

OLATHE NOON OPTIMIST CLUB



www.olatheNOONoptimist.com

The Olathe Noon Optimists are a local Civic Organization, affiliated with Optimist International. There are over 14 Students must apply for the local club level contest (applications on-line at www.olatheNOONoptimist.com). 00 members throughout the state of Kansas and over 70,000 Optimist members world-wide. Our Mission is to Bring Out the Best in Kids, our Community and Ourselves, through service to the Youth of our Community.

State-wide, we have a focus on Childhood Cancer and work each year to provide support for three Childhood Cancer Camps serving Kansas kids: Camp Quality-Wichita; Camp Quality Greater Kansas City Area – Excelsior Springs and Camp Hope of the Heartland-Great Bend. We do this through funds raised from individuals, club projects, and an Annual District Golf Tournament held here in Olathe.

Locally, we host Olathe's Got Talent; provide Dictionaries to all 4th Graders (public, private, and home-schooled students); and assist with the Fishing Derby, Mahaffie projects, and support the "Choices" program in Olathe Public Schools.

All of our Fundraising efforts (Concerts in the Park concessions, Olathe's Got Talent, Bunco nights, and others) help us help fund local community groups: Youth Sports, H.O.B.Y., Boys and Girls State, Miracle League, Parks and Rec. Foundation, 4-H, Main Street USA, Fire Safety for 3rd Graders, and District and International Projects for Childhood Cancer, Optimist Junior Golf, and our International Foundtion that provides scholarship dollars for International Oratorical*, Essay, and Communications Contests for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. **The Oratorical Contest has been expanded to an International World Oratorical competition that offers potential scholarship earnings in the range of \$22,000 annually for a student who has an opportunity to compete at local, district, regional and world contest levels.*

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS INCLUDING THE OLATHE TECHNICAL CENTER

The Olathe Noon Board of Directors voted to increase the amount of scholarships being offered to Olathe High School Students at all (soon to be 5) high schools and the Technical Center to \$1,000. a year per school. Applications may be found in the Counselor's office at each school or on-line at www.olatheNOONoptimist.com

OLATHE'S GOT TALENT – PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

An annual competition for students (2nd Grade through Seniors in High School) in the performing arts. The annual show is held in April each year. Students must apply, audition, and be accepted as the "Top Twenty" for this show. Applications available after January, at all schools or on-line at www.olatheNOONoptimist.com These scholarships are offered through

the generous support of our Olathe Business Community. *If you are interested in being contacted about the show please sign-up tonight with correct e-mail information and you'll be contacted after January 15, 2017 with information about the upcoming deadlines for application.*

CHOICES STUDENTS

A special opportunity exists for a Choices student who wishes to pursue education beyond high school. A \$1000 scholarship may be available, with potential for a one-year renewal to a student who is pursuing additional education with the Instructor's approval who meets the scholarship criteria determined for this scholarship. LIMITED TO CHOICES PROGRAM ONLY!

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST AND INTERNATIONAL WORLD CONTEST

Students must apply for the local club level contest (applications on-line at www.olatheNOONoptimist.com). Club competitions are held in March, annually and medals are given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner along with a small monetary award for participation. First Place Winners (one boy, and one girl) move on to State Regional Competition – late March - and winners (one boy, one girl) move on to Kansas District Competition – Mid April, competing for \$2,500 scholarships (one boy, one girl). One of the District Winners moves on to Optimist International Regional Competition held in St. Louis in June. (\$5,000) scholarship potential. Regional Winners participate in the World Competition with potential Scholarships for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively to the winners of the World Competition. The contest is open to students under the age of 19 who have not yet graduated from high school or the equivalent regardless of when the Club, Zone, or District contest is held. Contestants must be educated in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. There is NO MINIMUM age. ***The 2017 Oratorical Theme: "How My Passions Impact the World" -***

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

Students must apply for the local club level contest (applications on-line at www.olatheNOONoptimist.com). Submission of Essays will be in late January, early February. Club level winners receive medallions for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place and a stipend of \$500 is awarded to the 1st place winner. The Club level winner's essay moves to district competition and a \$2,500 scholarship is awarded to the Kansas District winner. The contest is open to students under the age of 18 as of October 1 of the current Optimist International Contest year. (October 1-September 30). Students must enter in the District in which they reside. U.S. students attending school on military installations outside the U.S. are eligible to enter in their last home of record. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's contest during any given year. Proof of age, before competing, is required. Birth Certificate, Passport acceptable. ***The 2017 Essay Theme: "What the World Gains from Optimism."***

COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Students must apply for the local club level contest (applications on-line at www.olatheNOONoptimist.com). Applications are also available at the Kansas State School for the Deaf through Kester Horn-Marsh. Club level competition provides medals to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners both boys and girls. Kansas District Competition provides two \$2,500 scholarships (one boy, one girl). Optimist International funds one scholarship, while the second scholarship is funded by the Kansas District annually. The contest is open to young people through grade 12 in the United States and Canada to CEGEP in Quebec and grade 13 in the Caribbean. Students must have an uncorrected hearing loss of 40 decibels or more in order to be eligible to participate. Participants must submit an audiogram or a Cochlear Implant Programming Report done within 24 months of the date of the contest from a qualified audiologist. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's contest during any given year.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF

Youth Golfers ages 10-18 are eligible to participate in the Kansas Qualifiers held in May annually. Trophies are awarded at 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 16-18 age levels and winners may be eligible for financial support for the Optimist Internationals Jr. Golf Championships held at the PGA in Florida. Contact Kit Kelly for more information kkelley1099@sbcglobal.net for more information on the 2017 program, or check www.olatheNOONoptimist.com web or www.ksoptimist.org, or www.optimist.org – Jr. Golf after the first of the year for more information and application process/links.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL

Coming soon will be a new addition to Optimist International opportunities. An International Baseball Championship is being developed for teams at the International level. Possible competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the International Convention in July, 2017.

We encourage students to avail themselves of these scholarship opportunities. Even those who may not win develop public speaking, writing, and sport skills in a positive and supportive environment.

INVITATION

Parents, we are always looking for new members to help us help the youth. If you have a passion for and like being with fellow adults who have fun and grow in personal development and leadership while working together to help kids we'd love to have you as members. Our business, if you will, is kids and only kids that we can support and encourage in our community. Contact rnelson1021@sbcglobal.net for more information or an invitation to attend one of our Optimist meetings held at Johnny's at K-10 and Ridgeview – weekly – Thursdays at Noon. Weekly attendance not mandatory, and we can discuss other options for participation.

***OUR BEST WISHES TO OLATHE STUDENTS AS THEY PURSUE THEIR DREAMS AND FULFILL THE
POTENTIAL OF ALL THAT THEY CAN BE!***