

# Nebraska District Optimists

March 2024

Wendy Townley, District Governor



Choose Optimism



## Club Grant Program

Does your club have a great idea for a new project in your community, but does not have the funding needed to pull it off? Perhaps OI can help. They are offering Club Grants of \$250 to \$1,000 (with matching club funds). The info below

should help get you started ... and good luck with your new project!

### What is the Club Grant Program?

Any Adult Club served by OIF is eligible to apply for a grant for a **NEW** project of the Club. The requested amount can range between \$250 - \$1,000.

### Important Dates

**January 8, 2024**

Applications available at [oifoundation.org](http://oifoundation.org)

**March 18, 2024**

Applications must have been **RECEIVED** in the St. Louis office. Do **NOT** send to PO Box!

**May 13, 2024**

Winners will be notified.

### The Details:

The project must start and finish between April 2024 and March 2025.

Grants to Clubs will be matching grants, with Clubs expected to show plans for matching the money and reporting the results.

Grants are for one year only.

Club dues must be current.

Clubs might consider using the Pass Through Program to obtain donations from local businesses and Foundations.

Contact the Foundation office at 800.500.8130 or visit [oifoundation.org](http://oifoundation.org) for more information.



***The OI Grant application can be found on the next two pages of this newsletter.***



## Club Grant Program Application Directions

Application Area	Field	Description
Overview		<p>Any US, Caribbean &amp; International Club not served by Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation may complete this Grant Application.</p> <p>The recommended process is to download/save the PDF fillable form to your desktop from the <a href="http://oifoundation.org">oifoundation.org</a> website. Please do not fill out the form directly on the website as you will not be able to send in your application directly from the website. If you are unable to complete the application as a PDF fillable form, you can print the form for completion. Please print legibly.</p> <p>Please complete all fields on the application. An incomplete application will not be considered for review by the committee. Once completed, follow the directions at the end of the application to either hardcopy mail, fax, or scan and email to the Foundation.</p> <p>The Grant Committee will meet immediately following submission deadlines to consider the applications on hand and make a decision regarding funding. Application deadline dates can be found at the end of the application.</p>
Section I – Club & Contact Information	Name of New Project	Enter the name of the project. A project must be a new project that you are doing for the first time.
	Club Name	Enter the full Club name.
	Club Number	Enter the Club number.
	Contact Person	Enter the contact person. This person must be a Club member.
	Address	Enter the address of the contact person.
	Phone Number	Enter the phone number where the contact person can be reached.
	Email	Enter the email of the contact person.
	Name of Club Foundation Rep	Enter the name of the Club's Foundation Rep. Please note that Club dues must be paid by the date of the application.
Section II – Project Description	New Project Implementation Timeline	Enter the project implementation date/timeline in complete MM/DD/YY format. The project must be completed between April 2024 and March 2025.
	New Project Description & why it is a charitable project	<p>This section should describe the project's purpose. If working with another organization, please briefly describe the organization. It is not necessary to go into lengthy detail. The intent of this section is to describe the Club project.</p> <p>Projects should not be fundraising projects. The Matching Grant must be for projects that directly affect children.</p> <p>Please fill out this section completely. If using the PDF fillable form this section is a static space which means if you have more information to provide and have come to the end of the space in this area you can attach additional documentation with a page limit of two (2) extra pages. (please note the 2-page limit is inclusive of any other information required to complete this application). The additional 2-page limit is also applicable if you are not using the PDF fillable form and are hand printing the application.</p>
Section III - Fundraising	How much money will your Club raise to support this project?	Funds raised by the Club must at least match the amount of the OIF grant requested.



