

# OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONTESTS 2025-2026



## ORATORICAL CONTEST

Beginning in 1928, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program of Optimist International. The contest is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with an opportunity to compete for multiple college scholarships with a pre-assigned topic.

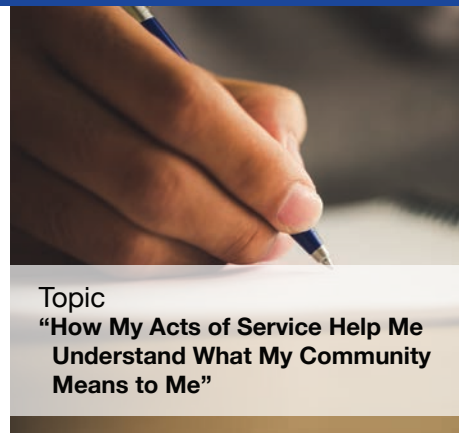
District Scholarships:  
First Place: \$2,500 • Second Place: \$1,500 • Third Place: \$1,000  
**with a chance to win up to \$22,500 at the  
World Championships level**

## ESSAY CONTEST

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!

**One District Scholarship of \$2,500**



## COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

This contest offers an opportunity for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to present their thoughts in the community, gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship.

**One District Scholarship of \$2,500**

## KIDS SPEAK OUT! SPEECH CONTEST

All young people can compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The “Kids Speak Out” contest is a “pre-Oratorical” program that provides a more equitable competition for younger speakers.



Follow complete Official Rules posted on [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)

# OPTIMIST SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

Sponsored by:

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## ORATORICAL CONTEST

**When:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where:** \_\_\_\_\_

Send entry form to,  
**Contest Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_



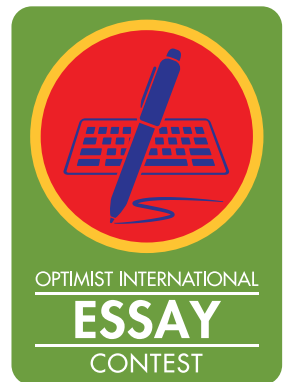
## ESSAY CONTEST

**When:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where:** \_\_\_\_\_

Send entry form to,  
**Contest Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_



## COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

**When:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where:** \_\_\_\_\_

Send entry form to,  
**Contest Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

