

Everything you ever wanted to know about Optimist International's

2008-2009 INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS and COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Optimist International Essay Contest

The International Program Planning guide is no longer being mailed. For your convenience, we have placed this publication on the Optimist International website at www.optimist.org. The Essay section of the program planning guide contains instructions, applications and judging forms.

What is the 2008-2009 topic?

“The Power of Youth”



Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner for the Essay, CCDHH and Oratorical contests 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.

When is the Club deadline to submit the essay winner to the District contest?

The Club deadline for 2008-2009 is **February 28, 2009**.

Where do I order rule pads, posters, medallions, certificates of participation, etc.?

All materials can be ordered from Shumsky Enterprises by calling toll-free 1-877-OPT-CLUB (1-877-678-2582), or faxing 937-223-2252, or visit their web site at www.optimiststuff.com. Orders for Canadian delivery may be ordered from the Corall Group by calling toll-free 1-866-739-9555, or faxing 514-739-7558.

Each District is given one \$650 scholarship for their first place winner. Dates for each District's judging are set by the District Essay Chair. The winner's paperwork must be turned in by each District to the Optimist International Programs Department by **April 15, 2009**. Upon receipt of the winner's paperwork, the student will be sent a congratulatory letter, an Enrollment Confirmation Statement, and a scholarship provisional.

What if my District wants to raise the amount of the scholarship or award additional scholarships?

Districts choosing to increase funding for scholarships or fund additional scholarships will need to manage those funds through other resources, such as District accounts or contributing those funds to the Optimist International Foundations.

When are the international winners chosen?

The essays are judged in May. The winners are announced in late May and featured in the Optimist magazine.

If I have a question about the Essay Contest, who do I contact?

If you cannot reach your District Essay Chair, contact the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, extension 235, or e-mail programs@optimist.org.

Optimist International Oratorical Contest

The International Program Planning guide is no longer being mailed. For your convenience, we have placed this publication on the Optimist International website at www.optimist.org. The Oratorical section of the program planning guide contains instructions, applications and judging forms.

What is the 2008-2009 topic?

“For Me, Optimism is...”

Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner for the Essay, CCDHH and Oratorical contests 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.

Where do I order rule pads, posters, medallions, certificates of participation, etc.?

All materials can be ordered from Shumsky Enterprises by calling toll-free 1-877-OPT-CLUB (1-877-678-2582), or faxing 937-223-2252, or visit their web site at www.optimiststuff.com. Orders for Canadian delivery may be ordered from the Corall Group by calling toll-free 1-800-739-9555, or faxing 514-739-7558.

Each District is given \$3,000 in scholarships. Districts with separate gender contests shall award the top boy and girl winner with a \$1,500 scholarship. Districts with combined gender contests may award two \$1,500 scholarships or a \$1,500, a \$1,000 and a \$500 scholarship to the first, second and third place winners respectively.

The District winners' materials must be turned in to the Programs Department no later than **June 15th, 2009**. Upon receipt of the winner's paperwork, each student will be sent a congratulatory letter, an Enrollment Confirmation Statement, and a scholarship provisional.

What if my District wants to raise the amount of the scholarships or award additional scholarships?

Districts choosing to increase funding for scholarships or fund additional scholarships will need to manage those funds through other resources, such as District accounts or contributing those funds to the Optimist International Foundations.



Communication Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)

The International Program Planning guide is no longer being mailed. For your convenience, we have placed this publication on the Optimist International website at www.optimist.org. The CCDHH section of the program planning guide contains instructions, applications and judging forms.

What is the 2008-2009 topic?

“For Me, Optimism is...”

Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner for the Essay, CCDHH and Oratorical contests 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.

Where do I order rule pads, posters, medallions, certificates of participation, etc.?

All materials can be ordered from Shumsky Enterprises by calling toll-free 1-877-OPT-CLUB (1-877-678-2582), or faxing 937-223-2252, or visit their web site at www.optimiststuff.com. Orders for Canadian delivery may be ordered from the Corall Group by calling toll-free 1-800-739-9555, or faxing 514-739-7558.

Each District is given one \$1500 scholarship. The District winner's paperwork must be turned in to the Programs Department no later than **June 15th**. Upon receipt of the winner's paperwork, the student will be sent a congratulatory letter, an Enrollment Confirmation Statement, and list of scholarship provisions.

What if my District wants to raise the amount of the scholarships or award additional scholarships?

