

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

WHO: Youth under the age of 19 as of December 31 of the current school year.

HOW TO ENTER: Interested students must contact their local Optimist Club. They need to submit an essay on the pre-assigned topic. To find out a contact, please e-mail the Programs Department at programs@optimist.org.

The Essay Contest planning pages are intended for use by Optimist Clubs in organizing and conducting a contest in their Club. They contain no information on entering the contest and are of no use to students wishing to enter the contest. Students must contact their local Optimist Club.

WHEN:

STUDENTS

All Club-level contests are held by early February. Student submissions will not be accepted after the Club-level contests have closed. Please contact your District Chair for more information.

CLUBS AND DISTRICTS

The deadline for Clubs to submit their winning essay to the District Chair is February 28, 2011. The deadline for Districts to submit their winner's information to Optimist International is April 15, 2011.

For an application with contest rules, please visit http://www.optimist.org/Form/ESSAY_RULES_PAD-E_10-11.pdf. The application must be submitted to the sponsoring Optimist Club.

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own 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. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

The guidelines require that contestants be under age 19 as of December 31 of the current school year. Club winners advance to the District contest to compete for a \$2,500 college scholarship. The District-level scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundations. District winners are entered into the International Essay Contest, where a panel of judges selects a first-place winner. The international winner will receive an engraved plaque and recognition in The Optimist magazine.

To enter, you must contact your local Optimist Club!

For additional information, please contact Optimist International Programs Department by e-mail at programs@optimist.org, or call (800) 500-8130, ext. 235.