

DATE: October _____, 2024

TO: Club Presidents, Secretary/Treasurers, and Club Members

FROM: Susan Fix, DMM Optimist Visual Arts Competition Chair

RE: Optimist Visual Arts Competition

Optimist International is once again offering the **Optimist Visual Arts Competition**. This exciting competition is designed to encourage and celebrate youth visual art skills and gives the youth we serve another outlet for their creativity. Artists must be age eleven or lower as of October 1, 2024. There are two age divisions: up to 7 years of age and 8-11 years of age.

All Clubs can participate. It is as easy as:

- Find a member in your Club to chair the Competition.
- Have the Club decide what they will give for prizes (if any) for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.
- Complete the Optimist Visual Arts Contest (Club Level Entry Form) with the name of your Optimist Club; your Club #; the Chair's contact name and email address. Be sure to also add the due date that you want the painting and drawing entries to be returned; and, the name and address of the individual to whom the paintings/drawing and entry form sent to or delivered to. [See the Guidelines and Entry Forms attached.]
- Send the Club Level Entry Form and Guidelines flier to any of the following: schools, businesses, family, friends or anyone who will help get the word out and be given to the youth and/or their parents. With the topic being "*Bringing Out the Best*", the artists must be **age eleven or lower as of October 1, 2024**.
- Also, use social media to get the word out, including the Club Level Entry Form, Guidelines, deadline and where to send the entries.

While waiting for the entries to come to the chair:

- Line up Judges to judge the entries. Judges can be art teachers, community members, and/or Optimist members.

Once entries are received:

- Have the Entries judged.
- Prepare Certificates of Participation for those who will be participating. The form is already prepared and can be found on OI Website under Community Activities. Insert the topic "*Bringing Out the Best*", your Club's name, and date. Once you have the entrant's name, you can complete the Certificate by inserting or hand writing the entrant's name, and signing the Certificate by either the chair or Club President.
- Invite the club members to view the entries along with inviting the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and their parents to your club meeting or social and award prizes (if any). If you have more entrants, you may invite them as well and give them Certificates of Participation along with a \$5 McDonald's card (if wanted).

- Complete the International Level Entry Form and submit both the International Level Entry Form, the Club Level Entry Form and the artwork from the First Place winner from each age division to Optimist International c/o Marketing NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2025. NOTE: This competition is being held at the Club level and therefore the winners go directly to Optimist International. At the International level, a monetary award for 13 OI winners, one for the image selected to go on the cover and one image selected for each notecard.
- Finally, thank the Chair and the club members who helped with the Visual Arts Competition.

As outlined above, it is easy to do. It just needs someone from your club to put the action into it.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Susan Fix
DMM Optimist Visual Arts Chair
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