Application for 2019-2020 Optimist International Essay Contest

Name ____________________________ M F
Address ________________________________________________________________
City ____________________________ Zip/Postal Code ___________________
State/Province __________________ Telephone ( ) ________________________________
E-mail _________________________________________________________________
Date of Birth ______/_____/______ Age ____________________
Have you participated in any other Optimist Club’s Essay 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 ____________________
I ____________________ hereby grant the Optimist Club International my permission to use a picture or video of my son/daughter ____________________ for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club International may use the photo in any publication they see fit.

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name ____________________
Sponsoring Optimist Club Number ____________________

Language: ☐ English ☐ French

Please send application to the address below:

Official Topic: “Is Optimism the Key to Achieving The Dreams you Imagine?”

Section I - General Rules
1. The Optimist International Essay contest is divided into two levels of competition: Club and District.
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club, or an AA-Club if a local club is not available. An AA-Club is a local Optimist Club.
3. Contestants must submit an essay of 500 words or less, double-spaced, with a margin of 1 inch on all sides, and 10-point font. Entries must be original, and each contestant may enter only one essay.

Section III - Contest Rules
1. Each entry must be submitted in a bound volume, with a title page containing the essay title, name of school, address, phone number, and date of birth.
2. Entries must be typewritten and must be at least 500 words but no more than 700 words. The title and each page must be numbered.
3. Each page must be double-spaced, and must include the title, bibliography, and footnotes.
4. Entries must be original works and must be submitted by the contestant.

Section IV - Judging and Timing
1. Judging will be completed by a panel of three qualified judges. Each contestant will be assigned a number by the Essay Contest Chair. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and page 1 of the essay. Each contestant will be judged on the following criteria:
   a. Originality: 50 points
   b. Organization: 30 points
   c. Style: 20 points

Section V - Scoring
Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical:
1. Material Organization: logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic: 30 points
2. Creativity: 10 points
3. Vocabulary and Style: phrasing and clarity: 30 points
4. Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling: 20 points
5. Neatness: 5 points
6. Adherence to Contest Rules: prepared in the proper format: 5 points

Section VI - Penalties
1. Failure to list official topic: 2 points
2. Failure to accurately total number of words: 5 points
3. Failure to type essay and double-space: 5 points
4. Failure to stay within the 700-800 word limit: 5 points for each 100 words or fraction based on degree of identification.
5. Self-identification: 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification.

Section VII - Awards
1. Club level: medal
2. District level: plaque and a $2,500 college scholarship for the first-place winner.
   A. Scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundation in the U.S. and Canada.
   B. All scholarships will be awarded 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.

For more information contact:
High School Guidance Office
Deadline: February 3, 2010
at 2:30