



# CCDHH Contest

## 2021-2022 Club Chair Planning Guide

**Topic:** “Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times?”

### Purpose

This contest is designed to offer young people who are deaf or hard of hearing the opportunity to present their thoughts in a public forum. This experience helps contestants develop the skills and confidence to present in sign or orally to a large audience. The program also provides a valuable opportunity to compete for a \$2,500 college scholarship.

### How to Enter

Contestants make a 4-5 minute presentation on the assigned topic. The presentations are judged at the Club level, Zone level (if needed) and the District level.

Some Districts, due to participation levels, conduct a single District contest without Club level contests preceding the event. All Club submissions should be run through a plagiarism checker before being forwarded to the next level.

### Eligibility

**The contest is open to contestants through grade 12 in the United States and Canada, to CEGEP in Quebec and the equivalent in the Caribbean and the rest of the world. Contestants must submit the results of an audiogram (or Cochlear Implant Programming Report) completed no longer than 24 months prior to the date of the contest by a qualified audiologist.** Contestants must be certified to have an **uncorrected** hearing loss of 40 decibels or more, which must be supported by the audiogram (or CI Programming Report) in order to be eligible to compete. Contestants attending either public school or schools providing special services are eligible to enter if criteria are met.

### Presentation Style

Contestants may use sign language, an oral presentation or a combination of both to compete. Both styles are judged using the same criteria.

### Minimum Number of Participants

Zone and District contests must have no fewer than 3 contestants. In cases where the minimum number of 3 contestants at the Zone contest cannot be met, there are two options: A. Send Club winners directly to the next level of the contest. B. Combine Zone level contests. **There are no exceptions for District contests.**

### Contest Deadlines

**Club contest date is set by the Club Chair, once the District date has been obtained.**

The District contest date is set by the District CCDHH Chair. The deadline to submit District materials to Optimist International is **June 15, 2022**. The District winners will be notified by a letter from Optimist International between June 15th and July 31st. Districts should notify the Programs Department by May 15th if they would like the winner notification to be delayed.

### Prizes

Scholarships are awarded to contestants in the United States and the Caribbean in US dollars and in Canadian dollars for Canadian contestants.

#### Club level - medallion

Clubs are allowed to give monetary/cash\* awards of up to \$500 per winner for the CCDHH contest in addition to the official medallions. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary. Please contact the Optimist International Foundation or Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation for setting up a Club scholarship.

\* Disclaimer - Clubs planning to present cash or savings bond awards to contestant winners should first consult the association for their state or province that coordinates scholastic activities and competitions to determine if such payments would result in the recipient’s forfeiture of amateur status. If a contestant loses their amateur status, they may be unable to compete in collegiate athletics and activities.

#### District level - plaque and a \$2,500 scholarship

Districts choosing to increase funding for the scholarship or fund additional scholarships will need to manage those funds through other resources. Optimist International will not handle the awarding of any scholarships not funded by the Optimist International Foundations. The responsibility for record-keeping and awarding of additional funds or scholarships will be the Districts.

Districts may choose to hold the additional funds in District accounts or set up a Club Campaign through the Optimist International Foundations. Gifts for increased or additional scholarships will not be counted for District or Club recognition.

The Foundations will process requests from the Districts to have scholarship funds returned to them. Requests must be in writing and specify the type of scholarship and the amount. The Foundations will not award the scholarships or write checks to the individual scholarship recipients or their schools. **Additional scholarships will no longer be awarded through Optimist International.**

## Getting the Contest Started in Your Community

The first thing your Club Chair should do is contact the District CCDHH Chair and make sure the District will be sponsoring the program. Not all Districts conduct this program, so it is important to verify that a District level contest is available to contestants in your community.

Once District participation has been confirmed, contact schools providing education for deaf and hard of hearing contestants. Some contestants will be mainstreamed, attending school with hearing contestants, while some may be educated at schools that provide special services. The local Board of Education should be contacted to find out how your community's school system works regarding this issue.

