



“J.O.O.I.” stands for Junior Optimist Octagon International. It is the umbrella organization that links local Optimist JOOI Clubs to others throughout North America. Much like Optimist International, JOOI is governed by an International Board of Directors as well as by District officers. Each year, JOOI Club Members attend District and international conventions to elect their peers to fill important offices. Administrative support for all JOOI Clubs comes from the JOOI Clubs Department at Optimist International.

WHY SPONSOR A JOOI CLUB?

Sponsoring an Optimist JOOI Club can be very beneficial to you and your Optimist Club! Many Optimist International leaders have been supportive of JOOI Clubs over the years because long-term involvement with youth embodies the true meaning of our motto, “Friend of Youth.”

FOR YOUR OPTIMIST CLUB, A JOOI CLUB SPONSORSHIP OFFERS:

- Long-term mentoring opportunities with young people versus short-term exposure during one-day activities.
- Lots of eager hands to help with your larger service projects and fundraisers.
- A means to rejuvenate interest in your Club's activities.
- A special distribution network for your Oratorical, Essay and Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing materials.
- A unique way to involve a Club Member's whole family in Optimism.
- Membership recruitment of the parents and relatives of your JOOI Club Members.
- Special recognition in both your District A&A program and CPA competition.
- Eligibility for Distinguished Club awards.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, JOOI CLUB MEMBERSHIP OFFERS:

- Positive alternatives to gangs and drugs.
- Fulfillment of high school graduation requirements for community service.
- Impressive credentials for college applications.
- Non-traditional ways to learn about citizenship, teamwork, communication, self-esteem and money management.
- Opportunities to develop leadership skills at Club, District and international levels.
- Individual and Club recognition

through international awards program.

- Exposure to Optimism as a philosophy of life.

FOR THE COMMUNITY, A JOOI CLUB OFFERS:

- An additional nucleus of volunteers dedicated to improving the quality of life.
- A forum to address youth-related issues.
- A unique opportunity to gain regional and national visibility.
- Training for future community leaders!

HOW TO GET STARTED

Once your Optimist Club determines it wants to build a JOOI Club, use this information booklet to guide you through the ins and outs of JOOI Club sponsorship. This book is loaded with materials to help you solicit school and church administrators, recruit potential JOOI Club Members, plan the organizational meeting and submit the charter paperwork.

JOOI Clubs now have the opportunity to be started without a Sponsoring Optimist Club. The JOOI Club can be built with the Optimist District Governor's permission.

All policies and procedures will remain the same.

If you need help getting started, feel free to contact the JOOI Clubs department at (800) 500-8130 ext. 240 or 218 for all English Speaking Clubs. For French-speaking Club please contact either (418) 695-3901 or (800) 363-7151. You may e-mail your questions to youthclubs@optimist.org or fax them to (314) 371-6006. As soon as you complete and return the charter paperwork, the JOOI Clubs Department will send you your JOOI Charter.