



Smyrna Optimist Club

December 4, 2019

SMYRNA OPTIMIST CLUB TO SPONSOR ORATORICAL CONTEST FOR STUDENTS

The Optimist Club of Smyrna, Georgia is encouraging students to speak their minds about the topic is “**Just iMagine a World without Boundaries**” as part of the Optimist International Oratorical Contest for the 2019-2016 year.

The Optimist Club will judge the local students’ speeches based on the content and presentations to determine top winners. Winners will receive **CASH AWARDS** and the winning speeches will be sent to zone level, and possibly the district level for the opportunity to win college scholarships.

Students under the age of 19 who have not graduated from high school or the equivalent, are eligible to participate.

The contest will be held on March 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the “Jonquil Room” of the Smyrna Community Center. For more information contact Charles Welch at 404-626-3893 or charles.welch@gmcnetwork.com . If you would like to email registration forms early that will be fine. **On-site registration begins at 9:30.**

Please remember to bring a Birth Certificate, a typewritten copy of your speech and a copy of the contest application signed by your guardian to the competition.

Friends of Youth

Application for 2019-2020 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State/Province/Country _____ 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 ____/____/____

For more information contact: _____ Phone: _____

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

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name _____

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number _____

Language speech will be spoken in: ☐ English ☐ Fren

Topic: "Just iMagine a World without Boundaries?"

"iMagine" represents the organization's theme for 2019-2020 and it is written as shown for branding purposes. It does not replace the linguistic interpretation, intent, or spelling of the word "imagine or Imagine". As such, contestants are free to use the correct spelling for any contest or communications without penalty.

Official Rules

Section I — General Rules

- The Optimist International Oratorical contest will begin at the Club level, proceed to the Zone and District level and end with a contest at World Championships level.
- Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
- The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club's Contest Chair.
- Clubs, Zones and Districts will have a combined gender contests.
- No Zone, Regional, or District level contest shall have fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants competing.
- 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

- The contest is open to contestants under the age of 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. There is no minimum age.
- A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in only one Optimist Oratorical contest during a contest year. Once a contestant wins 1st place at the District level and/or competes at the World Regional level, they are ineligible to compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest in a subsequent year.
- 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.
- All contestants at each level of the contest must show proof of age before competing. Optimist Clubs may require a copy of birth certificate or passport if offering a club scholarship separate from Optimist International.

District winners must provide a copy of the birth certificate or passport with District entry documentation

- A printed copy of the speech must be furnished either before or after the speech.

Section III — Contest Rules

- All contestants must speak on the official topic.
- A speech may be delivered in English or French.
- All contestants must state the official topic in the first sentence of the speech. Timing will begin with the first spoken word. A 3-point penalty is automatically assessed by the timekeeper for failure to state the official topic in the first sentence.
- Any quotation, copyrighted, or largely paraphrased 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 up to 10 penalty points.
- The use of props, special costumes or clothing, will result in 10 penalty points
- The use of audience prompters will result in disqualification
- Notes and lecterns can be used if the contestant desires. 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.
- Timing will begin at the first word spoken. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.
- No reference can be made that identifies the contestant, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. This will result in a deduction of up to 5 points. Contestants shall not be identified by name or sponsoring Clubs until after the last oration has been presented and, the judges and timekeeper have started deliberations.

- 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.
- 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, District, and World Championships contests will conform to the following criteria.

- Poise – appearance and personality: 10 points
- Content of Speech – subject adherence, theme, content, logic and color: 40 points
- Delivery & Presentation – voice, volume, pronunciation, gestures, eye contact, sincerity and emphasis: 35 points
- Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect: 15 points

Section V — Penalties

- Failure to announce the official topic in the first sentence – 3 points
- Failure to identify non-original material – up to 10 points
- Use of props, costume etc. - 10 points
- Time penalties – 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time.
- Self-identification – up to 5 points

- Failure to complete speech – disqualification
- Use of audience prompters - disqualification

Section VI — Awards

- Club Level – Medallion
- Zone Level – Plaque
- District Regional Level – Plaque
- District – Plaque and Scholarship

Each winner of the District level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. Three winners awarded scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

5. World Championship Optimist Oratorical Contests – Plaque and Scholarship

A. Each winner of the World Regional level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. There will be one winner awarded a \$5000 scholarship at the World Regional Level. All winners of the World Regional Contests will be eligible to compete in the World Championship Contest with awards for first, second, and third place of \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000 respectively at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri.

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.



