Win Scholarships for Speaking!!!

Purpose

Since its start in 1928, the Optimist Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program sponsored by Optimist International. The contest is designed for youth to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with the opportunity to compete for a college scholarship.

Approved
MAR 2018
Abocolar Saadat
SBUSD-Asst. Supt

For more information contact:

Michelle Syverson

Phone: 619 964 9532

Email: msyverson71@gmail.com

March 6, 2018

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PRESENTS

THE

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
ORATORICAL
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Win up to $22,500 in Scholarships!!!

HOW TO APPLY

Interested students should prepare a 4 to 5 minute speech on the assigned topic to be presented at their local Optimist Club's contest. The speeches are judged at the Club level, Zone level, District Regional level (if needed) and then at the District level.

Eligibility Criteria:

The contest is open to students under the age of 18 as of October 1, 2017.

APPROVED FOR LISTING
NASSP
2016–2017
STUDENT CONTESTS, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

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Optimist Club Competitions

Optimist Club Contest and Scholarship — Contact your local Optimist Club regarding contest dates and offered awards.

Optimist District Competitions

Optimist Club Oratorical Contest Winners will compete at the Optimist District Contest for a chance to win up to a **$2500** scholarship. Scholarship must be redeemed by the age of 25.

Optimist International Oratorical Regional Competitions

One Optimist District Winner will compete at the Optimist Regional Contest at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri via live streaming. The Regional Scholarship award is **$5000.** Scholarship must be redeemed by the age of 25. The Regional Contest will be held June 28, 2018 at Saint Louis University via online streaming.

Optimist International Oratorical World Championships

Each Regional Winner will compete in the World Championship Contest for a chance to win a first, second, or third place scholarship of **$15,000, $10,000, or $5,000** respectively. The World Championship Contest will be held June 29, 2018 at Saint Louis University via online streaming.

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY.

Approved
JAN 2018
Abdollar Saadat
SBUSD-Ass. Supt

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

2017-2018

Optimist Oratorical

Topic:

"WHERE ARE MY ROOTS OF OPTIMISM?"

Application for 2017-2018 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Country _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Date of Birth _____/_____/_____ Age _____

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 ____/____/____

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 of Imperial Beach

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number 619-964-9532

Language speech will be spoken in: ☐ English ☐ French

Approved
Accounts Speech
SBUSD-Asst. Supt

Please send application to address below:

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Topic: Where are My Roots of Optimism?"

Section I — *General Rules*

1. 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
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club
3. The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club's Contest Chair
4. The District has the right to decide whether to have a combined gender contest or a separate gender contest
5. No Zone, District Regional or District level contest shall have fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants competing
6. 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*

1. 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
2. A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in only one Optimist Oratorical contest during a contest year. Once a contestant wins a scholarship at the District level, the contestant is ineligible to compete in an Optimist Oratorical Contest in a subsequent year, unless the contestant is selected to compete in the World Championships in the year the contestant wins the District contest
3. 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
4. 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 once in the World Championships in the same year they won the District contest. A contestant shall compete in the World Championship only once
5. 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*

1. All contestants must speak on the official topic in the first sentence of the speech
2. 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
3. All contestants must state the official topic in the first sentence of their speech. Timing will begin with the first spoken word and the topic must be stated in the first sentence of the speech. A 3-point penalty is automatically assessed by the timekeeper for failure to state the official topic
4. 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
5. 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
6. 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
7. Timing immediately at the first word spoken. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes
8. 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
9. 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
10. 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
11. 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

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

Section V — *Penalties*

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

Section VI - *Awards*

1. Club level – medallion
2. Zone level – plaque
3. District Regional level – plaque
4. 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. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International
   - D. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25
5. 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. 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:

March 6 2018

Contact Person:
Michelle Syverson

Contact Address:
1311 Connecticut Street
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Contact Phone or email:
619-964-9532 msyverson71@gmail.com

Approved
Abcolar Search
SBUSD-Asst. Supt

Optimist of Imperial Beach

Contact
Michelle Syverson
619-964-9532

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 15, 2018

Local Optimist Club to Sponsor Oratorical Contest for Students

Imperial Beach, CA – The Optimist Club of Imperial Beach is encouraging area students to speak their minds about the topic **"Where Are My Roots of Optimism?"** as part of the Optimist International Oratorical Contest for the 2017-2018 year.

The Optimist Club will judge the local students' speeches based on content and presentation to determine the top winners. Winners will receive a gift certificate and the winning speeches will be sent to the Zone level, and possibly the District level for the opportunity to win college scholarships. Winners of the District level will be eligible to compete in a regional competition in St. Louis Missouri at Saint Louis University. Winners of the regional contests will compete in the World Championship also held at Saint Louis University. Students could possibly win up to $22,500 in scholarships!

The contest is open to students under the age of 18 as of October 1, 2017.

"As they prepare for their future, many of our local students need experience expressing their thoughts and opinions to an audience," Club President Sue Arciaga said. "The Oratorical Contest challenges them to do just that and also offers an opportunity for scholarships. In this way, our club hopes to bring out the best in each of them and help them achieve their goals for the future."

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Approved
Abcoolar Seacat
SBUSD Asst. Supt

The deadline to hand in speeches is **March 2, 2018**. Students wishing to participate in the oratorical contest can find out more about the contest by contacting the club at Michelle Syverson 619-964-9532. Note: The club level oratorical will be held on Tuesday, **March 6, 2018** at South Bay Union School District Conference Room 1-3, 601 Elm Avenue, Imperial Beach, CA 91932. Students need to arrive at 4:00 to be registered, please be on time, we will promptly start at 4:30. Signed applications and a typed copy of the speech are to be submitted by March 2, 2018 to Michelle Syverson at 1311 Connecticut Street, Imperial Beach, CA 91932 or by email msyverson71@gmail.com. On the day of the speech, participants MUST bring a copy of their birth certificate and their speech.

Parents: please note you may not personally video/audio record the presentations.

The Optimist Club of Imperial Beach has been participating in the Optimist Oratorical Contest for 23 years and has been active in the community since 1987. Other programs and service projects that the Club is involved in include Imperial Beach Kids and Castles, Optimist Essay competition, Conkerr, Holiday Food Drive and scholarship programs.

Optimist International is one of the world's largest service club organizations with 93,000 adult and youth members in 3,200 clubs in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean and throughout the world. The Optimist Oratorical Contest is one of the organization's most popular programs, with more than 2,000 clubs participating annually. Carrying the Mission Statement "By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves," Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than six million young people each year. To learn more about Optimist International, please call (314) 371-6000 or visit the organization's website at www.optimist.org.

Dates to remember:

March 2 Applications Due

March 6 Oratorical Contest

OPTIMISTS- BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN KIDS

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