respect For Law Camp sponsorship for students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade to attend Optimist Respect For Law Camp (\$4-8,000).
- ★ Optimist golf sponsor for youth going to District and International competition.
- ★ Financial supporter of Jr. Achievement.
- ★ Support after prom and prom for students.
- ★ Participate in Optimist Essay contest.
- ★ Participate in Optimist Oratorical contest.
- ★ Donations to youth park.
- ★ Participant in Christmas events held in town on three Christmas weekends.
- ★ Publish regular newsletters.
- ★ Prepare scrapbook annually and enter District competition.
- ★ Conduct 1-2 NOW programs annually.
- ★ Complete 1-2 NCB efforts annually.
- ★ Recognize community members with Above & Beyond Award.
- ★ Sponsor both Jr. Optimist and Octagon Clubs

### **FUND RAISERS**

- ★ Avenue of Flags - Approximately \$10,000 - Place American Flag in lawn of subscribers on 6 National Holidays.
- ★ Golf Scramble - Approximately \$8,000 - from sponsors and players.
- ★ Pancake Breakfast - Approximately \$3,000.

The Santa Claus Optimist Club holds meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month. Members wear a name badge. We always have a meal and we always have a speaker at each meeting. Speakers are presented a framed certificate as a remembrance of their attendance. Reports are given by committee chairs and Lt. Gov. if needed. New members are inducted

during the meeting with presentation of oath, packet, pin, framed certificate and sponsor pin. A short bio of the member is presented to the membership. One member decorates the tables at each meeting with a theme according to the time of the year. There is a lot of fun and fellowship at club meetings with the recognition of birthdays and anniversaries complete with singing as well as cards sent to the members. There is a half pot drawing each meeting which always ends up being \$10 (the price of the meal). The final event at each meeting is the fun of getting fined for offenses you **MAY HAVE** committed during the meeting - especially the president and other leaders. Some members say they come just for this part. Board of Directors meetings are held after the conclusion of the regular meeting.

The Santa Claus Optimist Club supports the efforts of the Indiana South District and Optimist International with participation at Zone meetings, District conferences and conventions as well as Optimist International conventions and workshops. Many of our members are in leadership positions in the District and Optimist International. Members feel very strongly about their Optimist involvement and our president stated at a recent meeting, "If I had to give up things I am involved in, I would give up everything else but not my Optimist and not my new granddaughter."