

Application for 2017-2018 Optimist International Essay Contest

Name _____ M F
 Address _____
 City _____ Signature _____ Date _____
 State/Province _____ Relationship _____
 Telephone (____) _____ I, _____ grant the Optimist Club/International my permission
 E-mail _____ to use a picture of my son/daughter _____ for their public relations
 Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Age _____ purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo in any publication they see fit.

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

Official Topic:
 "Can Society Function Without Respect?"

Essay Contest Rules

Each contestant must be given a copy of the rules and complete the entry form. The rules contain information about the contest, judging and awards.

Section I - General Rules

- The Optimist International Essay contest is divided into two levels of competition: Club and District.
- Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club or an A+ Large contest if a local club is not available. An A+ Large student may not have competed in an Optimist International or District contest in the same year.
- Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others. Webster's dictionary defines an essay as an analytic or interpretative literary composition. Works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.
- All District-level competitions must have a minimum of 3 contestants participating.
- Optimist International will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to the author.

Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

- The contest is open to students under age 18 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International Contest year (October 1 - September 30). Students must enter in the District in which they reside. U.S. students attending school on military installations outside the U.S. are eligible to enter in their last home of record.
- Contestants are eligible for only one Club's contest during any given year.
- No student who has previously won a District Optimist Essay contest scholarship will be

sponsoring Optimist Club or District. (Deduction of 5 points or fraction based on degree of identification)

Section VI - Penalties

- Failure to list official topic: 2 points
- Failure to accurately identify total number of words: 5 points
- Failure to type essay and double-space: 5 points
- Failure to stay within the 700-800 word limit: 5 points for 25 words or fraction based on degree of identification.
- Self-identification: 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification

Section VII - Awards

- Club level - medallion
- District level - plaque and a \$2,500 college scholarship for the first-place winner

Section IV - Judging and Timing

- Judging will be completed by a panel of three qualified judges. At the Club level, judges may be Optimist Members, who are not acquainted with the contestants. At the District level, judges must be non-Optimists.
- In an effort to conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be assigned a number by the Essay Contest Chair. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and page 1 of the essay. The title page will then be detached and retained by the Essay Contest Chair. The judges will be given the essay bearing only the assigned number.
- Judges will not discuss or compare essays being judged.
- Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

Section V - Scoring

Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.

- Material Organization - logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic: 0 points
- Creativity - 10 points
- Vocabulary and Style - phrasing and continuity: 0 points
- Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: 20 points
- Neatness: 5 points
- Adherence to Contest Rules - prepared in the proper format: 5 points

For more information contact:

Contact Person: Renee Cavanaugh
 Contact Address: _____
 Contact Phone or Email: 619-922-0316