Give each school an overview of the program, a copy of the rules and Club contact information. If the school is responsive, send them contest applications. Provide the date and location of the Club's contest and keep in touch on a regular basis.

## Criteria and Duties for Judges

Three judges who are not acquainted with the presenters are required. Judges must be able to evaluate the presentation style of contestants with and without the assistance of an interpreter. If all contestants are using sign language then deaf judges are allowed. Judges should have expertise working with young people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

At the Club level, judges may be Optimist Members. At all other levels of the competition, judges must be non-Optimists (Friends of Optimists are excluded and can be used as judges).

Judges are also potential new Members, so don't forget to recruit them.

The Club Chair supplies each judge with a judging form and copy of the rules. Judges should not compare scores or their impressions of the presentations. They must work independently. Only the Club Chair compiling the totals is permitted to see scores. Scores are confidential.

## Interpreters

A certified interpreter is provided by the sponsoring Club/District at all competitions. They must be certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., or a similarly recognized organization. Interpreters must be able to convey the information of the contestant to the judges. A contestant should never be required to provide his or her own interpreter.

## Timekeeper

This position can be held by an Optimist Member. There are no specific requirements for this position. Their duties include recording the time of the presentation and failure to announce the topic. The timekeeper totals all participants' deductions and turns the form in to the Contest Chair.

## After the Club Contest

### The Club Chair should:

1. Announce the winner to the audience and present the official medallions.
2. Have the winner sign their Zone/District Entry Form.
3. Announce the date and location of the next level of the contest.
4. **Submit for the winner to the District**

### CCDHH Chair:

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Completed Zone/District Entry Form  
\_\_\_\_\_ Audiogram (or Cochlear Implant  
Programing Report) (conducted within 24  
months of the contest date)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Contestant's Application Form  
\_\_\_\_\_ Printed copy of presentation

# Application for the 2021-2022 Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Name \_\_\_\_\_ M F  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing this school year?  Yes  No

## Audiologist Verification:

I verify that the contestant listed above has a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_

## Contestant Agreement:

*I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all of the requirements.*

Contestant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent or Guardian Permission:

*I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

*I, \_\_\_\_\_ grant the Optimist Club/International my permission to use a picture of my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo in any publication they see fit.*

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic: "Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times"

Please send application to address below.

### Official Rules

#### Section I - General Rules

1. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
2. The CCDHH District Chair is responsible for all phases of the contest and his or her rulings in accordance with the official rules are final.
3. All competitions must be conducted by Optimists only.
4. The contest date, time and place will be determined by the Contest Chair.
5. All contestants must comply with the official rules of the contest.
6. The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club's Contest Chair.
7. All Zone, Regional and District level contests must have a minimum of 3 contestants participating.
8. Scholarship must be used in a school located in the United States, Canada or Caribbean. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International

#### Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. **The contest is open to contestants through grade 12 in the United States and Canada, to CEGEP in Quebec and the equivalent in the Caribbean and the rest of the world.** Contestants must have an uncorrected hearing loss of 40 decibels or more in order to be eligible to participate. Participants must submit an audiogram (or a Cochlear Implant Programming Report) done within 24 months of the date of the contest from a qualified audiologist.

2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's contest during any given year.
3. Each contestant must prepare his or her own presentation with limited assistance on content. Improvements to the presentation can be made at any time.
4. A contestant who has won a District CCDHH or CCHI scholarship is not eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.

#### Section III - Contest Rules

1. All contestants must make a presentation on the official contest topic and submit a typed copy of the speech.
2. Contestants can present in sign language, orally or using a combination of both.
3. Presentations may be delivered in a language other than English if the language used is the official language of the country in which the sponsoring Club is located.
4. The interpreter is to be provided by the sponsoring Optimist Club/Zone/District.
5. All contestants must give the official contest topic in the first sentence of their presentation. If a contestant fails to do this, a 3-point penalty will be automatically assessed by the timekeeper.
6. Any quotation or copyrighted material used in the presentation must be identified with the original author's name. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
7. The use of props, special costumes or clothing, or the use of prompts will not be permitted. The penalty will be disqualification. Notes and lecterns can be used if the contestant desires.
8. The time limit is not under 4 minutes and no longer than 5 minutes. Contestants going over or under will not be cautioned, and will be penalized one point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or

