

optimists... *Bringing out* the Best in Kids!



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Purposes of an Optimist Club:

To develop Optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; to inspire respect for law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.



Our positive approach, our upbeat outlook, and our commitment to creating a more optimistic future for kids is what differentiates Optimist Clubs from any other volunteer opportunity.

Communities in the United States, Canada, the nations of the Caribbean and other countries throughout the world have been touched by the powerful, positive force of Optimist Club Members.

From sponsoring youth athletic leagues to weatherizing the homes of the elderly to conducting oratorical contests for young people—Optimist Clubs are responding to the special needs of our local communities.

Although we come from all walks of life, Optimist Club Members share one common trait. We know that we can make a difference in the lives of others.

Optimist Club Members receive as much as they give:

- The fellowship of people who get things done – and the example they set for embracing a similar optimistic mindset
- New social and working relationships with individuals from a cross section of our communities
- The opportunity to develop and demonstrate leadership skills locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally
- And the satisfaction of making a difference in lives of children as well as our communities

Whether you are searching for an outlet to help your community, personal development, or rewarding camaraderie, you'll find what you're looking for in your local Optimist Club.

Joiners become more tolerant and empathetic to the needs of their community.

Just a few of the many projects conducted by Optimist Clubs:

- Working directly with local schools to enhance education
- Conducting substance abuse prevention programs
- Coaching youth sports teams
- Tutoring and mentoring young people
- Painting the homes of the elderly and needy
- Providing food baskets to needy families
- Assisting disaster victims
- Reading to children



What should I expect?

Every Optimist Club was formed by people who wanted to reach out to help youth and the community. People like you and me. Members of an Optimist Club usually live in or work in the community. Members have joined together to serve others and to promote Optimism as a way of life.

Each Optimist Club is chartered as a Member of Optimist International. This gives the Club the right to use the Optimist name and provides each Club with services and programs offered by Optimist International.

Each Optimist Club operates autonomously. This means they operate independently of each other. They choose their own activities, elect their own Officers and raise their own funds. A Club's service activities are based on the needs of the community. What a Club can do is limited only by imagination and resources of the Members.

Optimist Clubs do share certain similarities. This offers you, the Member, the assurance of knowing wherever you are, should you wish to attend an Optimist Club's meeting, certain components will be the same.

The programs and guest speakers offer the Members an opportunity to learn, grow and improve themselves. The program features the youth in the community, as in the Essay and Oratorical Contests or in the Youth Appreciation Week. These meetings help to reinforce our commitment and allow us to take pride in our accomplishments.



Optimist Programs and Community Projects

CHILDHOOD CANCER CAMPAIGN

Optimists have become a champion for those dealing with childhood cancer! Through this new, unique program, Optimists are building awareness of the disease that kills more children than any other. In addition, Members provide support for children with cancer and their families, and support research to find a cure. Find out how you can help today!



YOUTH APPRECIATION WEEK

Build local students' self-esteem! Recognize their talents in the arts, athletics, academics and their contributions to the community. How? By celebrating Youth Appreciation Week! To honor local youth, Optimists have successfully hosted swim parties, sponsored crazy bowls, planned youth lock-ins, chaperoned field trips, and provided funds for school supplies. This program encompasses anything that makes a difference in the life of a young person.



COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING (CCDHH)

The CCDHH contest provides an opportunity for young people who are deaf and hard of hearing to communicate in a public forum while developing valuable skills and confidence. The Optimist International Foundations annually fund a \$1,500 scholarship for each Optimist International District. Many Districts donate an additional \$1,500 to the Foundations in order to provide a second scholarship.



ORATORICAL CONTEST

As Optimist International's oldest program, this contest allows young adults to gain experience in public speaking, on a pre-assigned topic. Optimist Districts have the opportunity to provide two \$1,500 college scholarships or a first place scholarship of \$1,500, second place scholarship of \$1,000 and a third place scholarship of \$500.



KIDS SPEAK OUT

This program prepares elementary children for future Oratorical competitions. Although winners are normally selected, emphasis is placed on making all contestants feel like a winner just for participating!



ESSAY CONTEST

This contest presents young people the opportunity to write about their opinions regarding the world in which they live. Optimist International awards each District contest winner a \$650 scholarship for advanced education. Essays are judged at the international level, and a first, second and third place scholarship is awarded.



RESPECT FOR LAW WEEK/DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE

Encourage peace and harmony within your community! Optimists accomplish this feat by honoring law enforcement officials, initiating block parent programs, sponsoring fingerprinting fairs, and starting neighborhood watches. Anything to keep children safe!



TRI-STAR SPORTS SKILLS CONTEST

Bring together the youth of your community in the spirit of fun competition! The Tri-Star program offers exciting opportunities to promote self-confidence and physical fitness, even if your Club has limited resources. Since this program does not involve physical contact or advanced skill, it is the ideal activity for every child including those with disabilities.



JUNIOR OPTIMIST OCTAGON INTERNATIONAL (JOOI)

As a teen, did you have a venue to learn skills such as citizenship, teamwork, communication, self-esteem and leadership? Kids today do! Thanks to the Optimists' JOOI program more than 17,000 young people each year learn the importance of volunteerism and giving of one's self. As a result, teens report feeling an improved sense of kindness, increased awareness for those in need, and a better sense of coping with cultural diversity. Start a JOOI Club today!



YOUTH SAFETY

Keeping children safe in their leisure activities has been an important part of Optimist programs for many years. The Optimist International Youth Safety Program encompasses all of the activities originally included in the Safety on Wheels and Always Buckle Children programs as well as new activities concerning Internet Safety. Help spread the word about safety!



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS (OIJGC)

As one of junior golf's most prestigious events, the OIJGC provides a unique opportunity for junior golfers from around the globe. Every year thousands of young people compete in local Optimist qualifying tournaments. The top finishers advance to the OIJGC. Past Optimist junior golf participants include Tiger Woods, Michelle McGann, Phil Mickelson and Justin Leonard.



Optimist International Member Invitation

Please type or print clearly

Name: _____

Were you ever a JOOI Member? Yes No

HOME ADDRESS

Street: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail : _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS

Firm Name: _____

Type of Business: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Business Phone: _____ E-mail : _____

Business Position or Title: _____

May we contact you at work Yes No

YOUR SIGNATURE INDICATES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THIS INVITATION.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor: _____

Optimist Club of _____

Dates approved by committee: _____ by Board of Directors: _____

Individuals who have committed sexual offenses against children may be denied membership and/or have their membership revoked.

Please complete and give to your local Optimist Club.

Promise Yourself–

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

