



2023-24 OPTIMIST CLUB ESSAY CONTEST

Topic: Optimism - How it Connects Us

What is the Optimist Essay Contest?

Every year, Optimist International sponsors an essay contest for the purpose of allowing students to express their perspective on worldly affairs. Local Optimist Clubs host the essay contest to further this initiative. **Any student under 19 years of age** by October 1st 2023 that has not completed secondary school can participate. **There are no grade-level restrictions or minimum age requirements.** To apply through the Optimist Club of Calvert, students must attend a school in Calvert County, **excluding schools in Lusby, MD** (contact [Optimist Club of Solomons](#) for Lusby entries). **Cash prizes for local winners are available.**

How do I participate in the 2023-24 Optimist Club Essay Contest?

Cash Prizes

Essays are reviewed and compared by grade level (high school and middle/elementary school). Prizes are awarded as follows: **1st = \$125, 2nd = \$75, and 3rd = \$50** for a total of 6 prizes. One overall winner will advance to the district-level contest to compete for a **\$2,500** scholarship.

Essay Requirements

For all essay requirements, please see the essay application at www.CalvertOptimists.org by selecting the 2023-2024 Essay Contest Application link on the Welcome page.

Submitting Your Essay

All essays and applications must be submitted via email as **attachments** to Kimberly Imel, Essay Contest Coordinator, at kimmel763@gmail.com by **Friday, February 9th, 2024 at 11:59 PM EST**. Accommodations can be made for individuals who need to submit a physical copy.

For any additional questions, contact Kimberly Imel at kimmel763@gmail.com and/or visit <https://www.optimist.org/> for Official Rules and Contest Application.

