

“Focus on Optimism” Photography Contest



Summary: Young photographers are asked to submit photos that illustrate one of the ten points of the Optimist Creed.

Purpose: To EXPOSE young people to the Optimist Creed and the philosophy of Optimism, while seeking to DEVELOP their interest in photography.

- 1) Provide an outlet for the students' artistic expression, as our other events do for the scholastic and athletic.
- 2) Introduce the students and their parents to the "Optimist Creed" as a philosophy.
- 3) Make the students and parents aware of the club, in the hopes of promoting new membership.

History: "Focus on Optimist" began in 1996 in the Optimist Club of Watchung and has continued almost every year since then. It became a District contest in 2000-2001.

Rules: Each club may conduct its own contest and select winners by whatever method of judging the club deems appropriate, but clubs should adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) The Atlantic Central District contest is open to students from elementary through high school. A club may allow entries from any student in this age range, or may wish to limit its own contest, for example, to middle school or high school.
- 2) The club should select three winning photographs to be submitted to the District contest. The photographs should be identified as 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize.
- 3) The photographs should be judged both on their photographic quality and their aptness in illustrating the particular Creed statement. It is suggested that preference be given to the illustration of the Creed statement. This means that a beautiful photograph which doesn't especially match the Creed statement it attempts to illustrate is not necessarily better than a lesser photograph that is more to the point.
- 4) Photos may be any size from 4 x 6 to 8 x 10, black-and-white or color, film or digital. If a digital camera is used, the submitted photo should not be "photoshopped" other than cropping, or the sort of adjustment for brightness, contrast, etc. that a film photographer might do in the darkroom.
- 5) **Photos should be matted, with the Creed statement clearly indicated on the front of the mat.** The photographer's name and other identifying information, including Club name, should be indicated on the back.

- 6) To increase the number of entered photos, a club may allow each photographer to submit more than one picture, up to 3. However, no contestant may be awarded prizes for more than one picture. If possible, the three winning photos should illustrate different Creed statements, in order to give a greater variety to the District entries.
- 7) Clubs can select their winners by any procedure they desire (a single judge, a small panel of judges, vote of members at a club meeting, etc.)
- 8) Prizes of cash or merchandise can be awarded at the club level, with a suggested maximum value of \$50. It is planned that the District contest will award cash prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100.
- 9) Club prizes winners should be submitted to the District contest chair no later than **April 10, 2018**. The address for submission is:

James Thompson
6421 Baltray Road
Charlotte NC 28278-6697
Home: (215) 527-6697
Email: acdopt@gmail.com

- 10) When submitting the winning photographs to the District Chairperson, it would be helpful if digital images are also submitted, either on an accompanying CD or emailed to the address provided above. This will aid in producing an article for the District newsletter and the Optimist magazine, but is not strictly required.
- 11) Winners will be selected at the 3rd Quarter District Conference by a vote of the members and guests in attendance. Each meeting attendee will receive a ballot on which to indicate their preference for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The votes will be tallied with a weight of 5 points for a first place vote, 3 points for a second place vote and 1 point for a third place vote, with the highest vote totals being awarded the prizes. Depending on the number of photos submitted to the District chairman, some adjustment to these procedures may be required in order to clearly establish the top three photographs.
- 12) If there are any additional questions, contact Chairperson James Thompson 215-527-6697
- 13) If there is a club contest chairman who has enjoyed being involved in "Focus on Optimism," please consider being the District Chairperson for next year.

14) RULES AND DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.