

Application for 2020-2021 Optimist International Essay Contest

Contestant Name: _____ Gender: _____

Contestant Address: _____

Contestant City: _____ Contestant State: _____ Contestant Zip Code: _____

Contestant Telephone Number: _____

Contestant Email Address: _____

Contestant Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Contestant Age: _____

Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Essay Contest this school year?

I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all the requirements.

Contestant Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Parent/Guardian Permission:

I give my permission for child/ward to participate in this contest.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Relationship to Contestant: _____

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: Farmington/Farmington Hills

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number: 17150

Deadline for entry is Friday January 15, 2021

***Please send completed application
with proof of age*** (copy of birth certificate, passport, or driver license) **to:**

Costick Center
City of Farmington Hills
28600 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Essay Chair Contact: Anna Durham, 248-892-2919, or Email Adurham@fhgov.com

Official Topic: ***“Reaching your Dreams by Choosing Optimism”***

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Official 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

1. The Optimist International Essay contest is divided into two levels of competition: Club and District.
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club, or an At-Large contest if a local club is not available. An At-Large student may not have competed in an Optimist International or District contest in the same year.
3. 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.
4. All District-level competitions must have a minimum of 3 contestants participating.
5. 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

1. The contest is open to students under age 19 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International Contest year (October 1 – September 30) and is not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution. 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. Students residing in non-Districted areas where there are no Optimist Clubs are not eligible for competition.
2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club 's essay contest during any given year (October 1st – September 30th).
3. No individual who has previously won a District Optimist Essay contest scholarship will be eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.
4. All contestants at each level of the contest must provide age and identification from their birth certificate or passport before participating. A copy of the document is only required for District winners.

Section III – Contest Rules

1. Participants must write on the official topic.
2. Each entry must begin with a title page containing: the official topic, number of words, writer's name, address, phone number, name of school and date of birth.
3. At the top of page 1 should be the official topic and the number of words (penalty of 2 points for lack of topic and 5 points for failure to identify the total number of words correctly).
4. Essays must be typewritten and double-spaced (Deduction of 5 points).
5. Essays must contain at least 700 words but no more than 800 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title, bibliography or footnotes. Hyphenated words count as 1 word (Deduction of 5 points for each 25 words over/under limit – French Essays will allow 50 words over/under limit for the deduction in scoring). Words are to be counted manually.
6. Each page of the essay must be numbered starting with page 1 of the essay, not the title page. The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.
7. Any quotations or copyrighted material used must be identified properly. For example, use of a specific writer's format (such as MLA) may be specified by the instructor overseeing the contest. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.

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8. No references can be made in the essay that identifies the student, parents, school, community or sponsoring Optimist Club or District (Deduction of 5 points or fraction based on degree of identification).
9. An essay may be written in either English, French, or Spanish if the language used is an official language of the country in which the sponsoring Club is located.
10. The entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner. Covers of any type are not accepted.

Section IV – Judging

1. 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 (Friends of Optimists are excluded and can be used as judges).
2. 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.
3. Judges will not discuss or compare essay being judged.
4. Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

Section V – Scoring of Contest

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

1. Material Organization (Logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic): 30 points
2. Creativity: 10 points
3. Vocabulary and Style (Phrasing and continuity): 30 points
4. Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: 20 points
5. Neatness: 5 points
6. Adherence to Contest Rules (prepared in the proper format): 5 points

Section VI – Penalties

1. Failure to list official topic: 2 points
2. Failure to accurately identify total number of words: 5 points
3. Failure to type essay and double-space: 5 points
4. Failure to stay within the 700-800 word limit: 5 points for each 25 words over/under limit. French essays will allow 50 words over/under for deduction. Words are to be counted manually.
5. Self-identification: 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification.

Section VII – Awards

1. Club level – medallion
Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards up to \$500 per winner for the Essay contest in addition to the official medallions. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary.
2. District level - plaque and a \$2,500 college scholarship for the first-place winner
 - a. Scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundation in the U.S. and Caribbean or the Canadian Children 's Foundation in Canada.
 - b. Scholarships awarded are for use at a college, university or trade school only.
 - c. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient 's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
 - d. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
 - e. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

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For more information contact:

Anna Durham Phone: 248-892-2919 Email: adurham@fhgov.com

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