

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships

The Optimist Club of Raleigh supports the achievement of our outstanding local youth in hopes that they will become outstanding civic leaders in their communities.

Since 1957, Optimist Clubs have recognized youth for their talents in the arts, athletics, academics, and for contributions to community. Youth Appreciation Week provides one such opportunity for this recognition.

This year the Optimist Club of Raleigh will celebrate Youth Appreciation Week by awarding two one-year scholarships --- one for \$2,500 and one for \$1,500 --- to Wake County high school seniors, based on academic and extra-curricular accomplishments and level of community involvement. This scholarship can be used at any accredited university, college or trade/vocational school.

Oratorical Contest

The Club sponsors this speech contest to inspire today's youth to motivate and inform others through the art of public speaking. The contest topic is chosen each year by Optimist International. Non-Optimist community leaders make up the panels of judges that select the winning students. The best are recognized at a luncheon with their parents and faculty representatives. This contest provides Club winners with the opportunity to compete at the nationals level for a college scholarship.

Essay Contest

The Club sponsors this contest 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 his or her country, or a more historical perspective. The topic, selected each year by Optimist International, is intended to give young people the room to develop their own views around a central idea. Non-Optimist community leaders make up the panels of judges that select the winning students. The best are recognized at a luncheon with their parents and faculty representatives. In addition to the opportunity for written expression, Club winners have the opportunity to compete at the zone, district and national level for college scholarships: \$2,500 district level and \$5,000 national level.

PROJECTS

Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina

Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina is a privately funded, non-sectarian, not-for-profit agency that provides a "family" environment for at-risk children needing an out-of-home setting for as long as is necessary and practical. Located directly on the shores of beautiful Lake Waccamaw in the southeastern part of the State, the homes provide shelter, food, clothing, education, emotional support and moral/ethical/spiritual guidance to the children. To date, more than 3000 children from across North Carolina have benefited from these services. The Optimist Club of Raleigh, together with other Optimist clubs in the State, is proud to contribute financially – both endowment and operating expenses. The Optimist Cottage there can accommodate up to eight boys at a time.

Youth Sports and Youth Activities

Optimists serve as promoters, coaches and counselors and help finance various youth sports activities such as the Garner Road YMCA Basketball Club. Other youth activities such as "Take-A-Kid-Fishing" at the Optimist Farm involve many Optimists and many more area children. The club also maintain the beautiful 69 acre Optimist Farm and make it available for sports, camping and other uses by youth organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Respect for Law

During the annual "Respect for Law" week, the Club shows its respect and gratitude to local law enforcement professionals at a luncheon meeting. Representatives of area enforcement organizations are invited and honored.

Roadside Cleanup of Optimist Farm Road

The Optimist Club of Raleigh is a partner in the NC Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway Program. In this program members of the Club volunteer at least twice a year to pick up litter along Optimist Farm Road. The Club is recognized for this service with appropriate signs along the road. This project demonstrates the Club's concern for the community and lets neighbors know that we respect them and our role as concerned citizens.

YOUTH ACTIVITY PROJECTS

Youth Appreciation Week

One week each year is designated "Youth Appreciation Week." The club celebrates this week each year by awarding scholarships to area high school seniors. A committee of club members and school administrators select the seniors based on their academic and extra-curricular accomplishments. Parents, faculty advisors and the winners are honored at a luncheon where the scholarships are presented.



Mile of Hope

The Mile of Hope is a Childhood Cancer Campaign project sponsored by the Club along with other Optimist Clubs in Eastern North Carolina. It provides a weekend "get away" to the beach for twenty-five children with cancer. The children and their families, from eastern NC, enjoy a break from their hospital routines for some sun, fun, food, fellowship, and an optimistic vacation

Take a Kid Fishing

Our annual event hosts about 40 kids yearly. A lot of fish are caught and great fun is had by all, including the Optimists who helped. This is the kind of event that makes us all optimistic about our next generation!



THE OPTIMIST CLUB FARM

Owned and Operated by
The Optimist Club of Raleigh

2908 Optimist Farm Road
Apex, NC 27539-7913



The Optimist Club Farm is available for use without charge by organized and properly supervised youth groups such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, or similar youth groups. It may be rented for private meetings, wedding receptions, birthday parties or similar functions.

The Farm encompasses 70 acres of which about 40 are cleared with suitable areas for softball games, soccer, or other such activities. Wooded areas of the farm may be used for camping or nature walks. A heated/air conditioned clubhouse with chairs and tables provided for meeting or banquet purposes can accommodate up to 87 persons. On the property in front of the clubhouse, is a three acre pond that may be used for fishing or canoeing. For more farm information, calendar of availability and links to more pictures, go to: www.raleigh-optimist.org/farm.



*To request information on
availability, please leave a voice message at
919-210-0901
or e-mail the Club at
RaleighOptimist@gmail.com*

WHO WE ARE

The Optimist Club of Raleigh is a service organization comprised of men and women with professional or business backgrounds. Club fundraising and service projects are for the benefit, encouragement and entertainment of the young people in our community. Sponsored programs include "Mile of Hope" (a weekend beach outing for childhood cancer patients and their families), Take a Kid Fishing (fishing at the Optimist Farm), "Respect for Law", "Youth Appreciation Week" (Scholarship awards for area high school seniors), and Oratorical and Essay Contests -- all focused on serving young people. The Club also provides financial support to the Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina (at Lake Waccamaw, NC).

FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

Christmas Tree Sales

Beginning the day after Thanksgiving, the Club's Christmas Tree Lot is open for business, continuing a long-running Optimist tradition in North Carolina. The Club uses this major fund-raiser to finance its numerous youth and community projects. All members of the Club share responsibility for lot setup, pricing and tree sales. As with all Club projects, no member receives any pay for his/her services.

Optimist Classic Golf Tournament

Established in 1999, the Optimist Classic Golf Tournament has become the other major fundraising project for the Club. Businesses in the Raleigh area help support the golf tournament through financial sponsorships and teams. Profits from the event are used to continue and expand the many youth and community service projects of the Club.



Optimist Club of Raleigh

P O Box 26155
Raleigh, NC 27611
(919) 210-0901

Chartered July 10, 1948

**Celebrating 64 Years
of Serving Youth**



**The motto of every Optimist Club is
"Friend of Youth."**

*For More Information
Please visit us at:
www.Raleigh-Optimist.org*