

Dakotas Manitoba Minnesota (DMM District)
2025 Communication Contest Deaf and Hard of Hearing Contest (CCDHH)

sallyoptimist@gmail.com - [Optimist International](#)

The Dakota Manitoba Minnesota (DMM) invites students to participate in the 2024-2025 Communication Contest Deaf and Hard of Hearing Contest (CCDHH) The topic for the 2024-2025 school year is: "**How Optimism Has Guided Me Through Trying Times**" (start now writing and practicing your presentation)

Who: The contest is open to young people through grade 12 in the United States and Canada. Students must submit the results of an audiogram completed no longer than 24 months prior to the date of the contest by a qualified audiologist (the audiologist will have a standard form) Students must be certified to have an uncorrected hearing loss of 40 decibels or more, which must be supported by the audiogram in order to be eligible to compete. Students with permanent correction should compete in the Optimist International Oratorical contest.(your audiologist will have a professional form they use for the audiogram. Confirm the form is complete with all required information and signed)

How To Enter: Interested students, with the assistance of their advocate, parent or provider should complete the attached 24-25 application in full with all required information and signatures.(your audiologist, legal representative, local optimist club) The deadline to submit the application is no later than **February 28, 2025**. Complete the form (printing legibly if handwritten) all information and the signatures that are required.

Students must enter by communicating with Sally Damm Norby chairperson of the CCDHH. My email is sallyoptimist@gmail.com. There must be three participants to hold a contest.

The student must be sponsored by a club in the Dakotas Manitoba Minnesota (DMM District), to find out the contact in your area students must enter the Dakotas Manitoba Minnesota District (DMM) in which they reside. The contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International contest year (October 1 – September 30) and who have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent. There is no minimum age. Please communicate with sallyoptimist@gmail.com to find the Optimist Club that is open to sponsorship. I will provide instructions and contact information for the student and club contact.

The Dakotas Manitoba and Minnesota (DMM) contest is an opportunity for a \$2500 scholarship. The official rules for the contest are quite specific, and are posted on the [Optimist International website 24-25 CCDHH](#).

Attached are forms that are to be completed in full and signatures as required

1. Application- Due Feb 28, 2025
2. Parent Release -
3. Attachment beginning with BRW (historically all participants will present on the same day at the DMM District -CCDHH contest)
4. An audiologist report (your audiologist will have a professional form they use for the audiogram. Confirm the form is complete with all required information and signed)

I am attaching to this email the District Planning Guide. Please read -The students, teachers, parents, providers, judges, timer and advocates will know the requirements, rules, guidelines and scoring.

Where: The 2024-2025 contest will be held at the Metro Deaf School- 1125 Energy Park Drive St. Paul MN 55108 (651) 224-3995 with the contact person being Colton Jannusch. Colton and I will be working directly with each to set up the details. (One night's housing if needed, cost for out of town is important), date, time, food, map, interrupters, technology, budget, etc. As soon as we can get the details worked out, the more time everyone will have to assist students.

When: The date will be determined as soon as I have all applications from students that will be participating no later than February 28, 2025. I will reach out to the appropriate contacts, especially the students, parents, providers, teachers and advocates so we can work around the dates of college entrance exams, proms, work schedules etc. I cannot hold the contest any later than May 23, 2025.

The parents, providers, teachers, advocates, and Optimists of the participating students are welcome to attend the contest. My experience has proven that coming on a Thursday evening and holding the contest on Friday morning beginning registration at 8:30 AM works best for all involved.

Sally Damm Norby
Chairperson for the 2024-2025 DMM District CCDHH Contest.
530 Deer Pass
Brookings, SD 57006
605-651-3648
sallyoptimist@gmail.com