



## Topic: "How Optimism Has Paved My Road To Success"

- A complete packet of instructions and the **OI required forms** are available on the Optimist International Website (Click on Member Resources, then Scholarship Contests, then Essay Contest, then 2024-2025 Essay Chair Planning Guide). New rules for “AI” notations.
- Please **email a digital copy (using Microsoft Word)** of the Optimist Club’s 1<sup>st</sup> place youth essay, along with the **OI contest required written forms and materials, before February 28, 2025** to Bruce Balfanz at: [babalfanz@msn.com](mailto:babalfanz@msn.com). (The digital copy is needed to allow for plagiarism and artificial intelligence scans of the essay).
- DMM Essay Contest judging will be completed by April 1 and club presidents and youth contestants will be notified no later than April 10, 2025.
- If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bruce Balfanz at [babalfanz@msn.com](mailto:babalfanz@msn.com) or call at 612-709-6628, please leave message if not answered