- under the time limits. This penalty will be assessed by the timekeeper.
9. Timing will begin immediately after the official topic is given. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.
10. No reference can be made that identifies the contestant, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. This will result in a deduction of 5 points or a fraction of based on the degree of identification.
11. Contestants must not be identified by name, school or sponsoring Club until all judges have left the room.
12. Any protest in the conduct at any level of this contest must be made immediately after the condition is noted. Protests received after the next contestant has been introduced, or in the case of the last contestant, after the judges leave to total the scores, will not be accepted under any circumstances.
13. The Contest Chair will rule on all protests in accordance with the official rules. The decision of the Contest Chair is final and no higher appeals will be recognized.

#### Section IV - Judging and Timing

1. Each contest must have three judges, one timekeeper and one certified interpreter.
2. The judges must be qualified to evaluate the presentation methods of all contestants with or without the assistance of an interpreter. (If all contestants are using sign language then at least one of the judges can be a deaf judge.)
3. The judges and timekeepers must not be identified in any pre-publicity or at the contest until after the contest has been completed.
4. Judges are not permitted to discuss or compare scores or opinions on any of the contestants with

anyone or each other. Judges must evaluate each presentation independently.

5. The judges' scores and penalties are confidential and should not be viewed by anyone except the Contest Chair.

#### Section V - Scoring

1. Material Organization – subject adherence, theme, content, color and logic. The maximum point award is 40 points.
2. Delivery & Presentation – delivery, gestures and emphasis. The maximum point award is 30 points.
3. Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect. The maximum point award is 30 points.

#### Section VI - Penalties

1. Failure to give official topic in the first sentence – 3 points
2. Failure to identify non-original material - disqualification
3. Use of props, etc. – disqualification
4. Time penalties – 1 points for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the limit
5. Self-identification – 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification

#### For more information contact:

SPONSORING CLUB SHOULD POST CONTACT INFORMATION HERE

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone or email: \_\_\_\_\_



# Official Rules

## **Section I - Contest Organization**

1. The CCDHH District Chair is responsible for all phases of the contest and their rulings in accordance with the official rules are final.
2. All competitions must be conducted by Optimists only.
3. The contest date, time and place will be determined by the Contest Chair.
4. All contestants must comply with the official rules of the contest.
5. **All Zone and District-level contests must have a minimum of 3 contestants participating.**

## **Section II - General Rules**

1. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
2. Contestants are only eligible for one Club's contest during any given year.
3. Each contestant must prepare his or her own presentation with limited assistance on content. Improvements to the presentation can be made at any time.
4. The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club's Contest Chair.
5. There is no stated minimum number of contestants that have to be obtained to perform a legitimate Club-level competition. In cases where the minimum number of 3 contestants at the Zone contest cannot be met, there are two options:
  - A. Send Club winners directly to the next level of the contest.
  - B. Combine Zone level contests.**All Zone and District level contests must have no fewer than 3 contestants participating. There are no exceptions for District contests.**
6. A contestant who has won an Optimist International CCDHH or CCHI scholarship of any kind is not eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.

## **Section III – Qualifications for Contestants**

The contest is open to contestants through grade 12 in the United States and Canada, to CEGEP in Quebec and the equivalent in the Caribbean and the rest of the world.

Contestants must submit the results of an audiogram (or if the contestant has a Cochlear Implant then a Programming Report is required in lieu of the audiogram) completed no longer than 24 months prior to the date of the contest by a qualified audiologist. Contestants must be certified to have a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more, which must be supported by the audiogram (or CI Programming Report) in order to be eligible to compete. Contestants attending public school or schools providing special services are eligible to compete if eligibility criteria are met.

