



Optimist of Imperial Beach

CONTACT
Michelle Syverson ^{MS}
619-964-9532

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2019

Local Optimist Club to Sponsor Oratorical Contest for Students

Imperial Beach, CA – The Optimist Club of Imperial Beach is encouraging area students to speak their minds about the topic “Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality?” as part of the Optimist International Oratorical Contest for the 2018-2019 year.

The Optimist Club will judge the local students’ speeches based on content and presentation to determine the top winners. Winners will receive a gift certificate and the winning speeches will be sent to the Zone level, and possibly the District level for the opportunity to win college scholarships. Winners of the District level will be eligible to compete in a regional competition in St. Louis, Missouri, at Saint Louis University. Winners of the regional contests will compete in the World Championship also held at Saint Louis University. Students could possibly win up to \$22,500 in scholarships! The contest is open to students under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2018.

“As they prepare for their future, many of our local students need experience expressing their thoughts and opinions to an audience,” Club President Sue Arciaga said. “The Oratorical Contest challenges them to do just that and also offers an opportunity for scholarships. In this way, our club hopes to bring out the best in each of them and help them achieve their goals for the future.”

The deadline to hand in speeches is March 1, 2019. Students wishing to participate in the oratorical contest can find out more about the contest by contacting the club at 619-964-9532 contact person Michelle Syverson. Note: The club level oratorical will be held on Tuesday, **March 5, 2019** at South Bay Union School District Conference Room 1-3, 601 Elm Avenue, Imperial Beach, CA 91932. Students need to arrive at 4:00 to be registered, please be on time, we will promptly start at 4:30. Signed applications and a typed copy of the speech are to be submitted by March 1, 2019 to Michelle Syverson at 1311 Connecticut Street, Imperial Beach, CA 91932 or by email msyverson71@gmail.com. On the day of the speech, participants MUST bring a copy of their birth certificate and their speech.

Parents: please note you may not personally video/audio record the presentations.

The Optimist Club of Imperial Beach has been participating in the Optimist Oratorical Contest for 24 years and has been active in the community since 1987. Other programs and service projects that the Club is involved in include Imperial Beach Kids and Castles, Optimist Essay competition, Conkerr, Holiday Food Drive and scholarship programs.

Optimist International is one of the world's largest service club organizations with over 80,000 adult and youth members in almost 3,000 clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Mexico and throughout the world. The Optimist Oratorical Contest is one of the organization's most popular programs, with more than 2,000 clubs participating annually. Carrying the Mission Statement, "By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves. Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than six million young people each year. To learn more about Optimist International, please call (314) 371-6000 or visit the organization's website at www.optimist.org.

Dates to remember:

March 1 Applications Due

March 5 Oratorical Contest

