

PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Childhood Health and Wellness

The Childhood Health & Wellness Program builds on the highly successful Childhood Cancer Campaign to expand our impact. Clubs and Districts will now have the opportunity to initiate projects and services to improve the quality of life for children in their communities across a broader spectrum of needs.

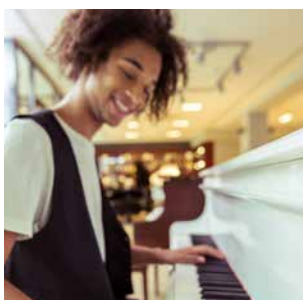
[Learn More](#)

Optimist Photography Contest

Photographers for the contest should be students at any age up through high school and prior to post-secondary education. Students are asked to submit photos that illustrate/exemplify one of the ten verses/lines of “The Optimist Creed”. This contest’s purpose is to expose young people to “The Optimist Creed” and our philosophy of Optimism and to assist them with developing an interest in the area of photography.

[Learn More](#)

A Kaleidoscope of the Performing Arts



The term “performing arts” refers to forms of art in which artists use their voices, bodies, or inanimate objects to convey artistic expression. The performing arts include a range of disciplines which are performed in front of a live audience. Performing arts may include dance, music, opera,

theater and musical theater, magic, illusion, mime, spoken word, puppetry, and even circus arts. Talent showcases highlighting these performing arts are not only fun, but innovative, giving young people the opportunity to express themselves using their own unique talents. [Learn More](#)

Optimist Visual Arts Competition

This exciting program is designed to encourage and celebrate youth visual art skills in two categories – painting and drawing. Scholarships will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at the OI level for each category. The Optimist Visual Arts Competition – Paintings and Drawings gives the youth we serve another outlet for their creativity! [Learn More](#)

Optimists Spark Fun in the Park

This Optimist International event is staged at the club level annually where clubs can choose any date to host their event. This fun and exciting event has been coined to target JOI and College Club members, working with adult Optimist Club Members. The event will further facilitate camaraderie between JOI, College Club Members, adult Optimist Members, and the community at large, while providing an avenue for meaningful interaction and care for children with differing abilities by our Optimist Members at all levels. It is a fun way of sharing our philosophy of Optimism to a wider cross section of the children we serve globally.

[Learn More](#)



Musical Happiness Competition

This exciting program was such a success last year we are bringing it back for the 2021-2022 Optimist year. Musical Happiness is designed to encourage and celebrate youth Musical and Vocal categories. Scholarships are awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at the OI level for each category.

International Day of Happiness

The International Day of Happiness in March is an annual activity that encourages Optimist Clubs and Members to host an event showing how their Optimist Club shares happiness with the youth and their community.



Optimist International Oratorical World Championships

The Optimist Oratorical Contest offers youth the opportunity to speak to the world. More than \$150,000 in college scholarships funded by the Optimist International Foundations is awarded annually from this program. First conducted in 1928, this is the second most popular Optimist International Program. Nearly 2,000 clubs participate in this program each year. The winners at the Club level receive medallions and Zone winners receive a plaque. Districts have the opportunity to provide a first place scholarship of \$2,500, a second place scholarship of \$1,500, and a third place scholarship of \$1,000.

[Learn More](#)



Kids Speak Out

The 'Kids Speak Out' program is broadening its scope to engage children in our primary/preparatory and elementary schools to compete with peers from their own and neighboring schools. All young people can compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The

"Kids Speak Out" contest is a "pre-Oratorical" program that provides a competition for younger speakers.

[Learn More](#)



Communication Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

This contest offers youth who are deaf or hard-of-hearing the opportunity to gain skills and confidence from their experience of presenting in front of a large audience. Patterned after the

Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship. One District Scholarship of \$2,500 is awarded. [Learn More](#)



Essay Contest

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to express their opinions regarding the world in which they

live. The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. Participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship! One District Scholarship of \$2,500 is awarded. [Learn More](#)

Respect for Law

Optimist Clubs participate in activities to inspire respect for law enforcement among young people and to educate them on the jobs these brave men and women perform. Events are also held to promote a sense of well-being in the community such as child ID events, poster or essay contests on alternatives to violence and various family-friendly activities.

Youth Appreciation

Optimists recognize youth for a variety of reasons, including their achievements at school, dedication to community service, improvement in their grades and doing their best in sports or the arts. This activity allows Optimists to build the self-esteem of the youth in their community and show them that their efforts and hard work really do make a difference.



Youth Safety

This activity focuses on teaching youth about important safety issues that they encounter every day, such as traveling in a car or on the school bus and riding their bike. Optimist events such as a bicycle rodeo can make learning safety skills fun for everyone involved.

Tri-Star Sports

This is an optional activity Clubs can sponsor that focuses on three skills competitions in each of the following sports: basketball, baseball, soccer, football, hockey, golf, volleyball, and new this year, curling. More detailed information about Tri-Star is available in the Tri-Star Planning Guide.

Avenue of Flags

Share your Optimism and patriotic spirit in the community with an Avenue of Flags project. This Fundraiser can help support youth programs and scholarships in your community!

Optimist Day – February 3, 2022

Members of Optimist International will celebrate Optimist Day throughout the world the first Thursday of every February to promote our efforts in bringing out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves. On Optimist Day, Optimists around the world are asked to wear Optimist attire - shirts, pins, hats, etc. Post your best Optimist attire on social media and tag Optimist International or use the #OpimistDay and/or #OptimistDay2022 hashtag.

[Learn More](#)

May is Optimists in Action Month

Optimists have always believed in making a difference—a difference to children, to citizens in need, to fellow Optimists, to themselves. Optimists also believe that the best way to make a difference is through action—positive action. As a result, the month of May has been declared Optimists in Action Month. During the month of May, Optimist Clubs will create a widespread spirit of unity bringing together Optimist Members and other community volunteers for a variety of local-based activities, fundraisers and special events. During Optimists in Action Month, Optimist volunteers and fellow citizens from all over the world will come together as one to create meaningful and powerful Club programs that bring out THE BEST in kids, their communities and themselves. Start now to plan ahead for your Club's Optimists in Action Month efforts!

[Learn More](#)

For more information about these and other Optimist Programs and Activities, please visit:
<https://www.optimist.org/communityactivities>

