



WEDDINGTON OPTIMIST CLUB

Friends of Youth

2021 Weddington Optimist Scholarship Program

January 19, 2021

Scholarship History:

The Weddington Optimist Scholarship Program began in the Spring of 1997. The scholarship started with a laptop computer awarded to one school (Sun Valley). Over the years it expanded to all eleven Union County High schools. Today, the program consists of 5 X \$2,000 cash scholarships awarded to five deserving high school seniors across Union County. Eligible schools are: CATA, Cuthbertson, Forest Hills, Marvin Ridge, Monroe, Parkwood, Piedmont, Porter Ridge, Sun Valley, Union Academy and Weddington High School.

Requirements:

This scholarship is open to high school seniors who will be graduating in the Spring 2021. Graduating Seniors will have to be accepted in a 2 or 4-year higher education institution in the fall of 2021. The Weddington Optimists are looking for individuals who will be enthusiastic and optimistic that the scholarship will help them meet their life goals as they embark on new life experiences.

Answer the following question on page 2 by writing a 2-page essay. Essay should be double spaced, 1-inch margins and font size no larger than 12. Bold words are allowed. Please include your full name, date, high school and guidance counselor's name in the essay's header. File format doc or pdf will be accepted.

Essays are due on March 17, 2021 at 5:00 pm to your Scholarship Guidance Counselor. Guidance counselors will pick 2 essays and will forward them to The Weddington Optimist Club by March 31, 2021. Winners will be selected by the Weddington Optimist Club by April 26, 2021.

Other information:

A Scholarship Winners' meet-and-greet at the Weddington Optimist Club outside picnic shelter on May 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Winners, family members and counselors are invited. The meet-and-greet will depend on the status of Covid-19 mandates.

Summary of Important dates:

March 17th – Essay due to scholarship guidance counselor (this date is flexible per your guidance counselor).

March 31st – Essays due to Weddington Optimist Club. This will give us time to review essays before determining the winners.

April 26th – Winners will be announced to the school's contact.

May 13th – Scholarship winners meet-and-greet at Weddington Optimist Park.

Contact:

Milton Sheffield, Weddington Optimist Scholarship Chair

Email: Scholarship@weddington-optimist.org

Essay Question:

Describe why you deserve the scholarship? Include any volunteer work or jobs you have participated in the past few years. How has your volunteer work or jobs developed or expanded your optimistic views and experiences? Incorporate a phrase or two from Optimist Creed in your answer. The Optimist Creed is below, the individual phrases start with ‘To...’ with double spacing between each phrase (Each line item is a phrase).

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Essay reminders:

- 2-pages, max
- Double spaced
- 1-inch margins
- Font size no larger than 12
- Bold words are allowed
- File format: doc or pdf
- Turn in your essay to the Scholarship Guidance Counselor by March 17th.

Please include your full name, date, high school and guidance counselor’s name in the essay header.