

Lisa Aylesworth
District Essay/Spelling Bee Chairperson
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Subject: Optimist International Essay Contest

Topic: **"How My Positive Outlook Benefits My Community"**

Length: 400-500 words (title and bibliography are not included in the final count)

Who: Youth under the age of 19 as of December 31,2011

The rewards are great. The District first place winner receives a \$2,500.00 college scholarship. The International level winner receives an engraved plaque and recognition in the The Optimist magazine.

Clubs MUST have their winning essays to me at the District level no later than February 28, 2012. District judging will start immediately after the above date in order to give them enough time to complete their tasks.

The District winner will be sent to International for judging no later than April 1, 2012.

Complete essay rules and planning can be found on the Optimist International web site www.optimist.org and go to the following site pages

CLUB ESSAY PACKAGE

- *Members
- *Programs
- *Planning Guides-this will give step-by-step instruction

ESSAY

- *2011-2012 Club Essay Planning Guide

ESSAY PLANNING GUIDES

- *Members
- *Programs
- *Package Programs-helps club plan from beginning to end
- *Essay Contest Program Introduction
- *Essay Contest Job Responsibilities
- *Job Responsibilities by Position
- *Project Timeline
- *Essay Contest News Release-Prior to event(.doc)
- *Essay Contest News Release-(.pdf)
- *Follow-up Letter to Parents
- *Sample Judges Thank you Letter
- *Essay contest News Release-After the event(.doc)
- *Essay Contest News Release-After the event(.pdf)

***Club Project Evaluation Form**

When submitting the winning essay to the District Essay Contest, be sure to include,

1. District Essay Contest Entry Form (this form MUST be completely filled out and SIGNED by the Contestant, Club President, and Club Essay Chair)
2. Copy of Birth Certificate of Contestant
3. Typed copy of Essay. Please photocopy the contestant's essay before judging at Club level. Send the original essay to the District level with no markings on it for District judging.
4. Photocopy of contestant's Social Insurance Number

I would like to thank you in advance for taking part in this worthwhile program.
Please feel free to contact me at any time if there are any questions or concerns.

Lisa Aylesworth
District Essay/Spelling Bee Chair