## **Section IV - Contest Rules**

1. The interpreter is to be provided by the sponsoring Optimist Club/Zone or District.
2. The Contest Chair, prior to the start of the contest will conduct a drawing for the presentation order. All contestants will then be referred to as Presenter A, Presenter B, etc.
3. All contestants must make a presentation on the official contest topic.
4. Contestants can present in sign language, orally or using a combination of both.
5. Presentations may be delivered in a language other than English if the language used is the official language of the country in which the sponsoring Club is located.
6. All contestants must give the official contest topic in the first sentence of their presentation. If a contestant fails to do this, a 3-point penalty will be automatically assessed by the timekeeper.
7. Any quotation or copyrighted material used in the presentation must be identified with the original author's name. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
8. The use of props, special costumes or clothing, or the use of prompters will not be permitted. The penalty will be disqualification. Notes and lecterns can be used if the contestant desires.
9. The time limit is not under 4 minutes and no longer than 5 minutes. Contestants going over or under will not be cautioned, and will be penalized one point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the time limits. This penalty will be assessed by the timekeeper.
10. Timing will begin immediately after the official topic is given. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.
11. No reference can be made that identifies the contestant, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. This will result in a deduction of 5 points or a fraction of based on the degree of identification.



12. Contestants must not be identified by name, school or sponsoring Club until all judges have left the room.
13. Any protest in the conduct at any level of this contest must be made immediately after the condition is noted. Protests received after the next contestant has been introduced, or in the case of the last contestant, after the judges leave to total the scores, will not be accepted under any circumstances.
14. The Contest Chair will rule on all protests in accordance with the official rules. The decision of the District Chair is final and no higher appeals will be recognized.

### Section V - Judging and Timing

1. Each contest must have three judges, one timekeeper and one certified interpreter. At the Club level, judges may be Optimist Members. At all other levels of the contest, judges must be non-Optimists (Friends of Optimists are excluded and can be used as judges).
2. The judges must be qualified to evaluate the presentation methods of contestants with or without the assistance of an interpreter. (If all contestants are using sign language then deaf judges are allowed.)
3. The judges and timekeeper must not be identified in any pre-publicity or at the contest until after the contest has been completed.
4. During the contest, the judges and the timekeeper should be seated in different locations.
5. The timekeeper must be provided with a regulation stopwatch or equivalent timing device.
6. Judges are not permitted to discuss or compare scores or opinions on any of the contestants with anyone or each other. Judges must evaluate each presentation independently.
7. The judges' scores and penalties are confidential and should not be viewed by anyone except the Contest Chair.

### Section VI – Scoring

1. Material Organization – subject adherence, theme, content, color and logic. The maximum point award is 40 points.
2. Delivery & Presentation – delivery, gestures and emphasis. The maximum point award is 30 points.
3. Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect. The maximum point award is 30 points

### Section VII – Penalties

1. Failure to give official topic in the first sentence – 3 point penalty
2. Failure to identify non-original material - disqualification
3. Use of props, etc. – disqualification
4. Time penalties – 1 points for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the limit
5. Self-identification – 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification

### Section VIII – Awards

The following are the only awards to be given in the Optimist International Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at all Club and District contests. These official Optimist International awards are available from Optimist Supply or. Awards will not be ordered or sent automatically.

1. Club Awards: Medallion  
**Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner in addition to the official medallions. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary.**
2. District Awards: Plaque and Scholarship
  - A. One winner from each participating District will receive a \$2500 scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only.
  - B. Scholarships are paid through the Optimist International Foundation in the United States and Caribbean and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation in Canada.
  - C. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
  - D. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
  - E. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.
  - F. If a District chooses to raise the amount of a scholarship funded by either of the Optimist International Foundations or fund additional scholarships, the District will be responsible for the management and awarding of those funds.

