

Community Projects Awards Program

Rules and categories valid
beginning with the 2005-2006
District judging.

The Community Projects Awards (CPA) Program is an annual competition that recognizes clubs for their community service, youth and fund-raising activities. First-place winners of District competitions receive award patches at District meetings and are eligible to compete in the international-level judging.

The Community Project Awards Program is intended to:

- Provide recognition to Clubs for outstanding projects that fulfill the objectives of Optimist International.
- Encourage significant community-serving activities, which enhance the image of the Club and Optimist International.
- Stimulate membership involvement in meaningful Club activities, thereby providing maximum opportunity for individual participation and enhancing the desirability of membership.
- Aid Optimist International in acquiring information on outstanding club projects for the guidance of other Clubs seeking similar community-serving opportunity.
- To give the club a reference book that can be used in the future as a guide for the organization of a similar activity

District Community Projects Award Jury

The District Community Projects Award Jury should consist of seven to 11 members appointed by the Governor with not more than one member from any one Club. The District Activities Chairperson should serve as Chair of the District CPA Jury. The judging of Club entries should occur at the first quarter board meeting immediately following the year in which the projects were conducted. The District need not award winners in a category if the quality of the projects is insufficient. First place District winners in the two categories will automatically become official entries in the international competition when they are forwarded to the International Office.

Optimist International shall have the privilege of retaining all entries for a period not to exceed one year.

When evaluating entries, juries are instructed to place particular emphasis on the Project Story. Substantiating materials should be considered only in a supplementary perspective. **The CPA Program values project content and quality rather than the appearance of the entry book.** Jurors shall not participate in the final winner selection in a category if there is an entry from their particular Club. CPA albums are evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Overall quality of the project, including uniqueness and creativity = 90%
- CPA Album organization, documentation and compliance with the Official Rules = 10 %

A District CPA Jury may transfer entries among categories and may also withhold recognition in any category if entries fail to reflect district standards of excellence. Clubs that fail to comply with any of the Official Rules may face project disqualification in the CPA competition. Decisions of the District Jury are final and irrevocable.

International Community Projects Award Jury

Each year, five to eight International CPA Jury candidates are selected and appointed by Optimist International President, and these jurors convene each April to review the previous year's District CPA albums and select the International winners. The International Jury follows the same format and evaluation criteria as that of the District CPA Jury, any may withhold recognition in any category if entries fail to reflect acceptable standards of excellence.

In the International competition, two International award winners will be chosen – Best Overall Community Service Project and Best Overall Fundraising Project. Best Overall Project winners will receive a leather bound version of the entry, paid registration to the annual convention for 2 Members of the winning Club (the submitting Club in the case of a multiple Club entry), be properly recognized at convention, and a profile of their project in the Optimist magazine.

Every entry submitted for International competition that is not based on a current Optimist International program is eligible for the **Future of Optimism Award**. This award is designed to recognize Clubs, which develop new and creative program ideas. The winning Club will be properly recognized at convention and a profile of their project will be included in the Optimist magazine.

You may request guidance from the Programs Coordinator at the International Office by calling (800) 500-8130 x 235 or via e-mail at programs@optimist.org.

CPA Categories

The following 2005-2006 CPA categories are endorsed by the Activities Committee in order to sufficiently acknowledge the wide array of youth and community projects completed by Clubs each year.

Community Service – Creative projects organized to serve and support youth and the community. For example, blood drives, Respect for Law awards, tree planting, mentoring, adopting a family stricken with cancer, safety demonstrations, Youth Appreciation banquets, and baseball leagues would be included in this category. Be creative and find out what best fits the needs of your community!

Fundraising – Innovative, fun activities that are planned and completed for the primary purpose of fundraising should be entered in this category. While the funds raised may be used for a Club program or donated to another organization, any project conducted for the purpose of raising funds should be submitted in the Fundraising category. Enter your Club’s bowl-a-thon, boat regatta, chili cookout or carnival. Creativity is key!

Official Rules

1. Project Eligibility and District Judging

To be eligible for the CPA competition, projects must meet the following requirements:

- (a) A project must be conducted in its entirety during the current administrative year, **October 1, 2005** through **September 30, 2006**.
- (b) Clubs conducting ongoing projects may submit those activities completed during the 12-month period ending September 30, 2006.
- (c) Clubs must adhere to the restriction of 24 **one-sided** pages total for sections 2, 3, 4 and 5.

All Club entries must be submitted in the official entry book **using the 2005-2006 Project Story format** to the District Activities Chairperson by the date designated by District. Clubs must send CPA albums with a cover letter stating club name, category entered and date of shipment; all entries must be shipped prepaid. **Please do not mail Club entries directly to the International Office.**

2. Album Format (for single and multiple Club Entries)

Single and Multiple Club projects will be judged together.

- The Front Cover shall contain only a label stating the name of Club(s), Club number, the category entered, the covered time period and the name of project.
- **The Title Page*** shall contain only the name and number of Club(s), the name of the project, District name, the CPA category, and the name, complete address, phone & fax number of the Club President and Secretary-Treasurer.
- An **Index*** shall be included as the second page which catalogs all included album materials. A proper classification is:

Section 1*: Project Story - shall be submitted (preferably typewritten) on the three-page form provided in the official entry book or printed from the website at www.optimist.org.

Section 2*: Reference Section – This can include names, addresses, telephone numbers, websites etc. of all resources used in project so that Clubs in the future have a reference guide for planning similar community activities.

Section 3*: Publication exposure - include newspaper articles, magazine clippings and appropriate letters. All publications samples and clippings should indicate or contain the name and date of the publication. The words “Optimist”, “Optimists”, “Optimist Club” and “Optimist International” should be underlined in red. In addition, document all publicity received from radio or television by listing the stations, call letters, addresses and number of times the project was mentioned, followed by the total air time in hours and minutes. Where possible, obtain a statement of this information from each radio station.

Section 4*: Properly identified photos - Digital photos are acceptable. Included action photographs whenever possible.

Section 5*: Club-generated publicity - programs, posters, flyers, newsletters, etc.

** Please note that the Title Page, Index Page, and Sections 2, 3, 4 & 5 must be submitted on 8 ½” x 11” white unlined paper.*

3. Multiple Club Projects

Multiple Club projects, those conducted by two or more adult Optimist Clubs, shall be evaluated against both single and multiple Club entries at the International level. Districts may submit either single or multiple Club Service and Club Fundraising projects as their two District winners.

Important!

Clubs must mail CPA entries to their District
Activities chairperson.

**PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT CLUB ENTRIES DIRECTLY
TO THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**