



THE TORCH

FALL 2019



Hello my fellow Junior Optimists!

My name is Julia Cooper and I am your Junior Optimist International president for the 2019-2020 year. I am currently a senior at Sinclair Secondary School in Whitby, Ontario. I have been involved with our organization for seven years and Junior Optimist International has inspired me to be the best possible version of myself there is. Outside of Junior Optimist, I love singing, acting and going up to my family's cottage.

Throughout my time serving in this organization, I have held such positions as Club President, District Governor and I am the incoming Lieutenant Governor for my district. This past year, I had the honour of serving as an International Board Director alongside Maya Gluck, Miranda Stidham and Mark King under the amazing leadership of President Cole Mullins.

My goal to grow our organization is to institute a pilot program to streamline the "Virtual Club" model. This model was first created to introduce kids from the Junior Golf Championships into our world of Junior Optimist. Now, I feel it will be a better avenue to connect the different countries of our organization and help expand Junior Optimist International in a new and innovative way.

This is going to be an amazing year filled with many exciting new projects, ideas and programs that we can't wait to unveil to you guys. The 2020 Chicago convention is going to be an awesome time for everyone! If at any time you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me!

See you all in Chicago!

Julia Cooper

2019-2020 Junior Optimist
International President



SINGING IN THE KEY
OF OPTIMISM

2019-20

Hello Fellow Optimists,

My name is Cole Mullins and the Past President of Junior Optimist International. I am a senior at Coronado High School in Coronado, CA and have been a Junior Optimist for 7 years. I have loved serving as the Junior Optimist International President this last year! I loved getting to meet all of you and am proud of all the hard work your clubs do to spread optimism in your communities. I can't wait to work with the new board under our next president Julia Cooper! The future of Optimism looks bright under her leadership!

When I am not participating in Optimist events, I can be seen running around Coronado with my Cross Country and Track teams. I also love going to the beach, where I surf, boogie board, and hang out with friends. This is what influenced the 2018-2019 theme of Riding the Waves of Optimism! I plan to stay involved in Optimist as I head off to college next year!

As my year comes to a close, I urge all of you to stay involved! Make a new friend and connect with your community. Always let your optimism shine through and be proud of who you are! I am excited to see what the future holds as you are all our future leaders. Thank you for an amazing year and I look forward to seeing you at the 2020 Junior Optimist International Convention in Chicagoland, Illinois!

– Cole Mullins



Planning Guide

The revised 2019-20 Planning Guide is available at www.junioroptimist.org



Hello!

I am Maya Gluck from Orlando Florida. I am 16 years old and this is my fifth year in Jr. Optimist and my second year on the Junior Optimist International Board of Directors. The positions I have held are Vice President, President, and secretary at my club level and with my district I have been Past Lieutenant Governor and I am currently Governor. My personal goal in Junior Optimist is to spread as much optimism and love that I can. I can't even express how much Optimist means to me, knowing that I am able to make a difference in the world through this wonderful organization. As Julia Child says, "Find something you're passionate about and keep tremendously interested in it." I am so excited to continue in this wonderful journey for the next three years and even beyond that. This is going to be an absolutely amazing year!

– Maya Gluck





JUNIOR OPTIMIST AWARDS

Did you know that Junior Optimist gives out \$6,000 in scholarships per year?

Member of Excellence Award – \$2,000

Each year the Member Excellence Award will be presented to one Junior Optimist Member who shows dedication in the fields of Club involvement and community service. This award represents the true philanthropic spirit and should be considered a great honor.

Ruby Blair - \$2,000

Each year, this International award recognizes one outstanding Member of the organization. The Ruby Blair Award is named for a former Staff Member of Optimist International who spent a huge amount of time and effort to help organize the international administration of Junior Optimist International. Ruby Blair's efforts gave Club Members their own newsletter, awards, training, materials and convention.

Outstanding Governor

New Club Building - \$1,000

Club Services - \$1,000

*Should one Governor excel in both categories, he/she earns the distinction of "Governor of Excellence" as well as the scholarship total of \$2,000 for both the New Club Building and Club Services categories.

Other Awards:

Advisor of Excellence

Personal Growth & Involvement

Club Project Award





IT'S A GAME CHANGER!

by **Bob Schiller**, Past JOI Committee Chair

When was the last time your Club conducted a “Game Changer” project? Before you answer, let me provide a definition that is offered by a Foundation that is looking for youth directed projects. “Game changing” is defined as events or ideas that affect a significant shift in the current way of doing or thinking about something. Social innovation is defined as a unique solution to a social problem that is more effective, efficient, sustainable or just than existing solutions and benefits many.