Districts choosing to increase funding for scholarships or fund additional scholarships will need to manage those funds through other resources, such as District accounts or contributing those funds to the Optimist International Foundations.

If I have a question about the contest, whom should I contact?

If you cannot reach your District Chair, contact the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, extension 235, or e-mail programs@optimist.org.



Youth Safety Program

What is this program?

The Optimist International Youth Safety Program encompasses all of the activities originally included in the Safety on Wheels Program.



What kind of projects can my club plan?

The International Programs Planning Guide has numerous project ideas from bike inspection and skating skill events to a comprehensive school bus safety program. The Planning Guide is available on the Optimist website, www.Optimist.org

Where do I order support materials?

All materials can be ordered from Shumsky Enterprises by calling toll-free 1-877-OPT-CLUB (1-877-678-2582), or faxing 937-223-2252, or visit their web site at www.optimiststuff.com. Orders for Canadian delivery may be ordered from the Corall Group by calling toll-free 1-800-739-9555, or faxing 514-739-7558.

For more details, call the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, extension 235, or e-mail programs@optimist.org.



iKeepSafe –Faux Paw the Techno Cat

What is this program?

Optimist International has partnered with the Internet Keep Safe Coalition to address issues of youth safety as children use the Internet. The Faux Paw the Techno Cat program teaches Internet Safety to children 1st – 4th grade. This is a new component of the Optimist Youth Safety activity.

Where do I find the materials?

Optimists can download all the materials needed to make a Faux Paw the Techno Cat presentation at a school or local youth group. Materials include a PowerPoint presentation, script, community calendar insert, classroom discussion sheet and coloring pages. Everything is available on the Optimist website, <http://www.optimist.org>

For more details, call the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, extension 235 or 261, or e-mail programs@optimist.org.



Tri-Star Sports Skills Contest

Are there specific dates for this program?

No, Tri-Star Sports Skills events can be scheduled anytime, according to your Club's preference. There is no International level contest for this program.

What kind of events can my club plan?

Tri-Star Sports Skills Contest consists of competitions for boys and girls 8-13 years of age. The sports skills competition can be baseball, basketball, in-line or ice hockey, football or soccer. These competitions test children's ability levels in three events.

Where do I order support materials?

All materials can be ordered from Shumsky Enterprises by calling toll-free 1-877-OPT-CLUB (1-877-678-2582), or faxing 937-223-2252, or visit their web site at www.optimiststuff.com. Orders for Canadian delivery may be ordered from the Corall Group by calling toll-free 1-800-739-9555, or faxing 514-739-7558.

For more details, call the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, extension 235 or e-mail programs@optimist.org.

Optimist Childhood Cancer Campaign (CCC)

“Providing the Care, Finding the Cure”



What is this program?

Optimist International is committed to leading the fight to rid the world of childhood cancer. Cancer has resulted in more deaths among children than any other disease. Optimist International has developed a program suited to the strengths and resources of its members. Clubs and Districts will have the opportunity to provide assistance and services directly to children receiving treatment for cancer, their care partners and service providers, as well as contribute to ongoing research efforts. The program has been designated as a primary focus program by the Optimist International Board of Directors and has received funding support from the Optimist International Foundations.

What materials are available?

A Resource Packet, which contains an operations manual, program brochure, CCC bank order form, suggested program ideas and a lesson plan guide is available upon request.

Where do I order support materials?

Contact Optimist International by calling 800-500-8130, extension 235 or 261, or via fax at 314- 371-6006, or email ccc@optimist.org. Orders for Canadian delivery may be ordered from the Corall Group by calling toll-free 1-800-739-9555, or faxing 514-739-7558.

For more information, call the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, extensions 235 or 261 or e-mail ccc@optimist.org.



Youth Appreciation

Are there specific dates for this program?

No, Youth Appreciation activities can be scheduled anytime, according to your Club's preference.

What kind of projects can my Club plan?

The International Programs Planning Guide contains all types of ideas ranging from Youth in Government Day, parades, parties, banquets, to recognizing a Youth of the Month.

For more information, contact the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, extension 235, or e-mail programs@optimist.org.

Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence

Are there specific dates for this program?

No, Respect For Law/Promotion of Non-Violence activities can be scheduled anytime, according to your Club's preference.

What kind of projects can our Club plan for this program?

Projects can include law enforcement officer awards, citizen awards, a family rally, victims of violence vigil or child fingerprinting, for example. Ideas are detailed in International Programs Planning Guide.