# Visitor Sign-In Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Club Worksheet

|                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combined | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signing  |                               |

**For all Club contests**

The \_\_\_\_\_ Optimist Club of \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Contest Site \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>Presentation Order</b> | <b>Contestant's Name</b> | <b>Club Application</b> | <b>Audiogram</b> | <b>Place in Contest</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
|                           |                          |                         |                  |                         |
|                           |                          |                         |                  |                         |
|                           |                          |                         |                  |                         |
|                           |                          |                         |                  |                         |
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|                           |                          |                         |                  |                         |
|                           |                          |                         |                  |                         |

# Official Judge's Score Sheet

|                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combined | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signing  |                               |

For all Club contests

| <b>Material Organization</b>   | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>G</b> | <b>H</b> | <b>I</b> | <b>J</b> |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <i>Subject Adherence</i> — Stayed on topic throughout presentation. 0-10 points                                  |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| <i>Theme</i> — Title and content followed this year's theme. 0-5 points  |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| <i>Logic</i> — Presentation follows a particular sequence of facts and events. 0-10 points                       |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| <i>Content</i> — Presentation has substance. 0-10 points   |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| <i>Color</i> — Audience has clear picture of what the presenter is expressing. 0-5 points                        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Delivery and Presentation</b>   | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>G</b> | <b>H</b> | <b>I</b> | <b>J</b> |
| <i>Delivery</i> — Clear, concise and dynamic presentation. 0-15 points   |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| <i>Gestures</i> — Control and use of body while speaking. 0-5 points   |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| <i>Emphasis</i> — Expressive, dynamic, impressive 0-10 points  |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Overall Effectiveness</b>   | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>G</b> | <b>H</b> | <b>I</b> | <b>J</b> |
| <i>Appeal</i> — Presenter made a point or aroused a response as a result of the entire presentation. 0-10 points |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| <i>Impression</i> — The presentation made an impression in the minds of the audience. 0-10 points                |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| <i>Attitude</i> — Presenter supported a position that accomplished the purpose of the topic. 0-5 points          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| <i>Effect</i> — Presenter accomplished a purpose in the minds of the audience members. 0-5 points                |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Total Points</b>  |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |

Judge's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_





## Penalty Points

| Contestant   | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Use of props, costumes, etc. Disqualification  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Self-identification 1-5 points   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Timekeeper penalty (1 point per each 15 seconds or portion over or under the official time limit) 1 point per 15 seconds |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Failure to announce the topic In the first sentence of the presentation. 3 points  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Failure to identify non-original material. Disqualification  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Failure to complete the presentation. Disqualification   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Total Penalty Points</b>  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Net Scores of Point Grades (no Ties)</b>  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Contestant's Rank in Contest</b>  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

### 1. Material Organization **40 points**

*(Subject Adherence, Theme, Logic, Content, Color)*  
In this category, just the material and its organization as presented by the contestant should be judged. A judge should consider the importance of adherence to the subject of the speech, the proper introduction and the logic and coherent development of the theme which brings about a successful and adequate conclusion. Figures of speech, similes, metaphors, colorful choice of words and zestful, descriptive phrases are important qualities.

### 2. Delivery and Presentation **30 points**

*(Delivery, Gestures, Emphasis)*  
Delivery and presentation shall be judged on several factors. Delivery should be continuous without hesitation or halting. Gestures should be appraised for frequency, nature and effectiveness. Emphasis should be well placed and dynamic.

### 3. Overall Effectiveness **30 points**

*(Appeal, Impression, Attitude, Effect)*  
In this category the overall impression created by the speaker and the speech should be rated. While it must not be used as such, it is in making this particular score that a judge would most closely approach a conclusion that would actually rank the contestants in his or her own opinion.

## Penalty Explanations

- A. Use of props, costumes, etc.:** The use of props or special costumes or clothing or the use of teleprompters will not be permitted. The penalty is disqualification. Notes and lecterns may be used if the speaker desires to do so.
- B. Self-Identification:** To eliminate any bias or prejudice, no presentation or part of a presentation may be used that identifies the contestant, their family, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. The maximum penalty is five points but is assigned by each judge based on the degree of self-identification.
- C. Time Penalties:** The time limit for presentations is no less than 4 minutes or over 5 minutes in length. Contestants going over or under the time limit will not be cautioned, but will be penalized one point for each 15 seconds or portion over or under the limits. These penalties will be determined by the timekeeper.
- D. Failure to announce the official topic in the first sentence of the presentation:** To assist the timekeeper in establishing a uniform starting time, all contestants must express the official topic of the presentation before beginning the presentation. A three-point penalty must be assessed by the timekeeper.
- E. Failure to complete the presentation:** Each contestant must complete the entire presentation. Penalty is disqualification.

