



**South Carolina Optimist District**



**Essay Contest Topic: "How My Education is the Key to a Successful Future"**

**Who:** Youth under the age of 19 as of December 31 of the current school year (December 31, 2010)

**When: All winning club essays are due back to the district on or before :**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

The guidelines require that contestants be under age 19 as of December 31 of the 2010-2011 school year. Club winners advance to the District contest to compete for a \$2,500 college scholarship. The District-level scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundations. District winners are entered into the International Essay Contest, where a panel of judges selects a first-place winner. The international winner will receive an engraved plaque and recognition in *The Optimist* magazine.

**\*\*\*\* please note the change in word length\*\*\*\***

**Word Length**

**700-800 words**

**(Title, footnotes and bibliography are not included in the final word count.)**

**Please send your winning essays to the SCOD Essay Chairperson**

**Lillian Gilmore**

**512 Whitner St**

**Rock Hill, SC 29730**

**803-327-3023**