

Application for the 2011 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

Contest date and time: TBD - sometime during the first full week of April 2011

Name _____ M F
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Email _____ Telephone _____
Date of Birth _____
School _____ Grade _____
Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Oratorical Contest this school year? Yes No

I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all of the requirements.

Contestant's signature _____ Date _____

I give my permission for my son/daughter to participate in the Optimist Oratorical Contest.

Parent or Guardian's signature _____ Date _____

Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Rockville, MD, Club No. 33255

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SENT BY APRIL 1, 2011

The Rockville Club contest will be held sometime during the first full week of April 2011 (probably a week night at 7 pm) at a venue in Rockville to be determined. The time and place will be announced in mid-March. Complete and send this form to the Rockville Optimist Oratorical Contest Chairman:

Peter G. Martin
16800 Briardale Road
Derwood, MD 20855

Telephone: (301) 926-7097
Email: pgm5h@hotmail.com

Day of the Contest: Bring a copy of your birth certificate and a written copy of the speech (see Section III, Item 3 of rules). Last minute minor changes or improvements to the speech are permissible, so the actual speech may differ from the written copy.



OFFICIAL RULES ROCKVILLE CLUB CONTEST

Topic: “If I were Leader of the Free World, the First Issue I would Address would be...””

Section I. General Rules

1. The Optimist International Oratorical Contest is divided into three phases. The contest will begin at the Club level, proceed to the Zone level, and end with a contest at the District level.
2. Contestants entering the contest through the Rockville Club must complete and submit their entries to the Rockville Optimist Club’s Contest Chair.
3. The Zone and District level contests shall have no fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants competing.
4. Optimist International has the right to edit, publish, and record any speech used in any contest without payment to the contestant.

Section II. Contests

1. Rockville Club Contest

- A. The Rockville Club contest will be held in Rockville sometime during the first full week of April 2011. The time and venue will be announced in mid-March.
- B. The Rockville Club will hold two contests: one for boys and one for girls. **APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 1, 2011.** Winners are invited to represent the Rockville Club in the next level of competition, the Western Maryland Zone 2 contest.

2. Western Maryland Zone 2 Contest

- A. The 2011 Western Maryland Zone 2 contest will be held on a weekend day in mid-April, time and place to be determined.
- B. As with the Rockville Club contest, the Western Maryland Zone 2 will host separate contests for boys and girls. Each club will be allowed to send one boy and one girl to the Zone contest.
- C. All Zone contestants must comply with the official rules. Zone winners shall be eligible to compete in the District contest.

3. Maryland/Southern Delaware District Contest

- A. The District contests will be held on April 30 in Ocean City, Md.
- B. The District will likely host separate contests for boys and girls, but may decide to have a combined gender contest.

Section III. Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to students under age 19 as of December 31, 2010. There is no minimum age.
2. A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in only one Optimist Club Oratorical Contest during a contest year.
3. At the time of the contest, the contestant shall provide a written copy of the speech to the Optimist Oratorical Chairman. Last minute minor changes or improvements to the speech are permissible, so the actual speech may differ from the written copy.
4. Each contestant must present 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.
5. A contestant who has won a District Oratorical scholarship is not eligible to compete at any level of competition again.
6. All contestants at each level of the contest must furnish a birth certificate with their entry before competing.

Section IV. Contest Rules

1. All contestants must speak on the official topic.
2. 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.
3. 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 subject.
4. Any quotation or copyrighted material used in the speech must be identified verbally during the speech 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 shall result in disqualification.
5. 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 may be used if the contestant desires.

6. The time allowed will not be under 4 or over 5 minutes in length. Contestants going over or under the time limit will not be cautioned, and will be penalized 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction thereof over or under the allotted time. This penalty will be determined by the official timekeeper.

7. Timing will begin immediately after the official topic is expressed. Any salutation to judges, audience, etc., should precede the announcement of the subject. Timing will stop when contestant finishes.

8. No reference may be made that might identify the contestant, parents, school, community, or the sponsoring Optimist Club (Rockville) or the District. This will result in a maximum deduction of 5 points, or a fraction thereof based on the degree of identification as determined by the judges.

9. Contestants shall not be identified by name or sponsoring Club until after the last oration has been presented and the judges and timekeeper have left the room.

10. Any protest in the conduct of 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.

11. The contest Chairperson will decide all protests in accordance with the official rules. The decision of the contest Chairperson is final and no higher appeals will be recognized. In the case of Club contests, the Club contest Chairperson has this authority. In the case of Zone or District contests, the final authority is vested in the District Oratorical Contest Chairperson.

Section V - Scoring of Contest

Scoring in all Club, Zone and District contests will conform to the following scoring schedule:

1. Poise - Appearance and personality: 20 points.
2. Content of Speech - Subject adherence, theme, logic, content and color: 5 points.
3. Delivery and Presentation - Voice, volume, pronunciation, gestures, eye contact, sincerity, and emphasis: 35 points.
4. Overall Effectiveness - Appeal, impression, attitude, and effect: 10 points.

Section VI - Penalties

1. Failure to announce the official topic: 3 points
2. Failure to identify non-original material: disqualification.
3. Use of props, costume, etc.: disqualification.
4. Time penalties: 1 point for each 15 seconds over or under the official limits.
5. Self-identification: 1-5 points based on degree of identification.

Section VII - Awards

1. Club Awards - The Rockville Club shall award \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds to the first-place winners in the boys' and girls' contests. In addition, Optimist International medallions will be awarded for first, second, and third place in both contests. Certificates of Participation will be awarded to all contestants.

2. Zone Awards - Zone Winner Plaques and Certificates of Participation are awarded in both boys' and girls' contests.

3. District Awards - District winner plaques are given to first, second, and third place contestants. Additionally, District scholarships are awarded as follows:

A. Separate District-level contests will be held for boys and girls. Each winner will receive a scholarship for use at any college, university or trade school in the amount of \$2,500.

B. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice subject to the approval of Optimist International.

C. Scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.

D. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

For more information please contact the Rockville Club Oratorical Contest Chairman:

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