

West Mecklenburg Optimist Club Scholarship Overview

Optimist International is a worldwide volunteer organization made up of more than 2,500 local Clubs whose Members work each day to make the future brighter by bringing out the best in children, in their communities, and in themselves. The organizations purposes are: To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; to inspire respect for the law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world. Originally chartered on May 17, 1956, the West Mecklenburg Optimist Club has annually promoted multiple activities promoting the central organizations purposes including youth athletic opportunities, events promoting respect for law, civic and community involvement, friendship and respect for all persons.

Perhaps the most enduring and successful investment the Club has made into the West Mecklenburg community was the creation in 1989 of the West Mecklenburg Optimist Club Scholarship Trust. The intent of the Trust is to assist with the post-secondary education and training of one female high school graduate and one male high school graduate selected each year by the Trustees. Any part or the entire annual award shall be used for the tuition, books, fees, and other incidental expenses of up to four years of post-secondary education and training for selected applicants. Payments made by the Trustees for these post-secondary educational expenses will be made directly to the college, university, or similar educational institution of study.

At the conclusion of each academic year, the Trustees shall select two graduating seniors as that year's honorees. It shall be preferable that one female and one male be selected each year, but, in the event that all applicants are members of the same gender, the Trustees may select two beneficiaries of the same gender. The current amount of the annual award is \$750.00 per beneficiary, per academic year, renewable for three additional years following selection (total of four years) and is subject to increase at the sole and absolute discretion of the Trustees. A beneficiary is guaranteed to receive each year at least that amount in which said beneficiary was awarded in his or her first academic year. Said guarantee is subject to the beneficiary continuing to qualify for such assistance under the terms of the Trust.

Additionally, to be eligible for financial assistance for post-secondary education expenses, the beneficiary who is granted the award must engage full-time in a recognized training or educational program in an institution, school, college, university or similar organization which is deemed appropriate by the Trustees, and which training or educational program leads to a degree, certificate, diploma or similar proof of achievement.

The Trustees take into account the following criteria in making their decisions:

- 1) The character of the applicant.
- 2) The intelligence of the applicant and his or her scholastic record. The applicant should demonstrate basic achievement and motivation as required to advance his or her education in a selected field of study, endeavor, activity or vocational advancement. Specifically, an applicant must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- 3) The prior academic experience of the applicant. However, applicants are not limited to a specific field of study.
- 4) Performance on accepted tests designed to measure aptitude and ability for college studies.
- 5) Attendance at West Mecklenburg High School is preferred, but not required. West Mecklenburg High School is considered the "home" school of the award as it is the primary public high school in the Club's service area; however, the geographic scope has expanded over the years to take into consideration changes in secondary education.

Preference will also be given to students who have participated in activities sponsored by the West Mecklenburg Optimist Club and to students who are children, descendants, and other relatives of current and former members of the West Mecklenburg Optimist Club.

TO APPLY FOR THE WEST MECKLENBURG OPTIMIST CLUB SCHOLARSHIP PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION ON THE REVERSE AND SUBMIT AS DIRECTED.

WEST MECKLENBURG OPTIMIST SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:		
Current Home Address (Number and Street):		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Current Phone:	Date of birth:	
Current E-Mail Address:		
Mailing Address in College (Number and Street):		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
E-Mail Address in College:	Phone in College:	

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

High School:	SAT Math:
Date of High School Graduation:	SAT Verbal:
Cumulative GPA:	SAT Total:
College Enrolling In:	Field of Study:

FAMILY OPTIMIST AFFILIATION

List any family members who are current or former members of the West Mecklenburg Optimist Club:

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OPTIMIST ACTIVITIES/INVOLVEMENT

Please describe any activities or involvement you have had with the West Mecklenburg Optimist Club:

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REFERENCES (LIST TWO REFERENCES WE MAY CONTACT, NOT TO INCLUDE FAMILY MEMBERS.)

Name	Address	Phone

ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED WITH APPLICATION

Included with this application please enclose the three items on the right:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Official High School Transcript showing Cumulative GPA and Class Rank
<u>Please note, we review and evaluate:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spelling, grammar & neatness; • Accuracy & attention to direction; • Vigor of expression and passion for your topic. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	On a single neatly typed or handwritten page, please describe or list your school, church or community activities and accomplishments including positions of leadership.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	On a single neatly typed or handwritten page, tell us what the receipt of this scholarship will mean to you personally. How will it impact and enable you in the pursuit of your education, career and future contribution to community?

**Submit application to: West Mecklenburg Optimist Club Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 668753
Charlotte, NC 28266**

*****Applications must be received by: May 4, 2015. Any application received after that date shall be excluded from consideration.**