

OPTIMIST CLUB OF RENO  
ORATORICAL CONTEST

Topic: "Discovering the Optimism within Me"

- Contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2022
- Contestants must state the official topic in the first sentence of the speech
- The use of props and audience prompters are not allowed
- The speech must be between four and five minutes
- Timing begins at the first word spoken

PLEASE REFER TO THE COMPLETE CONTEST RULES AND JUDGING INFORMATION ATTACHED.

Participants must complete and submit the Oratorical Application to the Optimist Club of Reno by March 24, 2023.

The competition will take place March 31, 2023.

On the date of the competition, the contestant must bring:

Final typed copy of speech presented

Copy of Birth Certificate or Passport (age of contestant must be verified)

Completed student information portion of the District Entry Form

The first and second place winner will be submitted to the District competition (date to be determined).

First through Third place winners will also be awarded prizes.

Submit application to:

Lorraine Seabert, Oratorical Chair

14170 Eagle Springs Ct

Reno, NV. 89511

775-848-2210; [brettandlorraine@msn.com](mailto:brettandlorraine@msn.com)

Call or Email with any questions

# Application for 2022-2023 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Optimist Club of Reno

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number #20330

Language speech will be spoken in:  English  French

## Topic: "Discovering the Optimism within Me"

For more information contact: Lorraine Seabert

Address [bretandlorraine@msn.com](mailto:bretandlorraine@msn.com) Phone Number: 775-848-2210

### 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 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 Quebec, 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 first place at the Regional level of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships, they are ineligible to compete in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest at any level again.
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 letters can be used if the contestant desires.
8. The time allowed will be not under 4 minutes or over 5 minutes. Contestants going over 4 minutes 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.
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: 30 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, costumes, 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

6. Failure to complete speech – disqualification
7. Use of audience prompters - disqualification

#### Section VI — Awards

1. Club Level – Medalion
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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### Section VII — World Championship Oratorical Contests – Plaque and Scholarship

5. World Championship 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 \$3000 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.



## Official Rules

### Section I — Contest Organization

1. All Optimist Oratorical contests must be sponsored in their entirety by an Optimist Club, Zone or District.
2. Zone and District contests should be conducted by the District administration.
3. An Optimist Club must be in good standing in its District and with Optimist International to be eligible to sponsor participants in the Zone or District Oratorical contests.
4. The contest will begin at the Club level, proceed to the Zone level, then the District Regional level (if needed) and end with a contest at the World Championships level.
5. Club Contests
  - A. A Club may be represented by no more than two qualified contestants and will be a combined gender contest.
6. Zone contests
  - A. Zone contests will be held at times and places determined by the District. The Chairperson of the Zone contests will be determined by the District and supervised by the District Oratorical Chair.
  - B. All Zone contests must comply with the official rules and only the Zone winners shall be eligible to compete at the District contest.
  - C. Each Zone is allowed to send up to two contestants to the next level and will be a combined gender contest.
  - D. Zone level contests shall have no fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants participating.
  - E. In cases where the minimum number of 3 contestants at the Zone or Regional contest cannot be met, there are two options:
    1. Send winners directly to the next level of the contest.
    2. Combine Zone or District Regional level contests.
7. District Contest
  - A. The District administration shall determine the date and location of the District contest.
  - B. If District preliminary contests or Regionals are necessary, they may be held as determined by the District administration, at locations other than at the site of the District contest.
  - C. The District Oratorical Chair is responsible for all phases of the Oratorical contest in the District. All District competitions must be conducted by

Optimists only and this responsibility must not be delegated to outside groups. The District will hold a combined gender contest.

- D. District level contests shall have no fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants participating.
- E. District level contests shall have no fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants participating.

### Section II- General Rules

1. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
2. The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club's Contest Chair.
3. No Zone, District Regional or District-level contest shall have fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants competing. In cases where the minimum number of 3 contestants at the Zone or District Regional contest cannot be met, there are two options:
  - A. Send winners directly to the next level of the contest.
  - B. Combine Zone or Regional level contests.
4. Optimist International has the right to edit, publish and record any speech used in any contest without payment to the author.
5. In keeping with the prestige of the Oratorical contest and Optimist International, alcoholic beverages shall not be sold, consumed or possessed at any Optimist Oratorical contest.
6. Any award bearing the words "Optimist Oratorical Contest," "Optimist International," "Friend of Youth" and/or the emblem of Optimist International must be obtained from Shumsky in the U.S. and Caribbean or Ansell Awards in Canada. These marks are owned by Optimist International and may not be manufactured without the permission of the Optimist International Board of Directors.



