

OPTIMISTS BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN KIDS



Our positive approach.

our upbeat outlook, and our commitment to creating a more optimistic future for kids is what differentiates Optimist Clubs from any other volunteer opportunity.

Communities in the United States, Canada, the nations of the Caribbean and other countries throughout the world have been touched by the powerful, positive force of Optimist Club Members.

From sponsoring youth athletic leagues, to weatherizing the homes of the elderly, to conducting oratorical contests for young people – Optimist Clubs are responding to the special needs of our local communities.

Although we come from all walks of life, Optimist Club Members share one common trait. We know that we can make a difference in the lives of others.

Purposes of an Optimist Club:

To develop Optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed;

To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; to inspire respect for law;

To promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people;

To aid and encourage the development of youth in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.



Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

www.optimist.org



What should I expect?

Every Optimist Club was formed by people who wanted to reach out to help youth and the community; people like you and me. Members of an Optimist Club usually live in or work in the community. Members have joined together to serve others and to promote Optimism as a way of life.

Each Optimist Club is chartered as a Member of Optimist International. This gives the Club the right to use the Optimist name and provides each Club with services and programs offered by Optimist International.

Each Optimist Club operates autonomously. This means they operate independently of each other. They choose their own activities, elect their own officers and raise their own funds. A Club's service activities are based on the needs of the community. What a Club can do is limited only by the imagination and resources of the Members.

Optimist Clubs do share certain similarities. This offers you, the Member, the assurance of knowing wherever you are, should you wish to attend an Optimist Club's meeting, certain components will be the same.

The programs and guest speakers offer the Members an opportunity to learn, grow and improve themselves. The program features the youth in the community, as in the Essay and Oratorical Contests or in the Youth Appreciation activities. These meetings help to reinforce our commitment and allow us to take pride in our accomplishments.



Optimist Programs and Community Projects

Optimist Scholarship Contests:

Essay - This contest gives young people the opportunity to express their views and opinions regarding the world in which they live. Optimist International awards each District contest winner a scholarship to be used for higher education.

Oratorical - As Optimist International's oldest program, this contest invites young people to gain experience in public speaking. District winners receive scholarships for advanced education and are eligible to compete in the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships for the grand prize scholarship amount.

Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - This contest provides an opportunity for young people who are deaf and hard of hearing to communicate in a public forum while developing valuable skills and confidence. Scholarships are awarded in each participating Optimist District.

Junior Optimist International

Young people come together to learn the importance of volunteerism, teamwork, communication, self-esteem and citizenship through this program. As a result, youth report feeling an improved sense of kindness and an increased awareness for those in need. Start a Junior Optimist Club today!

Optimist Junior Golf

As one of junior golf's most prestigious events, the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships provide an unique opportunity for junior golfers ages 10-18 from around the globe. Every year, thousands of golfers compete in local qualifying tournaments with top finishers advancing to "The Optimist."

Tri-Star Sports Skills Contest

Promotion of self-confidence and physical fitness through fun competition. Since there is no physical contact or advanced skill required, it is the ideal activity for every child, including those with disabilities.

Youth Appreciation

Building students' self-esteem by recognizing their talents in the arts, athletics, academics or community service. Recognizing youth who have made a change in their lives or overcome a hardship. To honor deserving youth, Optimists have hosted swim parties and bowling nights, planned youth lock-ins, chaperoned field trips and provided funds for school supplies.

Youth Safety

Members sponsor a wide range of activities, including teaching youth about important safety issues, such as traveling in a car or on the school bus. Optimist events, such as a bicycle rodeo, can make learning safety skills fun for everyone involved.

Childhood Cancer Campaign

Optimists are building awareness of the disease that kills more children than any other in North America. Members provide care and support to these children and their families, while raising funds for research to find a cure. Learn how you can play a role in this worthwhile effort!

Internet Safety

Educating young people and their parents about potential dangers on the Internet and offering information about safe practices while Online. Raising awareness of threats like cyber bullying, posting inappropriate or damaging content on social media and Internet predators.

Respect for Law/Day of Non-Violence

By promoting peace and harmony, Optimists honor law enforcement officials, initiate block parent programs, sponsor finger-printing events and start neighborhood watches.





Optimist Club Members Receive as Much as They Give:

- The fellowship of people who get things done – and the example they set for embracing a similar Optimistic mindset
- New social and working relationships with individuals from a cross section of our communities
- The opportunity to develop and demonstrate leadership skills locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
- And the satisfaction of making a difference in lives of children as well as our communities

Whether you are searching for an outlet to help your community, personal development, or rewarding camaraderie, you'll find what you're looking for in your local Optimist Club. Joiners become more tolerant and empathetic to the needs of their community.

Just a Few of the Many Projects Conducted By Optimist Clubs:

- Working directly with local schools to enhance education
- Conducting substance abuse prevention programs
- Coaching youth sports teams
- Tutoring and mentoring young people
- Painting the homes of the elderly and needy
- Providing food baskets to needy families
- Assisting disaster victims
- Reading to children

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Optimist International Member Invitation

Name: _____ *Please type or print clearly*

Were you ever a Junior Optimist International Member? Yes No Are you currently a full-time college student? Yes No

Address: _____
Street City State/Province Zip/Postal Code country

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

YOUR SIGNATURE INDICATES YOUR INTEREST IN THIS INVITATION.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor: _____ Optimist Club of _____

Date approved by committee: _____ by Board of Directors: _____

Individuals who have committed sexual offenses against children may be denied membership and/or have their membership revoked.

Please complete and give to your local Optimist Club.

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Optimist International Member Interest Finder

Greater satisfaction and benefit come from participation in Club activities through committee membership. Check all that apply:

- Community Service:** Determines, plans and supervises community serving projects.
- Fellowship:** Stimulates attendance, greets members and guests. Promotes fellowship beyond Club and community.
- Finance:** Plans and supervises the budget.
- Membership:** Plans and executes a year-round program for acquiring new members.
- New Club Building:** Conducts all activities involved in sponsoring a new Optimist Club.
- Program:** Develops and executes plans to provide interesting programs for Club meetings.
- Youth Activities:** Determines, plans and supervises youth projects.

about you

Occupation: _____

What projects, programs and fundraisers would you like the Club to consider?

Name: _____ Date: _____