Official Rules

Section I — Contest Organization

1. All Optimist Oratorical contests must be sponsored in their entirety by an Optimist Club, Zone or District.
2. Zone and District contests should be conducted by the District administration.
3. An Optimist Club must be in good standing in its District and with Optimist International to be eligible to sponsor participants in the Zone or District Oratorical contests.
4. The contest will begin at the Club level, proceed to the Zone level, then the District Regional level (if needed) and end with a contest at the World Championships level.
5. Club Contests
 - A. A Club may be represented by no more than two qualified contestants and will be a combined gender contest.
6. Zone contests
 - A. Zone contests will be held at times and places determined by the District. The Chairperson of the Zone contests will be determined by the District and supervised by the District Oratorical Chair.
 - B. All Zone contests must comply with the official rules and only the Zone winners shall be eligible to compete at the District contest.
 - C. Each Zone is allowed to send up to two contestants to the next level and will be a combined gender contest.
 - D. Zone level contests shall have no fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants participating.
 - E. In cases where the minimum number of 3 contestants at the Zone or Regional contest cannot be met, there are two options:
 1. Send winners directly to the next level of the contest.
 2. Combine Zone or District Regional level contests.
7. District Contest
 - A. The District administration shall determine the date and location of the District contest.
 - B. If District preliminary contests or Regionals are necessary, they may be held as determined by the District administration, at locations other than at the site of the District contest.
 - C. The District Oratorical Chair is responsible for all phases of the Oratorical contest in the District. All District competitions must be conducted by

Optimists only and this responsibility must not be delegated to outside groups. The District will hold a combined gender contest.

- D. District level contests shall have no fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants participating.

Section II- General Rules

Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.

1. The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club's Contest Chair.
2. No Zone, District Regional or District-level contest shall have fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants competing. In cases where the minimum number of 3 contestants at the Zone or District Regional contest cannot be met, there are two options:
 - A. Send winners directly to the next level of the contest.
 - B. Combine Zone or Regional level contests.
3. Optimist International has the right to edit, publish and record any speech used in any contest without payment to the author.
4. In keeping with the prestige of the Oratorical contest and Optimist International, alcoholic beverages shall not be sold, consumed or possessed at any Optimist Oratorical contest.
5. Any award bearing the words "Optimist Oratorical Contest," "Optimist International," "Friend of Youth" and/or the emblem of Optimist International must be obtained from Shumsky in the U.S. and Caribbean or Ansell's Awards in Canada. These marks are owned by Optimist International and may not be manufactured without the permission of the Optimist International Board of Directors.

Section III - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International Contest year (October 1 to September 30) and is not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution. There is no minimum age.

2. A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in only one Optimist Oratorical contest during a contest year (October 1 to September 30). Once a contestant wins 1st Place at the District level and/or competes at the World Regional level, they are ineligible to compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest in subsequent years.
3. Each contestant shall prepare his or her own speech and submit a written copy. The contestant may receive advice in the preparation of the speech and may make minor changes or improvements in the speech at any time.
4. All contestants at each level of the contest must show proof of their birth certificate or passport with their entry before competing.
5. Each contestant entered in the Zone or District contest must present one typewritten copy of their speech, double-spaced and identified with the contestant's name and sponsoring Optimist Club. This copy must be attached to the official entry form with the contestant's birth certificate or passport or driver's license before competing in the contest. The contestant must sign the entry form.



9. 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. These penalties will be determined by the official timekeeper.
10. An interval of at least one minute shall be allowed between contestants.
11. At all District final contests, a wireless and lectern microphone will be available for contestant's use, if desired.
12. No spectator may enter or leave the audience while a contestant is speaking. The audience must be alerted to these rules before the competition begins, and at various intervals by the Contest Chair. A Sergeant-at-Arms should be appointed to enforce these rules.
13. Contestants shall not be identified by name or sponsoring Clubs until after the last oration has been presented and the judges and timekeeper have started deliberations.
14. No contest shall have more than 20 contestants competing. When a contest has more than 20 contestants, preliminary contests, in turn, shall have no more than 20 contestants. In the event that a first-place winner in a Club or Zone contest cannot compete in a subsequent contest for any reason, the second-place winner shall be declared as an alternate contestant.
15. 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.
16. The Contest Chair 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 - Contest Rules

1. All contestants must receive a copy of the official rules and be instructed to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the rules.
2. The Contest Chair, prior to the beginning of the contest, shall conduct a drawing with all the contestants present for the speaking order. All contestants will then be introduced as "Speaker A," "Speaker B," etc.
3. All contestants must speak on the official topic in the first sentence of the speech.
4. A speech may be delivered in English or French.
5. Timing will begin with the first spoken word. A 3-point penalty is automatically assessed by the timekeeper for failure to state the official topic in the first sentence.
6. 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 up to 10 penalty points.
7. The use of props, special costumes or clothing will not be permitted (10 penalty pts).
8. Contestants may use notes and lecterns.



