



## PAOLA OPTIMIST CLUB

September 28, 2011  
404 College St.  
Paola, KS 66071

To: Interested Oratorical Contest Speakers

The Paola Optimist Club is sponsoring an Oratorical Contest in conjunction with Optimist International and is open to students under the age 18 as of December 31, 2011. There is no minimum age. Students meeting the age limitation in public, parochial, home, or private schools are eligible to participate. A student who has won an Optimist District Oratorical scholarship is ineligible for any future competition. The Paola Optimist Club will offer the contest where boys and girls compete separately. Monetary prizes require that at least 3 participants be in the competition category. There will be first, second, and third-place Medallions along with a \$50.00 cash prize for first place for each first place winner, \$25 for second place, and \$10 for third place, awarded at the club meeting on April 17, 2012, 6:30 PM, at the Paola Country Club. The Paola Optimist Club winners will advance to the next level, zone, regional, and/or district where the competition will be boys against boys and girls against girls. The official topic for this year's contest is **"How My Optimism Helps Me Overcome Obstacles."** The speech must be at least 4 minutes but not over 5 minutes in length. Interested students should submit an application, along with a copy of their speech, to the Paola Optimist Club **no later than February 1, 2012**. All contestants in any Optimist Oratorical Contest must furnish a copy of their birth certificate with their entry before competing. The Optimist Oratorical Contest Competition will be at a Paola, Kansas School, on **Saturday, February 4, 2012, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**. The actual location for the contest should be available within the next thirty days. Please contact this writer for this information. No Zone, Regional, or District level contest shall have fewer than three or more than twenty contestants competing.

The winner at the next level (zone) will receive a plaque. The next higher level is the District level where the winner receives a plaque and a scholarship. Scholarship amounts may vary. In a combined gender contest, there will be two winners awarded \$2,500 each, or three winners awarded scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000 respectively for first, second, and third place. In Districts conducting separate gender contests, the first place boy and girl will receive a scholarship of \$2,500.

Applications for the Optimist Oratorical Contest have been provided to local schools, organizations, and are also available from Jim Gray, Oratorical Contest Chair at 913-294-3173, 913-306-0433, or email at [jamesgray8213@att.net](mailto:jamesgray8213@att.net). **The Oratorical Contest rules and additional requirements are listed on the application blank.** Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jim Gray  
Oratorical Contest Chair

# Application for 2011-2012 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

Name \_\_\_\_\_ M F

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Permission:

*I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name PAOLA DINNER CLUB

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number 37-046

Topic: "How My Optimism Helps Me Overcome Obstacles"

Please send application to address below:

### Section III — Contest Rules

- All contestants must speak on the official topic.
- A speech may be delivered in a language other than English if the language used is an official language of the country in which the sponsoring Club is located.
- All contestants must state the official topic before beginning their speech in order for the timekeeper to record the exact time of the speech. A 3-point penalty is automatically assessed by the timekeeper for failure to state the official topic.
- 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 disqualification.
- The use of props, special costumes or clothing, or the use of prompters will not be permitted. The penalty will be 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 immediately after the official topic is expressed. Any salutation to judges, audience, etc, should precede the announcement of the topic. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.
- No reference can be made that identifies the student, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. This will result in a deduction of 5 points or a fraction of based on the degree of identification.
- Contestants shall not be identified by name or sponsoring Clubs until after the last oration has been presented and the judges and timekeeper have left the room.

### Section I — General Rules

- The Optimist International Oratorical contest will begin at the Club level, proceed to the Zone level and end with a contest at the District 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.
- The District has the right to decide whether to have a combined gender contest or a separate gender contest.
- 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 students under the age of 18 as of December 31st of the 2011-2012 school year (December 31, 2011) who have not yet graduated from high school or the equivalent. Contestants must be educated in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. There is no minimum age.
- A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in only one Optimist Oratorical contest during a contest 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.
- A student who has won a District Oratorical scholarship is not eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.
- All contestants at each level of the contest must furnish a copy of their birth certificate or passport with their entry before competing.

### Section VI — Awards

- Club level — medalion
- Zone level — plaque
- 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. In a combined gender contest, there will be two winners awarded \$2,500 each, or three winners awarded scholarships of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively for first, second and third place. In Districts conducting separate gender contests, the first-place boy and girl will receive a scholarship of \$2,500.
  - All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.

For more information contact:



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PAOLA, KS 66071-1519  
Phone-913-294-3173, 913-306-0433  
email- jamesgray8213@arr.net