

Dear Teacher/Instructor,

My name is Arthur Waldrip and I am the Co-Chair for this year's Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing sponsored by Oklahoma District Optimist International. We are encouraging students to express themselves using either speech or sign language to expand on the thought "Why My Voice is Important."

Each year Oklahoma District Optimist International conducts the contest to give students who are deaf and hard of hearing an opportunity to present their ideas to an audience and better prepare themselves for the future. Many local students have a need to express their thoughts and ideas, and the members of Oklahoma's Optimist Clubs believe we should give the students a chance to do just that. It is a wonderful opportunity for youth who are deaf and hard of hearing to present their ideas to the community.

The Oklahoma District Optimist International will judge participants based on the content and presentation and will have the opportunity to earn a \$2500 scholarship and medallion to the top student.

The contest is open to students from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades. To qualify, students must submit results of an audiogram completed no longer than 24 months prior to the date of the contest by a qualified audiologist. Students must be certified to have a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more, which must be supported by the audiogram in order to be eligible to compete. Students wishing to participate in the contest must submit both a written version of their oratorical presentation and the audiogram to the address given below.

The Oklahoma District Optimist International, with the support of the Oklahoma School for the Deaf hasC participated in this contest for several years and has had an impact of active involvement within the past few years.

Optimist International is one of the world's largest service club organizations with 93,000 adult and youth members in 3,200 clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, and throughout the world. Each year, almost 300 Optimist club participate in the Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Carrying the motto "Bringing Out the Best in Kids," Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than six million young people each year.

\*\* Students do not have to be a member of Optimist International to compete\*\*

Rules and regulations may be founded at the Optimist web site at:

<http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships2.cfm>

Contest will be held at the:

\*When: May 18, 2013

\*Time: TBA

\*Where: TBA

\*Will mail out more information regarding place and time when we have received your information.

Applications/Audiograms must be sent no later than Monday, April 29, 2013 for review and approval.

Please mail to

Arthur Waldrip  
WH 209  
Oklahoma School for the Deaf  
1100 E Oklahoma Ave.  
Sulphur, OK 73086

Or by email to [awaldrip@osd.k12.ok.us](mailto:awaldrip@osd.k12.ok.us).