# Official Timekeeper's Score Sheet

|   |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combined <input type="checkbox"/> Oral<br><input type="checkbox"/> Signing |
|---|

## For all Club contests

The official timekeeper shall use a regulation stopwatch or equivalent timing device, which will be supplied by the Contest Chair.

## Time Penalties

The time limit for speeches will be not under 4 minutes or over 5 minutes in length. Contestants going over or under the time limit will not be cautioned, but will be penalized one point for each 15 seconds or fraction over or under the time limit. These penalties will be determined by the official timekeeper.

Timing will begin at the first word or sign. Any salutation to the judges, audience, etc., should precede the statement of the topic. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes the presentation.

All contestants must express the official topic in the first sentence of the presentation. If a contestant fails to do this, a three- point penalty is automatically assessed by the timekeeper.

## Failure to identify non-original material verbally

Any non-original material in the speech must be noted in the written copy of the speech. If a contestant fails to identify all non-original material, the result is disqualification. The penalty is assessed by the timekeeper.

| Speakers in order of appearance | Time minutes/ sections | Over/Under time-point penalties | Failure to announce topic in the first sentence of the presentation | Total penalty points |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| A                               |                        |                                 |   |                      |
| B                               |                        |                                 |   |                      |
| C                               |                        |                                 |   |                      |
| D                               |                        |                                 |   |                      |
| E                               |                        |                                 |   |                      |
| F                               |                        |                                 |   |                      |
| G                               |                        |                                 |   |                      |
| H                               |                        |                                 |   |                      |
| I                               |                        |                                 |   |                      |
| J                               |                        |                                 |   |                      |

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
*Timekeeper's Name*



# Official Report Form

|                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combined | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signing  |                               |

For all Club contests

| Contestant's Speaking Order | First Judge  |      | Second Judge |      | Third Judge  |      | Total of Point Grades | Total of Rank | Place |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|-----------------------|---------------|-------|
|                             | Point Grades | Rank | Point Grades | Rank | Point Grades | Rank |                       |               |       |
| A                           |              |      |              |      |              |      |                       |               |       |
| B                           |              |      |              |      |              |      |                       |               |       |
| C                           |              |      |              |      |              |      |                       |               |       |
| D                           |              |      |              |      |              |      |                       |               |       |
| E                           |              |      |              |      |              |      |                       |               |       |
| F                           |              |      |              |      |              |      |                       |               |       |
| G                           |              |      |              |      |              |      |                       |               |       |
| H                           |              |      |              |      |              |      |                       |               |       |
| I                           |              |      |              |      |              |      |                       |               |       |
| J                           |              |      |              |      |              |      |                       |               |       |

The CCDHH Contest Chair should check the math for each contestant's score. Enter the final point grades and ranks on this report form. The Contest Chair should announce the results from this form. For preliminary contests, the Chair will name by letter the two or three best contestants without announcing first, second or third place. For final contests, the Chairperson will name by letter the third, second then first place winners.

To determine rank in Club, Zone and District contests, each judge ranks the speakers as 1,2,3, etc. according to their scores. Ties are not permitted.

At the end of the contest, the Chair collects the judges' score sheets and checks the math. The point grade and position of rank for each contestant is entered on the Official Report Form for each judge. The winning contestant is then determined as follows:

1. If any contestant is ranked first by a majority of the judges, he or she is automatically declared the winner. This method is not used to rank a contestant second or third.
2. All other contestants are ranked by the "total of rank" system. This means that the rank, not the points each judge has given each contestant, is added and this figure is placed in the Total of Rank column. First-place is determined by this means also, if no one qualifies under the method explained in #1 above. The lowest total wins first place, the next lowest second-place and so on.

