

The annual Optimist Club of Van Wert Oratorical Contest will be held Sunday, March 6, 2022. *Applications are due by Mar. 1.* The topic is “**Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times.**” The goal is to have the contest in-person, but this could change based on Covid conditions at the time.

The contest is offered to local middle school and high school students. Speeches will be judged based on content and presentation. First, second, and third-place winners will receive prizes of \$300, \$200, and \$100. The top two local contestants will advance to the zone, regional, and possibly district level competitions for the opportunity to win scholarships.

The Oratorical Contest challenges students to express their thoughts and opinions to an audience with the opportunity to win prizes and scholarships. Our club hopes to bring out the best in each young person and help them achieve their goals for the future.

Entry forms may be submitted by email to vwyinger@gmail.com; by mail to Greg Yinger, 1159 Westwood Dr., Van Wert, OH 45891, or by fax to 419-238-9391.

Contact: Greg Yinger 567-259-5277.

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.



For more information, contact:

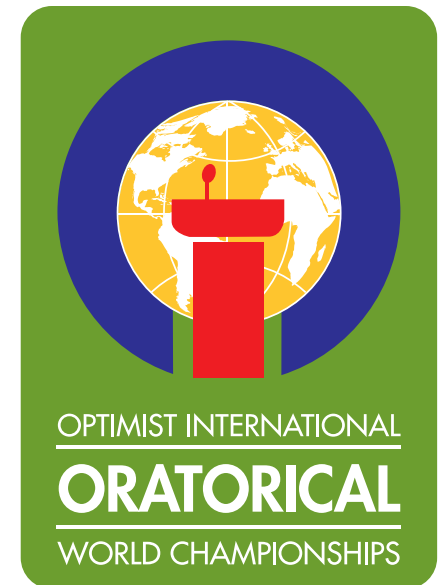
The Optimist Club of Van Wert

Phone/Txt: [567-259-5277](tel:567-259-5277)

E-mail: vwyinger@gmail.com



P R E S E N T S
T H E



Win up to
\$22,500
or more in scholarships!

Local Contest Prizes:
\$300, \$200, \$100

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, Regional level (if needed) and then at the District level.

Application Deadline: Mar. 1

Local Contest Date:
Sunday, March 6

Eligibility Criteria:

The contest is open to students under the age of 19 as of October 1.



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 **\$2,500** 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. The Regional Scholarship award is **\$5,000**. Scholarship must be redeemed by the age of 25. The Regional Contest will be held **July 20-22, 2022**, at Saint Louis University.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL WORLD COMPETITIONS

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 **July 20-22, 2022**, at Saint Louis University.



SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY



2021-2022 Optimist Oratorical Topic:

**“STAYING
OPTIMISTIC IN
CHALLENGING
TIMES”**



Application for 2021-2022 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Province/Country _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Date of Birth _____/_____/_____ Age _____

Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Oratorical 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 _____/_____/_____

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/video of my son/daughter _____ for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo/video in any publication they see fit.

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name _____

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number _____

Language speech will be spoken in: ☐ English ☐ French

Topic: "Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times"

For more information contact:

Greg Yinger

vywynger@gmail.com

Phone/Txt: 567-259-5277

Official Rules

Section I — General Rules

1. The Optimist International Oratorical contest will begin at the Club level, proceed to the Zone and District level and end with a contest at 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. Clubs, Zones and Districts **will** have a combined gender contests.
5. No Zone, 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 contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International contest year (October 1 – September 30) and who have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent, including CEGEP students in Québec, Canada. 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 1st place at the District level and/or competes at the World Regional level, they are ineligible to compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest in a subsequent year.
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 improvements in the speech at any time.
4. 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 District entry documentation

5. A printed copy of the speech must be furnished either before or after the speech.

Section III — Contest Rules

1. All contestants must speak on the official topic.
2. A speech may be delivered in English or French.
3. All contestants must state the official topic in the first sentence of the speech. Timing will begin with the first spoken word. A 3-point penalty is automatically assessed by the timekeeper for failure to state the official topic in the first sentence.
4. Any quotation, copyrighted, or largely paraphrased 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 up to 10 penalty points.
5. The use of props, special costumes or clothing, will result in 10 penalty points
6. The use of audience prompters will result in disqualification
7. Notes and lecterns can be used if the contestant desires.
8. 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.
9. Timing will begin at the first word spoken. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.
10. No reference can be made that identifies the contestant, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. This will result in a deduction of up to 5 points. Contestants shall not be identified by name or sponsoring Clubs until after the last oration has been presented and

- the judges and timekeeper have started deliberations.
2. 6. Failure to complete speech – disqualification
7. Use of audience prompters – disqualification
11. 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.
12. 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, District, and World Championships contests will conform to the following criteria.

1. Poise – appearance and personality: 10 points
2. Content of Speech – subject adherence, theme, content, logic and color: 40 points
3. Delivery & Presentation – voice, volume, pronunciation, gestures, eye contact, sincerity and emphasis: 35 points
4. Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect: 15 points

Section V — Penalties

1. Failure to announce the official topic in the first sentence – 3 points
2. Failure to identify non-original material – up to 10 points
3. Use of props, costume, etc. - 10 points
4. Time penalties – 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time.
5. Self-identification – up to 5 points

Section VI — Awards

1. Club Level – Medallion
2. Zone Level – Plaque
3. District Regional Level – Plaque
4. District – Plaque and Scholarship

Each winner of the District level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. Three winners awarded scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

5. World Championship Optimist Oratorical Contests – Plaque and Scholarship
 - A. Each winner of the World Regional level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. There will be one winner awarded a \$5000 scholarship at the World Regional Level. All winners of the World 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.