One of your fellow Junior Optimist Clubs, Karambi JOI, submitted their application to the McGinnity Family Foundation for a true “game changing” project for their community in Uganda, a mere 9,000+ miles away from the Foundation. Instead of me telling the story, I will use the word of Karambi JOI President Nyakato Fiilo;

Project Narrative: Youth Poultry Keeping at Karambi is a youth led and empowering project. It is aimed at supporting youth students from poor families with fees and school needs. The project will be carried at school where youth members of the club will actively be engaged in all activities. The major aims and objectives of the project are;

- To ensure profit maximization in the bid to fight poverty among students and their families.
- To generate incomes that will be used to pay fees for needy students through poultry sales
- To increase the creativity and productivity of the youth in school
- It is aimed at improving the health of the members and the community at large.
- It is aimed at helping the junior members realize their dream of keeping and completing school with a major focus on the girl child.

Project Impact: The project will enable the youth-students to create and generate their own income to meet their school needs. Hence, reducing the heavy financial burdens that are already being felt by the poor parents and guardians.

The project has land allocated for it by the school administration as a part time practical activity by the students which will have a multiplier effect on the rest of the student population.

The project will offer a practical skill for the students in best poultry farming business.

With the Grant in hand the 55 Member Karambi JOI Club jumped into action by garnering the help of the Karambi Secondary School Administration to allocate some of the school property to accommodate, what we would call, the “hen house”. To build the poultry house, the students laid out the building, excavated the site, relocated the soil, order the handmade bricks, transported the bricks from the drop-off site to the excavated site and maintain the cleanliness of the construction site...all by hand. In the end, the Karambi JOI Youth Poultry Keeping Project will house 500 “Layers” and the appropriate amount of roosters to produce “Eggs”! Karambi JOI, with the help of their advisor Past KAMP Optimist Club Thembo Salatier, will sell the eggs to their community and the Kasese District. Profits go to Karambi JOI. Each Karambi JOI Member will receive a “Layer” and a rooster for their family to enable each family to begin a sustainable source of food.

**The question now is...
What's your next GAME CHANGER?**

HOUSE THE HOMELESS WEEK AND BEYOND



For many years since 2007 the Making A Difference JOI Club of Southfield and Lathrup Village, MI has supported the Tony Crosby - House the Homeless Week at Hope United Methodist Church. Over the years, JOI members have assisted the Missions Ministry of Hope UMC get ready to host the residents of the South Oakland Shelter (SOS) by setting up sleeping rooms. Followed by several community service opportunities including helping to serve dinner, hosting birthday parties for the children, making lunches, and even providing a fun ice cream social.

Additional service projects in support of the South Oakland Shelter have included:

- Helping to make the Thanksgiving, Christmas and Holiday Season a little brighter for the homeless and several SOS families by:
- Collecting, donating and assembling travel-size toiletries into care packages
- Collecting and donating dressy children clothes for SOS families
- Interacting and playing games with the children, including prizes that they could win and "re-gift" for others if they chose
- Helping with an eight-hour security shift including building sign-ins and lunch bag preparations
- Wrapping lots and lots of holiday gifts for the numerous SOS families along with several members of the Southfield-Lathrup Village Optimist Club, on the same day as their adult sponsors
- Assisting SOS with its annual Breakfast With Santa as servers and helping all the children make paper Christmas Tree ornaments and decorating frames for their pictures with Santa

Making A Difference JOI members have become more consciously aware of the incredibly resilient families (i.e., a parent(s) with children of their own age/younger children/ and even babies), and individuals working hard to put their lives back together... achieve stability and independence. "We see SOS as a charity we can support all year long and once again select SOS as our local charity for the Souper Bowl of Caring," said Kristin Jordan, Past-President.





Hello Junior Optimists!

My name is Abigail Proctor and I have been a member of Junior Optimist for four years. In my four years in this organization, I have learned many new things, met many amazing people and held different roles all while serving my community. I am from the beautiful, miniature island of Anguilla in the Caribbean District. I attend the Albenia Lake Hodge Comprehensive School where our motto is, "Decus Est Servire" which translates to "It is an honour to serve". I'm very excited to serve as a director on the 2019 -2020 board with our amazing President, Past President, and my fellow Directors. I hope to see you all at Convention!

