2027 Optimist Oratorical Contest

How My Actions Strengthen Those Around Me“”

- Open to youth under the age of 19 as of 10/1/2026
- Speech must be on the above topic and 4 - 5 minutes long when presenting
- Winners will continue on to eventually the International Contest with money prizes of up to $25,000 college scholarship
- Please contact person below if interested in more details regarding practice and rules and dates

For application or questions
Contact Ruth Del Re:
ruthdelre@gmail.com

2026 Optimist Essay Contest

“Finding My Voice in a World Full of Noise”

- Open to youth under the age of 19 as of 10/1/2026
- Essay must be between 700 & 800 words typed
- Essay’s must be submited to the email below by **2/19/2027**
- Monetary prizes awarded to winners on March 8th
- Please contact person below ASAP if interested in more details regarding dates & rules

For application or questions:
Contact Ed Welther:
chef_pina@yahoo.com

2027 Optimist Poster Contest

“To Be Determined”

• Poster Contest is open to Illinois residents for students in 3rd. 4th. 5th & 6th grades.
• Two divisions - one for 3rd and 4th grades and one for 5th and 6th grades.
• Posters shall not have been entered in any previous Optimist Contest.
• Students are allowed to enter only one Optimist Club's Poster Contest.
• Posters must be on poster or illustration board - 14" x 22'' (horizontal or vertical) and have a flat surface with no moving parts.
• Posters shall include only original artwork. No computer-generated pictures or wording are allowed. Poster designs may not incorporate any photographs, magazine or newspaper illustrations.
• Dark colors show best, and markers, paints, crayons and colored paper all work well on posters.
• " ". **THESE WORDS MUST BE ON THE FRONT OF EACH POSTER.** Illustrations must be used in addition to words and must be related to the contest slogan.
• District winners will receive $125 for first place, $100 for second place and $75 for third place. All winners will receive prize ribbons. Checks and letters of congratulation will be sent to each winner at the address on their Entry Form.
• All entries must be received by Wednesday March 18, 2026 to be eligible for judging.

For questions please contact: Dick Arnold:
dickarnold914@gmail.com