Section V — Judging and Timing

1. Each contest shall have three qualified judges and one timekeeper. At the Club level, judges may be Optimist Members. At all other levels of the competition, judges must be non-Optimists. Judges must not be acquainted with the contestants.
2. The judges and the timekeepers cannot be identified at the time of the contest or by advance publicity, but only after the last oration has been presented.
3. Judges and the timekeeper must use the official score sheets provided in this guide.
4. During the contest, the judges and timekeeper shall each be in different locations within the room.
5. The timekeeper shall be provided with a stopwatch or equivalent timing device.
6. Each judge must render a final decision on all contestants without consultation with other judges or any other person. Each judge and timekeeper must sign his/her official score sheet.
7. The result of a judge's decision must be kept confidential. No one shall attempt to discuss a contestant's score with a judge.
8. After the judges have totaled their scores for each contestant, deducted penalty points and ranked each contestant, the judges shall sign their score sheets and give them to the Contest Chair. Each judge's score and rank for each contestant shall then be entered and tabulated on the Official Contest Report Form. From this form, the winner will be determined.
9. In all Club and Zone contests, the first, second and third runner-up contestants shall be determined and announced. However, if preliminary contests are held, then only the first-place winner will be announced; or if desired, the top two or three contestants, without reference to their actual position in the contest.
10. There will be three winners awarded scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively for first, second and third place.
11. No judge may serve at more than one level of competition in the contest, i.e. Club, Zone, Regional or District.

Section VI – Scoring

Scoring in all Club, Zone, District Regional and District contests will conform to the following criteria:

1. Poise – appearance and personality: 10 points
2. Content of Speech – subject adherence, theme, content, logic and color: 40 points
3. Delivery & Presentation – voice, volume, pronunciation, gestures, eye contact, sincerity and emphasis: 35 points
4. Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect: 15 points

1. Section VII – Penalties

1. Failure to announce the official topic in the first sentence - 3 points
2. Failure to identify non-original material - up to 10 points
3. Use of props, costume, etc. – 10 points
4. Time penalties – 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time
5. Self-identification – up to 5 points
6. Failure to complete speech – disqualification
7. Use of audience prompters – disqualification

Section VIII - Awards

The following are the only awards to be given in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest at all Club, Zone, District Regional and District contests. These official Optimist International awards are available from Shumsky in the U.S. or Caribbean or Ansell in Canada. Awards will not be ordered or sent automatically.

1. Club Level – The official Optimist International medallions must be awarded. They may be awarded as first, second and third, or as first, second and runner-up. Any combination of medallions may be presented at the option of the Club. Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner 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. Zone Level – Zone winner plaques and Certificates of Participation



3. District Regional Level – District Regional winner plaques and Certificates of Participation
4. District Level – District winner plaques
 - A. Each winner of the District level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. There will be three winners awarded scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 for first, second and third place, respectively.
 - B. Scholarships are paid through the Optimist International Foundation in the United States and Caribbean and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation in Canada.
 - C. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
 - D. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
 - E. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.
 - F. If a District chooses to raise the amount of a scholarship funded by either of the Optimist International Foundations or award additional scholarships, the District will be responsible for the management and awarding of those funds.
5. World Regionals Championships
 - A. Each winner of the Optimist World Regional level contest will receive a scholarship of \$5,000 for use at college, university or trade school only.
 - B. Scholarships are paid through the Optimist International Foundation in the United States and Caribbean and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation in Canada.
 - C. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
 - D. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
 - E. Winner of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.
6. The World Championship Optimist Oratorical Contest -
 - A. Each winner of the Optimist Regional level contest will be eligible to compete in the World Championship Optimist Contest. Contestants will be comprised of each Optimist Regional winner and the Saint Louis University Global Regional winner. Scholarships will be awarded for first, second, and third place in the amounts of \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000 respectively for use at a college, university or trade school only.
 - B. Scholarships are paid through the Optimist International Foundation in the United States and Caribbean, the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation in Canada, or Saint Louis University.
 - C. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International or Saint Louis University.
 - D. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International or Saint Louis University.
 - E. Winners of The World Championship Oratorical Contest scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.