## Club Grant Program Application Directions

	How will your Club raise the funds to support this project?	Describe how your Club will raise the matching funds. For example: are you holding a fundraising project, do you have a donation from a corporation or charitable foundation?
	Revenue Budget: Income from	<p>Enter the amount of the grant you are requesting next to the wording "Requested OIF Grant". This must be a minimum of \$250 and cannot exceed \$1,000. If left blank the application will not be considered complete.</p> <p>All funds in this section should be in US Funds. If more space is needed please include in the two additional pages allowed with the application.</p> <p>Enter all other revenue items which will include, at minimum, the Club matching funds to the grant amount requested. For example: Requested OIF Grant \$500. Next line-item - fundraiser \$500 which would give a Total Revenue of \$1,000.</p>
	Expense Budget: Expense for	Enter expenses that will be incurred for this project.
	Will you utilize the OIF Pass Through Program?	The Pass Through Program is only available in the United States. Please go to the <a href="http://oifoundation.org">oifoundation.org</a> website and click on Quick Links at the top of the page and then click on Foundation Forms for more information and the application.
Section IV – Demographic Info	How many children or people in the community will be served by this project?	Enter the number of children or people that will be impacted by this project.
	How many Optimist Members are currently in your Club?	Enter the number of Members currently in your Club.
	How many Optimist Members will directly participate in the implementation of this project?	Of the Members in your Club, enter how many will directly participate in the implementation of this project.
	How will the Optimist Members directly participate in this project (other than fundraising)?	Describe how the Members will directly participate in this project. Don't include activities supporting fundraising activities.
Section V – Club Approval	Club Approval	Club Members and the Club Board should be aware of and support this project and application being submitted. The Club President must sign, initial, and date this section.

***REMINDER: Grant applications are due to the OI St. Louis Office by March 18, 2024.***

# REMAINING OPTIMISTIC



ACKNOWLEDGE  
REALITY



BELIEVE IN THE  
FUTURE



GRAB  
CONTROL



REALISTIC  
OPTIMISM

Are you having a hard time being optimistic? Or maybe you're feeling frustrated with people who seem overly optimistic? Realistic optimism is essential to daily life, but especially critical when facing challenges.

## Optimism is not...

Having your head stuck in the sand and denying reality. Optimism gets a bad rap. Despite what many people think, optimism is not about only focusing on the positive.

## Optimism is...

Being firmly planted in reality. Looking at the hard, scary and uncertain things squarely in the eye and maintaining a belief that we will prevail despite our current reality. This is crucial to help us maintain control, hope, and resilience.

## Compared to pessimism...

Sometimes people think being pessimistic is a better option, particularly in times of hardship. But the reality is that pessimistic thinkers are bad at estimating the amount of control they have in any situation. Over-estimating control leads us to wasted energy. Under-estimating control leads to failing to take actions that could be helpful.

## So how do you do realistic optimism?

Optimism, like pessimism, is a thinking style. You can learn, grow, and cultivate an optimistic mindset by following this formula: Acknowledge reality as is (even the bad) + have confidence you will prevail in the future (despite of it) + take control (through preparation, planning, and perseverance).

From : <https://www.armyresilience.army.mil/ard/R2/Realistic-Optimism.html>

More About Optimism:

Infographic: [How to be Optimistic](#)

TED Talk: [Martin Seligman on Positive Psychology](#)







2023-2024 Optimist Oratorical Topic:

# “HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD WITH OPTIMISM”



*Districts and Clubs may opt to hold an online Oratorical Contest.*

*Click here for info on how to do this:*

[https://www.optimist.org/documents/Online\\_Oratorical\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://www.optimist.org/documents/Online_Oratorical_Guidelines.pdf)

Optimist International offers Clubs a simple but spectacular way to get younger students involved in public speaking and prepare them for higher level Oratorical competitions. These contests are not backed by dollar awards but encourage students to develop speaking skills and prepare them for future Oratorical contests. Click here for more information on the Optimist International Kids Speak Out Contest and Planning Guide.

The topic for the 2023-2024 school year is: **“How to Change the World with Optimism”**

The contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International contest year (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30) and who have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent. There is no minimum age.

Interested students submit a speech on the pre-assigned topic to their local Optimist Club. To find out the contact in your area, please e-mail the Programs Department at [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org).

The deadline to enter is determined by the sponsoring Optimist Club. All Club-level contests are typically held by late March.

***The 2024 Optimist International Oratorical World Championships will be held July 18-19, 2024 at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri.***



# Application for 2023-2024 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
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 the requirements.  
I understand entries will be run through plagiarism and AI detection software.*

Contestant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Topic: "How to Change the World with Optimism"

### 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 who have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent, including CEGEP students in Québec, Canada. 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 first place at the Regional level of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships, they are ineligible to compete in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest at any level again.
- 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 adj.

## 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

French

For more information contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

- the judges and timekeeper have started deliberations.
- 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### 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

#### 5. World Championship 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.