



WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN JOOI?

JOOI Clubs provide a cool way for you and your friends to help solve real problems facing your hometown. JOOI links Members of all Optimist JOOI Clubs throughout North America and around the world. An adult Optimist Club sponsors JOOI Clubs. Optimist Clubs, which live by the motto “Friend of Youth,” consist of adult business and community leaders who want to help youth in their hometowns. JOOI Clubs perform community service projects just like adult Optimist Clubs. All JOOI Clubs share the same mission, “Kids Helping Kids,” and students like you organize and run the Clubs.

Who runs the show?

You do! JOOI Club Members run their own meetings, plan events and elect all officers. As a Member, you'll make almost all your Club's important decisions! You will decide where and how often to meet. Most Clubs meet in a central location. Popular sites include schools, community centers and churches. Many Clubs meet as often as once a week; other Clubs meet only once a month. Some Clubs, such as computer Clubs, plan activities and projects via e-mail and get together to perform activities on weekends or school breaks. You'll decide which service projects you want to do – from fundraising to tutoring – you, and the rest of the Members, run the show!

Can anyone belong to JOOI?

JOOI welcomes everyone from ages 6 through 18! For younger students, Alpha Clubs (ages 6 to 9) provide simple and fun activities parents and younger kids can do together. Middle school and junior high students join Junior Optimist Clubs (ages 10 to 13) for more involved and independent activities. High school students fulfill community service graduation requirements, improve their hometowns and develop skills for college or careers by joining Octagon Clubs (ages 14 to 18).

Benefits of JOOI Membership

JOOI lets you make a real difference right in your hometown! JOOI helps kids be a strong force in their communities. You can change the world – start with your corner of it!

MEMBERSHIP OFFERS:

Fun!

You'll get to know other kids in your school and community! You'll do great things for your hometown and have a fantastic time doing it. If your town has an Alpha Club and a Junior Optimist or Octagon Club, the transition from elementary school to junior high, or junior high to high school will be much easier. You'll have a built-in network of friends and partners in service.

Skills and experience!

Through JOOI you'll develop leadership skills at local, regional and national levels. The skills you learn now will help you grow and make your next step – whether it's junior high, high school or college – much easier. You can fulfill community service requirements for graduation and build impressive credentials for college and a résumé. You'll learn about citizenship, teamwork, communication and organization.

Experience other cultures!

JOOI Members come from all 50 states, several Canadian provinces and even the Caribbean. You'll share unforgettable experiences that you'll always treasure.

Networking!

Through JOOI you'll meet adults in your community who care about kids and want to make the world a better place. These adults help you with service projects and fundraisers. You'll meet people who will be great resources as you apply to college or seek a job. Optimist Members write outstanding letters of recommendation for potential employers, scholarships and colleges. JOOI activities provide great stuff for the elusive "experience" spot on job and college applications!

As Past Octagon Club Member Bryan Duncan says, "The people I was involved with made a major impact on my life. They were willing to do everything to see a person succeed. Mr. Spencer [my Octagon Club adviser] did everything he could to help me get into West Point."

Impress your parents, teachers and the entire town! You can get your whole class on the service bandwagon! You'll amaze adults with how organized and dedicated your JOOI Club can be. Adults will notice your efforts and will respect your opinions and abilities.



SO WHAT'S THE CATCH?

There isn't one! JOOI Clubs are run by kids, for kids. We want to help you help your communities and improve your own skills while you're at it!

LEARNIN', SERVIN' AND HAVING A BLAST – THE INTERNATIONAL JOOI CONVENTION

Every summer, JOOI Members from your hometown and all over the world come together to get to know each other, share ideas and talk about tough issues facing teens today. The agenda varies, but you can be sure you'll make great friends and take home new ideas to improve your leadership, public speaking and team-building abilities.

JOOI Members describe the youth convention as tons of fun and claim it's one of the best parts of joining JOOI! When you come to convention, you'll check out area attractions with fellow JOOI Members, you'll have a chance to strut your stuff in the JOOI talent show and you can boogie down at the President's Dance. You'll attend enlightening workshops, hear first-rate motivational speakers, elect interna-

tional officers, and have a voice in planning the future of JOOI.

Money for Nothing – Scholarships

Well, almost nothing! JOOI offers scholarships for stuff you want to do anyway – such as building new Clubs and doing excellent community service projects. Here's the skinny: if you're a JOOI District Governor you can compete for thousands of dollars of awards to use for college expenses. Anyone can become a JOOI District Governor, so read up on the JOOI District structure and organize a District convention in your area. And if you're not a Governor, you're not left out! The Member of Excellence Scholarship allows Club Members who are dedicated to serving their Club and community an opportunity to be rewarded for their hardwork. Also, Members may compete in a speech or essay contest sponsored by a local Optimist Club and you can win up to a \$5,000 scholarship at the international level. For scholarship and contest information, contact the Programs Department at Optimist International (800) 500-8130, ext. 235.

Well, What Are You Waiting For?

Have we got you convinced that JOOI is cooler than a jam sandwich? Are you ready to start a Club? All right! You'll need 20 to 25 interested kids, a location to hold your meetings, and lots of energy and enthusiasm.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE!

The More the Merrier: Recruiting New Members

To keep your Club active and strong, you'll need to recruit new Members. You'll need new Members to replace those who move away or graduate. If your Club is tired of doing the same old service project, but can't seem to think of anything new, or if your Members want to tackle bigger projects, but don't have the manpower, then you need to recruit new Members!

Start by telling your fellow classmates, teammates and friends about JOOI and your Club activities. Invite them to a Club meeting so they can see your Club in action. Follow up with an invitation for membership.