

Application for 2014-2015 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

Name _____ M F

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____ 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 ____/____/____

Please send application to address below:

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

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name _____

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number _____

Topic: "How My Optimism Will Help Me Press on to Greater Achievements of the Future"

Official Rules

Section I — General Rules

1. The Optimist International Oratorical contest will begin at the Club level, proceed to the Zone level and end with a contest at the District 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. The District has the right to decide whether to have a combined gender contest or a separate gender contest.
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 students under the age of 19 who have not yet graduated from high school or the equivalent regardless of when the Club, District, or Zone contest is held. Contestants must be educated in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean.
2. There is no minimum age.
3. A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in only one Optimist Oratorical contest during a contest year.
4. 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.
5. A student who has won a District Oratorical scholarship is not eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.
6. All contestants at each level of the contest must furnish a copy of their birth certificate or passport with their entry before competing. A typewritten 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 a language other than English if the language used is an official language of the country in which the sponsoring Club is located.
3. All contestants must state the official topic before beginning their speech in order for the timekeeper to record the exact time of the speech. A 3-point penalty is automatically assessed by the timekeeper for failure to state the official topic.
4. 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 disqualification.
5. The use of props, special costumes or clothing, or the use of prompters will not be permitted. The penalty will be disqualification. Notes and lecterns can be used if the contestant desires.
6. 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.
7. Timing will begin immediately after the official topic is expressed. Any salutation to judges, audience, etc., should precede the announcement of the topic. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.
8. No reference can be made that identifies the student, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. This will result in a deduction of 5 points or a fraction of based on the degree of identification.

9. Contestants shall not be identified by name or sponsoring Clubs until after the last oration has been presented and the judges and timekeeper have left the room.
10. 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.
11. 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 and District contests will conform to the following criteria.
1. Poise – appearance and personality: 20 points
 2. Content of Speech – subject adherence, theme, content, logic and color: 35 points
 3. Delivery & Presentation – voice, volume, pronunciation, gestures, eye contact, sincerity and emphasis: 35 points
 4. Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect: 10 points

Section V — Penalties

1. Failure to announce the official topic - 3 points
2. Failure to identify non-original material - disqualification
3. Use of props, etc. – disqualification
4. Time penalties – 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time
5. Self-identification – 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification

Section VI — Awards

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

A. Each winner of the District level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. In a combined gender contest, there will be two winners awarded \$2,500 each, or three winners awarded scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively for first, second and third place. In Districts conducting separate gender contests, the first-place boy and girl will receive a scholarship of \$2,500.

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.

For more information contact:

Contact Person: _____
Contact address: _____
Contact phone or email: _____