Are support items available?

All materials can be ordered from Shumsky Enterprises by calling toll-free 1-877-OPT-CLUB (1-877-678-2582), or faxing 937-223-2252, or visit their web site at www.optimiststuff.com. Orders for Canadian delivery may be ordered from the Corall Group by calling toll-free 1-800-739-9555, or faxing 514-739-7558.

Contact the Programs Department at 800-500-8130 extension 235 or e-mail programs@optimist.org for more details.



Fundraising

Where should my Club go for help on raising funds?

The International Programs Planning Guide is filled with information and ideas to assist your Club in conducting a well organized and successful event. This packet is available on the publications page of the Optimist website, <http://www.Optimist.org>

The Online Resource Library features suggested ideas and successful fundraising projects completed and documented by Clubs. The Resource Library can be found under the Members menu on the Optimist website, <http://www.Optimist.org>



2008-2009 Community Projects Awards (CPA Books)

How should a Club entry be submitted?

All Club entries must be submitted in the official CPA binder or a plain 3-ring binder using the 2008-2009 Project Story format to the District Activities Chairperson.

What are the categories for the CPA program?

Community Service

Fundraising

When do these projects have to be completed?

CPA entries must be completed and received by your District no later than **September 30, 2009**. A list of Club CPA entries must then be submitted to Optimist International on the District Entry Form no later than **October 20, 2009**. District winning CPA books and the District First Place Entry Form must be submitted to Optimist International by **December 15, 2009**. For more information, contact the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, extension 235, or e-mail programs@optimist.org.



What is the Future of Optimism Award?

The Future of Optimism Award is an extension to the current CPA awards. Every entry submitted for International competition that is not based on a current Optimist International program is eligible for this award. This award is designed to recognize Clubs, which develop new and creative program ideas.

President's Pride

Where can I find and fill out the President's Pride?

The form can be accessed by Club officers at <http://www.OptimistLeaders.com>. It can be filled out and submitted via the website. If you would like to print a copy of the form, it is available on the Forms page of the Optimist website, <http://www.Optimist.org>

Copies will be mailed only upon request. Faxed or photocopied forms will be accepted, if legible.

When is the report due?

The completed form is due to Optimist International by **September 30th**. Any questions on this form, contact the Programs Department at 800-500-8130, extension 235 or 261, or e-mail programs@optimist.org.

Programs Support Materials

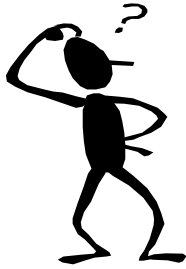
Where do I order support items and awards?

Shumsky Enterprises: 1-877-OPT-CLUB (1-877-678-2582)
Corall Group: 1-800-739-9555

The International Programs Planning Guide

The International Programs Planning Guide is available for download from the Optimist International Website. The guide has sections dedicated to the following programs and community activities: Childhood Cancer Program, CCDHH, Essay, Oratorical/Kids Speak Out, Respect For Law/Promotion of Non-Violence, Tri-Star Sports, Youth Appreciation and Youth Safety. There are also sections containing fundraising ideas, club projects, and resource organizations. The Planning Guide also contains sections related to two other departments: JOOI Youth Clubs and OIJGC. ***If you are interested in any section of the guide, visit the Publications page under the Members section of the Optimist International Website.*** We no longer send out separate Club kits unless requested.

Who do I contact at Optimist International with questions about programs?



St. Louis Office - International Headquarters
Programs Department

☎ Phone 800-500-8130,
Ext. 235 or 261

☎ Fax 314-371-6006

✉ E-mail programs@optimist.org

Canadian Service Centre

☎ Phone 800-363-7151 ☎ Fax 514-721-1104

✉ E-mail canadianservice@optimist.org

PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT DEADLINES AND DATES

Date	Program
October 20, 2008	District deadline to submit list of 07-08 Club CPA entries to Optimist International on District Entry Form
December 15, 2008	District deadline to submit 07-08 District winning books and First Place Entry Form to Optimist International
February 28, 2009	Club winning Essay submitted to District Chair deadline
April 15, 2009	District winning Essay submitted to Optimist International deadline
June 15, 2009	District deadline to submit Oratorical winners to Optimist International
June 15, 2009	District deadline to submit Communication Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing winner to Optimist International
September 30, 2009	Club deadline to submit 08-09 President's Pride Report to Optimist International
September 30, 2009	Club deadline to submit 08-09 CPA entries to the District