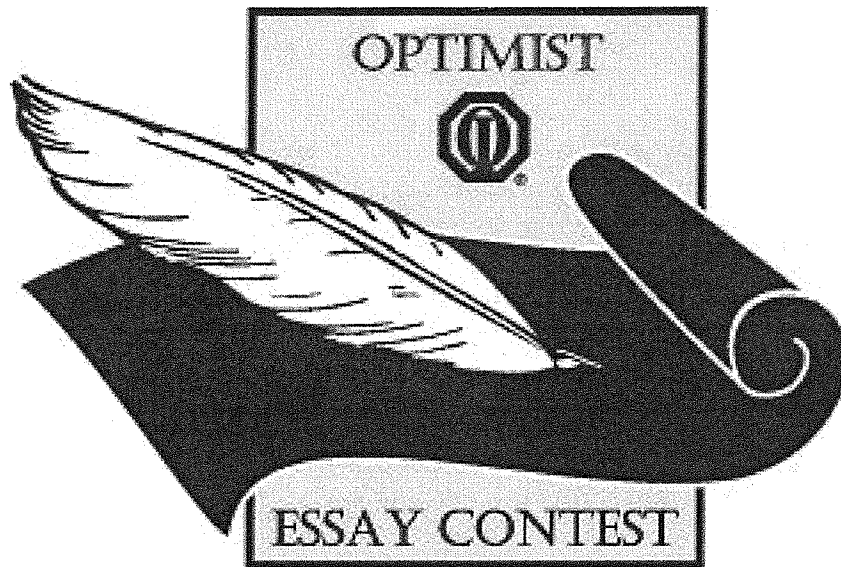




DEARBORN OPTIMIST CLUB

ESSAY CONTEST

Can Society Function Without Respect?

Deadline: Monday, January 8, 2018

1st Prize: \$500.00

2nd Prize: \$250.00

3rd Prize: \$125.00

Go to dearbornoptimist.org for official application and rules

Contact Person: Mrs. Lori Divis

E-mail: divislori@gmail.com



DEARBORN OPTIMIST CLUB

CONTACT

Mrs. Lori Divis
313-204-6623 or
divislori@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 3, 2017

Local Optimist Club to Sponsor Essay Contest for Students

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN— The Optimist Club of DEARBORN is encouraging area students to contemplate the phrase “Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges” as part of the Optimist International Essay Contest for 2017.

The Optimist Club will judge the local students’ essays, based on the theme of “Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges” and determine the top winners. Winners will receive \$500 for 1st Place, \$250 for 2nd Place, \$150 for 3rd Place, and the winning essays will be sent to the district level where college scholarships are available for top winners.

“Young students today have so many fresh ideas about the world and their future,” Club President HANNAH HAWTHORNE said. “As Optimists, it is our goal to encourage them and do

what we can to bring out the best in each of them. This gives them a wonderful opportunity to tap into their creativity and pursue possible scholarships at the same time.”

The Optimist Club of DEARBORN has been participating in the Optimist Essay Contest for over 40 years and has been active in the community since 1940. Other programs and service projects that the Club is involved in include Oratorical Contest, Art Contest and Respect For Law Awards.

Students wishing to participate in the essay contest can find out more about the contest by contacting the club at 313-204-6623, or divislori@gmail.com (Mrs. Lori Divis.)

Optimist International is one of the world’s largest service club organizations with 93,000 adult and youth members in 3,200 clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Mexico and throughout the world. Carrying the Mission Statement “By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves,” Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than six million young people each year. To learn more about Optimist International, please call (314) 371-6000 or visit the organization’s website at www.optimist.org.

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Application for 2017-2018 Optimist International Essay 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 Essay 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:

Official Topic:
"Can Society Function Without Respect?"

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 18 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International Contest year (October 1 - September 30). 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.
2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's contest during any given year.
3. No student who has previously won a District Optimist Essay contest scholarship will be

- 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 and Timing

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.
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 essays being judged.
4. Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

Section V - Scoring

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

1. Material Organization - logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic: 0 points
2. Creativity - 10 points
3. Vocabulary and Style - phrasing and continuity: 0 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 or fraction based on degree of identification.
5. Self-identification: 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification

Section VII - Awards

1. Club level - medallion
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. Scholarships awarded are for use at a college, university or trade school only.
- 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: _____