– Abigail Proctor



Hi, I'm Alice Potvin and I'm gonna be on the Junior Optimist International Board of Director for 2019-2020. I'm from the small village of Metabetchouan, in Québec (CA) and I speak French and English. I'm 17 years old and I have been involved for 6 years now in the Eastern Quebec North Shore District. I consider the Optimist movement as a passion and I want to share it with you all, to make your experience as incredible as mine in service clubs. As my last year in this movement, I will work hard with the board to improve the movement. I would really like to meet every single one of you, so invite me to your meetings and I'll see what I can do.

I look forward to see you at the next convention in Chicago and until then, text me on Facebook, Instagram or even Snapchat.

– Alice Potvin



Hello everyone!

My name is Sophie-Chanel Bourré, and I am honored to represent you as a Director on the Junior Optimist International Board for the 2019-2020 year. I live in Ottawa, Ontario where I attend Samuel-Genest high school. I am starting my 7th year as a Junior Optimist and have been president of my local club for the past three years.

Outside of JOI you can find me participating in many activities in my community. You can always find me keeping busy either running a marathon for a local charity, working as environment minister for my school's student council, being part of my regional air cadet squadron activities such as: biathlon, marksmanship, band (playing the flute), flag

party, or at fundraising events as well as many more leadership activities.

I take pride in being an Optimist with all that I am involved in and plan on helping this great organization grow in new countries as well as within my own region. I encourage you to share the JOI with everyone around you. Together we can make our world great through optimism! Can't wait to hear about all your accomplishments and see you in Chicagoland!

"Smile, Life is beautiful!"

– Sophie-Chanel Bourré

THE NECESSITY OF OPTIMISM IN TEENS



by **Erin Kramer**, President, Jefferson HS Jr. Optimists

Life can be tough. Everyone faces struggles, no matter where we come from. Some people have problems making ends meet, others struggle with personal connections, and still others fight certain battles within their own minds, beyond their own control. All of these are real issues that real people face, not a fairytale we hear about in books and movies. Kids, however, are sometimes the most affected by many of these listed and unlisted struggles. After all, growing up is difficult; all people understand this, young and old, because no matter what age you are... you were young once too.

Teenagers, especially, share common difficulties with hormones, school, friends, and family. Suddenly, we start getting taller, acne begins to appear in droves, boys get facial hair, and all the other wonderful works of puberty show their glorious affects. Another thing that often occurs, though, is this sudden sense of self doubt. Our bodies are not only changing rapidly, but so are our situations and how we handle them. At some

point, we enter high school and are faced with questions like: What do you want to do for the rest of your life? Where do you see yourself in ten years? How much can you afford to pay in yearly college tuition? Have you considered student loans? When daunting questions like these arise, it's impressive even if one of them can be answered without hesitation. As a junior in high school, this is affecting me now more than ever, but in comparison to many of my peers who often feel hopeless, I can always think to the future and say confidently, "I don't know what's coming next, but I know that whatever it is, I'll be okay."

My generation suffers from self-doubt even more so than many of the ones before us, but the optimists in my generation have the benefit of not giving up, of not being afraid, and of facing their fears head on. I know I'm not alone in my occasional panic attacks, stress, and sometimes lack of motivation to get out of bed to do it all over again. The only thing that keeps me going is the constant reminder from my friends and family. Knowing I'm a part of this organization, they sometimes tease me by saying, "Well, that wasn't very optimistic of you, now was it?" All jokes aside, I do need those occasional reminders; I'm a normal person who feels down sometimes and makes mistakes every single day, but these mistakes have taught me a lot, they allow me to recall what I stand for. I know who I am and what great things I can achieve if I just keep pushing towards another day. Optimism keeps me on track for my purpose and goals.

Optimism may not be the key to life, but it opens the door.



Erin Kramer and Rick Condon, Advisor, Teacher, Member of Jeffersonville Evening Optimists

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONTESTS 2019-2020



Topic*

**Just iMagine a World
without Boundaries**

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Beginning in 1928, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program of Optimist International. The contest is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with an opportunity to compete for multiple college scholarships with a pre-assigned topic.

District Scholarships:

First Place: \$2,500 • Second Place: \$1,500 • Third Place: \$1,000

**with a chance to win up to \$22,500 at the
World Championships level**

* "iMagine" represents the organization's theme for 2019-2020 and it is written as shown for branding purposes. It does not replace the linguistic interpretation, intent, or spelling of the word "imagine or Imagine". As such, contestants are free to use the correct spelling for any contest or communications without penalty.

ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

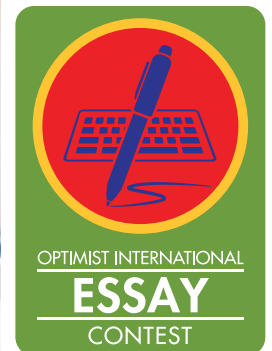
One District Scholarship of \$2,500

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Topic*

**Is Optimism the Key to Achieving
the Dreams you iMagine?**



Topic*

**Just iMagine a World
without Boundaries**

COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

This contest offers an opportunity for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to present their thoughts in the community, gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship.

One District Scholarship of \$2,500

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KIDS SPEAK OUT! SPEECH CONTEST

All young people can compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The "Kids Speak Out" contest is a "pre-Oratorical" program that provides a more equitable competition for younger speakers.



Follow complete Official Rules posted on www.optimist.org

JUNIOR OPTIMISTS IN GULF BREEZE, FL



The Gulf Breeze High School Optimist Club, located in the Florida Panhandle, is a dynamic service club that works jointly with our local Senior Optimist Chapter to promote numerous service and scholarship opportunities. Since our start in 2005, our membership has grown exponentially each year. Last year we reached over 150 active members!

Some of the projects we participate in each year are: *Food/Clothing Drives, Toys for Tots Drive with our local Marines, Christmas Tree Sales, Volunteering at numerous Marathons and 5Ks, Operation Christmas Child, Dance Marathon, Relay*

for Life, Fishing Rodeo, and of course the Essay and Oratorical Contest.

We also offer several scholarships for Seniors in both \$1,000 and \$2,500 denominations.



ACCESS JUNIOR OPTIMIST RECORDS AT OPTIMIST LEADERS

www.optimistleaders.org

Using your e-mail address:

- Go to www.optimistleaders.org and click on "Log-in"
- Select "Login Using E-mail & Password"
- Enter your personal e-mail address as it appears on your Club roster
- Enter your password**
- Click the "Log-in" button.

** Note: Your password has been assigned to you individually. We encourage you to change your password to something memorable. You may retrieve your password using your personal e-mail address through the instant password recovery function on the login page. Your password retrieval e-mail address must match the information on your Club roster in the Optimist International database.

Junior Optimist International dues billing will be e-mailed in mid-October to the Advisors and Secretary/Treasurer of the Sponsoring Club. Please make sure your e-mail addresses are up-to-date.



A JOI-ful Convention

More than 200 Junior Optimists from around the world joined their adult counterparts for the JOI Convention in Louisville, June 30 to July 2.

Junior Optimists joined the adult group for a combined Opening Ceremony on Sunday, June 30, where JOI members carried flags representing the countries of Optimist International.

After the opening ceremony, the group quickly turned its attention to service. Group members made 75 blankets of tied fleece for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kentuckiana. They also performed the Art with Optimism service project, where they worked on projects with children from the Cabbage Patch Settlement House.

After learning about Parliamentary Procedure from Past Optimist International President Ken Garner, delegates voted on a Policy for Governance change, participated in breakout sessions, learned about the history of JOI and the OI Centennial, did icebreakers, and produced more than 20 talent show acts. The 2019-20 JOI Board was elected and finished up with the always popular JOI Banquet and President's Dance.

During the 2019-2020 year, Julia Cooper, of Whitby, Ontario will serve as president and Cole Mullins, of Coronado, California, will serve as past president. They will be joined by Board Members Sophie-Chanel Bourré, of Ottawa, Ontario; Maya Gluck, of Altamonte Springs, Florida; Abigail Proctor, of The Valley, Anguilla; and Alice Potvin, of Métabetchouan, Quebec.

The Pony Scouts JOI Club of Bonita, California also received special recognition for winning the Reel Optimism contest, and also for raising \$8,600 for childhood cancer research at Johns Hopkins Children's Center.

The Junior Optimists also want to express a special thanks to the JOI Committee for making this convention a success: Chair Mark Claussen, Vicky Buteau, Sean Mueller, Donna Priester and Janet White.



SAVE THE DATE!

2020 JUNIOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

June 28-June 30, 2020 • Schaumburg, Illinois

Chicagoland, Illinois • Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about
your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the
greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every
living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you
have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger,
too strong for fear, and too happy to permit
the presence of trouble.

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