

CLARKSTON AREA OPTIMIST CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATIONS MUST BE EMAILED TO

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BY 6:00 pm – April 10, 2026

Eligibility: Any graduating high school senior residing in the Clarkston Community Schools attendance area, intending to continue their education in a 2 or 4 year college or university program, or a trade school. Public school, private school and home school seniors are eligible.

Four scholarships will be awarded this year in the amount of \$3,000 each:

1. The Andrea Schroeder Scholarship for the Fine Arts
2. The Henry Richardson Friend of Youth Scholarship
3. The James A. Evans Scholarship
4. Making Your Optimism Come True Scholarship. (This scholarship is particularly intended for students who want to go on to a trade school, major in a trade such as construction management at a college or use the scholarship to purchase tools/equipment to use in the trades→proof of employment will be required.)

Criteria:

1. Live the Optimist Creed
2. Volunteers in programs which benefit youth
3. Involvement in extra-curricular activities

You Must Provide the following:

1. **Form 1:** General Information (attached)
2. **Form 2:** Activities & Accomplishments (attached)
3. **Essay:** Please tell us about a volunteer service or work experience that you have performed and what you learned from it. You may write about it from one of the following perspectives:
 - a. impacted your career choices, OR
 - b. contributed to our community

NOTE: Essays should be no longer than two pages, double spaced, one inch margins, using a 12 point font. The Essay should have a title and use appropriate grammar and punctuation.

4. **One Letter of Recommendation.** These letters should come from non-family members such as: teacher, counselor, principal, employer, coach, Scout leader, Clergy member, etc.
5. For **the** person who recommended you, please briefly describe, in **one paragraph**, how this person has influenced you or how they have made a difference in your life.
6. **Form 3:** Release Information (attached)

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 of 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*

FORM 1: GENERAL INFORMATION (Please fill out with a black pen or in Google Docs)

Student Information

Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Home Address: _____
Street Apt/Suite

City State Zip Code

Your Phone no: _____ Email Address: _____

Parents Names Parents Phone Number

High School Graduating From: _____

Graduation Date: _____/_____
Month Year

Post Graduate Education Plans

College, University or Trade School Name: _____

Location: _____
City State

Anticipated Graduation Date: _____/_____ Major: _____

Form 2: ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Awards

List in order of importance to you, up to six awards and/or honors you have achieved in the last three years

High School Activities (outside of the classroom)

Tell us about your activities: clubs, internships, lessons, volunteering and hobbies. Please list only eight!

| Activity | Circle grades of participation | Approximate hours per week | Approximate weeks per year | Position held or honors won |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. _ | 10 11 12 | | | |
| 2. | 10 11 12 | | | |
| 3. | 10 11 12 | | | |
| 4. | 10 11 12 | | | |
| 5. | 10 11 12 | | | |
| 6. | 10 11 12 | | | |
| 7. | 10 11 12 | | | |
| 8. | 10 11 12 | | | |

Employment

Position

| | | | | |
|----|----------------|--|--|--|
| 1. | 10 11 12 | | | |
| 2. | 10 11 12 | | | |

Were you in a school that had a Jr. Optimist Club? Yes_____No_____ (please check one)

Please circle each grade year that you have been in Jr. Optimist: 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

If you believe that you have a special need or extenuating circumstance the Club should consider, please describe it here:

FORM 3 – Release of Information

I certify that I meet the stated eligibility requirements for the application of the Clarkston Area Optimist Club, and that all the information in this application is complete and accurate. I understand that any inaccurate information, of a substantial nature, provided as part of this application, will result in disqualification. I hereby voluntarily grant my high school to confirm and/or verify information to the Clarkston Area Optimist Club, or their agents for the purpose of the scholarship selection. I hereby consent to disclosure of any such information and waive any claims which may arise as a result of any disclosure. I hereby understand, that if I am awarded a scholarship, the Optimist club will announce it in the local paper and on their web page. In consideration of the possible receipt of financial assistance from the Clarkston Area Optimist Club, I give up all rights to publication or use of materials submitted as part of this application, and forever release any claim to ownership of said materials.

Student Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date