

Scholarship Opportunities for Local Youth in Pitt County

The Optimist Club of Greenville is accepting applications for its annual Oratorical Contest for students younger than 18 as of October 1, 2016; who are educated in Pitt County; and have not graduated from high school or the equivalent.

Contestants will present a 4-5 minute presentation on the theme "***What the Word Gains from Optimism.***" The two top speakers at the club level receive medallions and will have an opportunity to participate in the NC East Zone 4 Contest and may advance to the NC East District Contest which will provide a first place scholarship of \$2,500, second place scholarship of \$1,500, and a third place scholarship of \$1,000.

The Optimist Oratorical World Championship is to be held June 15-16, 2017. Each Optimist District will have the exciting opportunity to send one of their District Oratorical winners to St. Louis to compete with the winners of the Districts in their Region for a scholarship valued at \$5,000 or more. The winner of each Region (eight winners total) will compete with the winner from Saint Louis University's Global Region for a \$15,000, \$10,000, or \$5,000 World Championship scholarship. There is a potential for a student to win \$22,500 or more in scholarships.

Applications (accompanied with copy of birth certificate and typewritten speech) are due by Friday, March 10, 2016; more information is available at www.greenvilleoptimists.org or entries@greenvilleoptimists.org or contact Lou Anna Hardee at (252) 752-6051.

Application for 2016-2017 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____
 State/Country _____ Zip Code _____
 Telephone (____) _____ E-mail _____
 Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Age _____

Parent or Guardian Permission: _____
 I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest.

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____
 Relationship _____
 I, _____ grant the Optimist Club/International my
 permission to use a picture of my son/daughter _____ for their
 public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo in any publication they
 see fit. Sponsoring Optimist Club Name _____ Optimist Club of Greenville
 Sponsoring Optimist Club Number 43210

Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Oratorical Contest this school year? Yes No

Gender: Male Female

Contestant Agreement:

I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all of the requirements.

Contestant's Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

Please send application to address below:

Topic: "What the World Gains from Optimism"

Section I — General Rules

- The Optimist International Oratorical Contest will begin at the Club level, proceed to the Zone level and end with a contest at the World Championships level. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
- The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club's Contest Chair.
- The District has the right to decide whether to have a combined gender contest or a separate gender contest. No Zone, District Regional or District level contest shall have fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants competing.
- Optimist International has the right to edit, publish and record any speech used in any contest without payment to the author.

Section II — Qualifications For Contestants

- The contest is open to students under the age of 18 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International Contest year (October 1 – September 30). Contestants must be educated in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. There is no minimum age.
- A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in only one Optimist Oratorical contest during a contest year.
- Each contestant shall prepare his or her own speech. The contestant may receive advice in the preparation of the speech and may make minor changes or improvement in the speech at any time.
- A student who has won a District Oratorical scholarship is not eligible to compete at any level of the Oratorical competition again unless selected to compete at in the World Championships. A contestant shall compete in the World Championships only once.
- All contestants at each level of the contest must show proof of age before competing. Optimist Clubs may require a copy of birth certificate or passport if offering a Club scholarship separate from Optimist International. District winners must provide a copy of the birth certificate or passport with the District entry documentation. A printed copy of the speech must be provided either before or after the speech.

Section III — Contest Rules

- All contestants must speak on the official topic.
- A speech may be delivered in a language other than English if the language used is an official language of the country in which the sponsoring Club is located.
- All contestants must state the official topic beginning their speech in order for the timekeeper to record the exact time of the speech. A 3-point penalty is automatically assessed by the timekeeper for failure to state the official topic.
- Any quotation or copyrighted material used in the speech must be identified verbally during the presentation and in the written copy of the speech with the original author's name. The contestant shall be fully responsible for the use of any quoted material and Optimist International shall assume no responsibility. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
- The use of props, special costumes or clothing, or the use of prompters will not be permitted. The penalty will be disqualification. Notes and lecterns can be used if the contestant desires.
- The time allowed will be not under 4 minutes or over 5 minutes. Contestants going over or under will not be cautioned, and will be penalized one point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time. This penalty will be determined by the official timekeeper.
- Timing will begin immediately after the official topic is expressed. Any salutation to judges, audience, etc., should precede the announcement of the topic. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.
- No reference can be made that identifies the student, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. This will result in a deduction of 5 points or a fraction of based on the degree of identification.
- Contestants shall not be identified by name or sponsoring Clubs until after the last oration has been presented and the judges and timekeeper have left the room.
- Any protest in the conduct at any level of this contest must be made immediately after the condition is noted. Protests received after the next contestant has been introduced, or in the case of the last contestant, after the judges leave to total the scores, will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- The Contest Chairperson will decide all protests in accordance with the official rules. The decision of the Contest Chair is final and no higher appeals will be recognized. In the case of Club contests, the Club Contest Chair has this authority. In the case of Zone and District contests, the final authority is vested in the District Contest Chair. The Zone Chair has the authority to handle protests that may arise during the Zone competition with the District Chair having the final authority.

Section IV — Scoring

Scoring in all Club, Zone and District contests will conform to the following criteria.

- Poise – appearance and personality: 20 points
- Content of Speech – subject adherence, theme, content, logic and color: 35 points
- Delivery & Presentation – voice, volume, pronunciation, gestures, eye contact, sincerity and emphasis: 35 points
- Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect: 10 points.

Section V — Penalties

- Failure to announce the official topic - 3 points
- Failure to identify non-original material – disqualification
- Use of props, etc. – disqualification
- Time penalties – 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time
- Self-identification – 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification

Section VI — Awards

- Club level – medalion
- Zone level – plaque
- District Regional level – plaque
- District – plaque and scholarship

A. Each winner of the District level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. In a combined gender contest, there will be two winners awarded \$2,500 each, or three winners awarded scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively for first, second and third place in Districts conducting separate gender contests, the first-place boy and girl will receive a scholarship of \$2,500.

B. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.

C. Scholarships must be used in a school located in the United States, Caribbean or Canada. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.

D. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

E. The World Championship Optimist Oratorical Contest – Plaque and Scholarship

A. Each winner of the Regional level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. There will be one winner awarded a scholarship of \$5000 at the Regional Level. All winners of the Regional Contests will be eligible to compete in the World Championship Contest with awards for first, second, and third place of \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000 respectively at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri.

B. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.

C. Scholarships must be used in a school located in the United States, Caribbean or Canada. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.

D. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

For more information contact:
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