

I am serving once again as the Optimist Club of Littleton Chairperson for the 2016-17 Optimist Club Essay Contest, and I invite you to encourage your students to participate in our contest. The Essay Contest is sponsored annually by Optimist International to provide students an avenue to express themselves about the challenges that they may face as they grow. Their essays may incorporate their own experiences and their individual perspectives. It's a great opportunity for developing their skills for written expression, and we will award four cash prizes of \$175, \$100, \$75 and \$50 at our local level. Participants also have the opportunity to win a \$2500 college scholarship!

The subject for this year's Essay contest is: "**Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges.**" It is an interesting topic, especially considering the challenges that exist in these times and it is intentionally broad enough to give students a wide berth for their essays. In recent years, the Optimist Club of Littleton has received many thoughtful, expressive and original essay submissions from students in the Littleton community. The encouragement by their teachers has been a key component of the students' success in our essay contests each year.

The application form is included as an attachment. You and your students can also access the application form at [www.optimist.org/Forms/Essay\\_RULES\\_PAD-E\\_16-17.pdf](http://www.optimist.org/Forms/Essay_RULES_PAD-E_16-17.pdf). After an application is completed it should be forwarded to my address, to be received no later than Monday, February 6, 2017. The application should include our club name (Optimist Club of Littleton) and club number (25030). Please contact me at the telephone number or email address below if you or your students have any questions or need more information about our essay contest. Students or parents can call me directly if they need to. Each year, members of our Optimist Club of Littleton have also picked up essays at the schools and will be happy to do that again this year.

Our club continues to be very supportive of Littleton Public Schools and we thank you very much for all that you do for our students!

Sincerely,

**Steve Patterson**

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