

Internet Safety

Optimist International has teamed up with I Keep Safe to bring us a new and exciting program to help adults keep up with what their children are doing on the internet. If your club has not ordered their "Free" Internet Safety Program Packet from Optimist International, I encourage you to do so now.

The intent of this program is to educate parents and adults that work with children about the growing threat of Internet predators and online dangers and to provide some tools to help keep children safe while on the internet.

Dangers on the Internet are a very real risk to children, but unlike other threats to children, the issue of online dangers is preventable through education. If children and adults learn early about the dangers online, they will not become

victims of Internet crimes. Young children are increasingly computer and Internet savvy, and therefore, are at a greater risk of becoming a victim of Internet crime.

So order your club package now, and become one of the Optimist Clubs that are helping adults and children become aware of the many Internet dangers and how they can avoid them.

If you should have any questions or would like some help with the program, please let me know. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Second Quarter District Meeting in Houston.

Fay Hopkins, Internet Safety Chairperson

2009-2010 Essay Contest

\$2,500 Scholarship

There is still time to begin your Club's Essay Contest. If your Club does not currently have an Essay Contest you will want to **start now**. Your club needs only one member to chair the contest. The chairperson will need three judges. At the Club level, the judges can be Optimist Club members or non-members.

Key Items

- The official topic for 2009-2010 is "*The Internet: Today's Evolution or Tomorrow's Menace?*".
- The essay contest is open to youth under the age of 19 as of December 31, 2009.
- The Club winning essay along with the other required documents and the \$10.00 District fee must be received by the District contest chair on or before February 28, 2010.

The Winner Receives a \$2,500 Scholarship

The rules and the needed forms can be found on the South Texas District web site. Go to www.stxd.org and under PRO-GRAMS click "Essay Contest".

Greg Lester, District Essay Chair

