



## Optimist International Oratorical Content Application Form & Official Rules 2020-2021

WIN FOR SPEAKING! Since its start in 1928, the Optimist Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program sponsored by Optimist International. The contest is designed for youth to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with the opportunity to compete for a college scholarship.

### 2020-2021 Topic: "Healing the World with Optimism"

Interested youth will prepare a 4 to 5 minute speech on this year's topic, above, to be presented in their local contest. The winning contestant will receive an award and progress to the World Regional round of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships.

### Eligibility & Registration

The contest is open to contestants from ages 13 to 18 as of this academic year.

Cost of entry is HKD680, with payment coordinated through the contestant's school or center. The application deadline is 31 May 2021. Contestants will receive logistics details on the Hong Kong Contest by 4 June 2021.

## Application Form

Full Name (underline surname): \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ HKID No. (or another form of ID): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

We will deliver your certificates and any awards to the above address.

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your preferred form of contact (please circle): Phone / Text / WhatsApp / Email

Name of your school: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you participated in other Speech Contests? ( ) Yes ( ) No

If so, which ones: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contestant/Parent Agreement:

I have read the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all of the requirements.

Contestant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I grant The Optimist Club my permission to use photos or videos of my child for public relations purposes. Only names of the winners will be released. I understand that this material and the personal data in the Application Form will only be accessed by parties working with the competition and not shared to any third parties beyond this.

Parent/Guardian Permission: I give permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship with the Contestant: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Official Rules**

### **Section I — General Rules**

1. The Optimist International Oratorical Content will be first conducted at the regional level – a Hong Kong Contest – and ends with contests at the World Championships level.
2. Contestants must register using the official application form from their school or center.
3. The contests are combined gender contests.

### **Section II — Qualifications for Contestants**

1. The Hong Kong Contest is open to contestants from ages 13 to 18 who have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent.
2. Each contestant shall prepare his or her own speech. The contestant may receive advice in the preparation of the speech and may make minor changes or improvements in the speech at any time.
3. All contestants must show proof of age before competing with a HKID card, passport or official school handbook.
4. A printed copy of the speech must be furnished either before or after the speech.

### **Section III — Contest Rules**

1. All contestants must speak on the official topic.
2. The speech must be delivered in English.
3. All contestants must state the official topic in the first sentence of the speech.
4. Timing will begin at the first word spoken. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.
5. Any quotation, copyrighted, or largely paraphrased material used in the speech must be identified verbally during the presentation and in the written copy of the speech with the original author's name. The contestant shall be fully responsible for the use of any quoted material and Optimist International shall assume no responsibility.
6. Notes and lecterns can be used if the contestant desires in the Hong Kong Contest.
7. The time allowed will be not under 4 minutes and not over 5 minutes. Contestants going under or over will not be cautioned, and will be penalized for doing so. This penalty will be determined by the official timekeeper.
8. No reference can be made that identifies the contestant, parents, school, community or sponsoring Optimist Club. Contestants shall not be identified by name or sponsoring Clubs until after the last oration has been presented and the judges and timekeeper have started deliberations.
9. Any protest in the conduct of this contest must be made immediately after the condition is noted. For the Hong Kong Contest, protests received 30 minutes (or more) after the contestant finishes will not be accepted under any circumstances.
10. The Contest Chairperson will decide all protests in accordance with the official rules. The decision of the Contest Chair is final and no higher appeals will be recognized.

### **Section IV — Scoring Criteria**

1. Poise – appearance and personality: 10 points
2. Content of Speech – subject adherence, theme, content, logic and color: 40 points
3. Delivery & Presentation – voice, volume, pronunciation, gestures, eye contact, sincerity and emphasis: 35 points
4. Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect: 15 points

## Section V — Scoring Penalties

1. Failure to announce the official topic in the first sentence – 3 points
2. Failure to identify non-original material – up to 10 points
3. Use of props, costume, etc. - 10 points
4. Time penalties – 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time
5. Self-identification – up to 5 points
6. Failure to complete speech – disqualification
7. Use of audience prompters - disqualification

## Section VI — Awards

1. Regional level winners – Trophy & certificate of participation inclusive of written feedback on the oratory piece
2. Regional level participants – Certificate of participation inclusive of written feedback on the oratory piece
3. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship on or before the age of 25.
4. World Championship Optimist Oratorical Contests – Plaque and Scholarship
  - A. Each winner of the World Regional level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. There will be one winner awarded a US\$5000 scholarship at the World Regional Level. All winners of the World Regional Contests will be eligible to compete in the World Championship Contest with awards for first, second, and third place of US\$15,000, US\$10,000, and US\$5,000, respectively, at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. The 2020-2021 contest will be conducted on Zoom.
  - B. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International. Institutions outside the United States are eligible.
  - 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.