3. If a two-way tie results for any place, it is broken by a preferential vote. Using the rankings given on the ballots, a tabulation is made on the number of judges who placed one of the tied contestants higher than the other. Example: Two contestants, speakers D and H, are tied for third place and each has received a rank of nine. Speaker H would be declared the third-place winner as two judges (#2 and 3) ranked H higher than speaker D, who would be ranked fourth in the contest.

| Contestants' Rank of Order | Rank of Judge 1 | Rank of Judge 2 | Rank of Judge 3 | Total of Rank |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| D                          | 3               | 4               | 2               | 9             |
| H                          | 5               | 3               | 1               | 9             |

4. If a three-way tie results by the total of rank system, then and only then, are the point grades for each contestant totaled to break the three-way tie.

**Caution: Scores and rankings should be checked by a second person to ensure accuracy, but remember this information is confidential. Announcing the winners incorrectly could be disastrous!**



# 2021-2022 Official Zone/District Entry Form

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combined | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signing  |                               |

Be sure that your contestant is fully qualified to compete by filling in each line of this entry form. **Your Club should complete all of its requirements including the signatures.** Attach a printed copy of the presentation and a current audiogram (or Cochlear Implant Programming Report) and submit the materials to the Chair of the next level at least two weeks prior to the contest date.

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
month/day/year

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## To Club and District officers

*“As a contestant, I received a copy of the official rules for the Optimist International Communication Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing and fully understand them. I agree to be bound by all requirements. I have prepared my own presentation with limited assistance on the topic. I have given due credit by properly identifying all quotations and use of non-original material used in my presentation. I understand that any omission or violation of the rules on my part will mean immediate disqualification.”*

Contestant’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Contest information to be completed by the appropriate level’s Chair as the paperwork progresses with the winner.**

Number of youth in **Club** contest \_\_\_\_\_

Number of youth in **Zone** contest \_\_\_\_\_

## For Club and Zone Chairs’ signatures

*“We, the undersigned, in full compliance with the Optimist International Communication Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing contest rules, enter this contestant in the Zone/District contest. We understand that (included with) this form, a current audiogram (or Cochlear Implant Programming Report) and a printed copy of the presentation must be submitted to the Contest Chair before this contestant competes in the next level of the contest.”*

Optimist Club of \_\_\_\_\_ Club Number \_\_\_\_\_

District Name \_\_\_\_\_

Club President’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Club Contest Chair’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Zone Chair’s Signature (to enter District level) \_\_\_\_\_



**In order for the Club winner to be eligible to participate in the Zone/District level contest, the Club Chair must submit:**

\_\_\_\_\_Zone/District Entry Form

- **Must have number of contestants that participated in the contest**
- **Must have appropriate signatures, including the contestant's**

\_\_\_\_\_Application for 2021-2022 Optimist International CCDHH Contest

\_\_\_\_\_Audiogram(or Cochlear Implant Programming Report)

- **Must confirm contestant has a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more**
- **Must have been conducted within 24 months prior to the date of the contest**

\_\_\_\_\_Printed copy of presentation

**Contact the District Chair for deadline to submit Club entries!**



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## **2021-2022 CCDHH Club Chair Evaluation Form**

District Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chair Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a first-time or repeating Chair? \_\_\_\_\_ Contest year \_\_\_\_\_

What was your favorite part of the contest as Chair?

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What was your least favorite part of the contest as Chair?

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What was your opinion on this year's topic? Do you have any suggestions for future topics?

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What recommendations, if any, would you propose for improving the CCDHH contest?

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Please share any procedures that worked well for your Club.

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Please list any changes your Club will make for next year's contest.

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**This form should be submitted to:**

**Optimist International Programs Department**  
**Attn: CCDHH Coordinator 4494 Lindell Blvd. • St. Louis, MO 63108**  
**or fax to: 314-371-6006**  
**or email to: [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org)**