### Section III - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (October 1 to September 30). New Rule: Once a contestant wins first place at the Regional level of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships, they are ineligible to compete in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest at any level again.
3. Each contestant shall prepare his or her own speech and submit a written copy. 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 their birth certificate or passport with their entry before competing.
5. Each contestant entered in the Zone or District contest must present one typewritten copy of their speech, double-spaced and identified with the contestant's name and sponsoring Optimist Club. This copy must be attached to the official entry form with the contestant's birth certificate or passport or driver's license before competing in the contest. The contestant must sign the entry form.
6. Any quotation or copyrighted 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.
7. The use of props, special costumes or clothing will not be permitted (10 penalty pts).
8. Contestants may use notes and lecterns.
9. 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. These penalties will be determined by the official timekeeper.
10. An interval of at least one minute shall be allowed between contestants.
11. At all District final contests, a wireless and lectern microphone will be available for contestant's use, if desired.
12. No spectator may enter or leave the audience while a contestant is speaking. The audience must be alerted to these rules before the competition begins, and at various intervals by the Contest Chair. A Sergeant-at-Arms should be appointed to enforce these rules.
13. 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.

### Section IV - Contest Rules

1. All contestants must receive a copy of the official rules and be instructed to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the rules.
2. The Contest Chair, prior to the beginning of the contest, shall conduct a drawing with all the contestants present for the speaking order. All contestants will then be introduced as "Speaker A," "Speaker B," etc.
3. All contestants must speak on the official topic in the first sentence of the speech.
4. A speech may be delivered in English or French.
5. 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.
14. No contest shall have more than 20 contestants competing. When a contest has more than 20 contestants, preliminary contests, in turn, shall have no more than 20 contestants. In the event that a first-place winner in a Club or Zone contest cannot compete in a subsequent contest for any reason, the second-place winner shall be declared as an alternate contestant.
15. 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.
16. The Contest Chair 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.

if desired, the top two or three contestants, without reference to their actual position in the contest.

10. There will be three winners awarded scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively for first, second and third place.
11. No judge may serve at more than one level of competition in the contest, i.e. Club, Zone, Regional or District.

### **Section V — Judging and Timing**

1. Each contest shall have three qualified judges and one timekeeper. At the Club level, judges may be Optimist Members. At all other levels of the competition, judges must be non-Optimists. Judges must not be acquainted with the contestants.
2. The judges and the timekeepers cannot be identified at the time of the contest or by advance publicity, but only after the last oration has been presented.
3. Judges and the timekeeper must use the official score sheets provided in this guide.
4. During the contest, the judges and timekeeper shall each be in different locations within the room.
5. The timekeeper shall be provided with a stopwatch or equivalent timing device.
6. Each judge must render a final decision on all contestants without consultation with other judges or any other person. Each judge and timekeeper must sign his/her official score sheet.
7. The result of a judge's decision must be kept confidential. No one shall attempt to discuss a contestant's score with a judge.
8. After the judges have totaled their scores for each contestant, deducted penalty points and ranked each contestant, the judges shall sign their score sheets and give them to the Contest Chair. Each judge's score and rank for each contestant shall then be entered and tabulated on the Official Contest Report Form. From this form, the winner will be determined.
9. In all Club and Zone contests, the first, second and third runner-up contestants shall be determined and announced. However, if preliminary contests are held, then only the first-place winner will be announced; or

### **Section VI – Scoring**

Scoring in all Club, Zone, District Regional and District 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 VII – 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
6. Failure to complete speech – disqualification
7. Use of audience prompters – disqualification



Make 2 copies

## 2022-2023 Official Zone/District Regional/District Entry Form

Be sure that your contestants are fully qualified to compete by filling in each line of this entry form. Your Club should complete all requirements including signatures. Attach a copy of the speech and check for proof of ID from a birth certificate or passport (only District winners need to submit a copy of their birth certificate or passport to OI). Submit all paperwork to the Chair of the next level at least two weeks prior to the contest date.

District Oratorical Chair is \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
month/day/year

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

*"As a contestant, I received a copy of the official rules for the Optimist International Oratorical Contest and fully understand them. I agree to be bound by all requirements. I have prepared my own speech with limited assistance on the topic, and have given due credit in writing and verbally in my speech. I understand that any omission or violation of the rules on my part will mean immediate disqualification."*

Contestant's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

### To Club and District Officers:

The following contest information should be completed by the appropriate level's Chair as the paperwork progresses with the winner.

Number of youth in **Club** contest \_\_\_\_\_

Was Zone contest held?  yes  no

Number of youth in **Zone** contest \_\_\_\_\_

Number of youth in **Regional** contest \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of District Donors to the Contest: \_\_\_\_\_

### For Club, Zone, District Regional Chairs' signatures

*"We, the undersigned, in full compliance with the Optimist International Oratorical Contest rules, enter this contestant in the Zone/District Regional/District Contest. We understand that this form, the speech and proof of the birth certificate or passport must be submitted to the Contest Chair before this contestant competes in the next level of the contest."*

Optimist Club of \_\_\_\_\_ District Name \_\_\_\_\_

Club Number \_\_\_\_\_

Club President's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Club Contest Chair's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Zone Chair's Signature (to enter District Regional or District level) \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Chair's Signature (to enter District level) \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT FORGET TO INCLUDE THE CONTESTANT'S CLUB CONTEST EVALUATION FORM!**