OPTIMIST CLUB of HUNTSVILLE

2026 KIDS SPEAK OUT SPEECH CONTEST

Registration Form

Open to children eleven years old or younger. Write a speech using the following topic following the contest rules.

"Why Being Kind is Important"

Email a copy of your speech and a completed copy of this registration form to:

kso26@amoptimists.org or mail to Optimist Club of Huntsville, P.O. Box 2230, Huntsville, AL 35804. **Submissions must be received by 11:59 pm CST on April 4th, 2026**.

There will be three age categories for the contest:

- 5 years old and younger.
- 6-8 years old.
- 9-11 years old.

The contest will be held:

DATE: Saturday, May 2, 2026

TIME: 10:00am CST

LOCATION: Optimist Recreation Center
703 Oakwood Ave NE
Huntsville, AL 35811

The prizes for each age group will be a Walmart gift card in the amount of: 1st place - $75; 2nd place $50; and 3rd place $25. All contestants will receive a certificate of participation.

Contestant's Name: _____ Age _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

School: _____

Parent or Guardian Permission:

I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest.

Signature: _____

Relationship: _____ Date _____

I, _____grant the Optimist Club of Huntsville my permission to use a picture/video of my son/daughter for their public relations purposes. The Optimist Club of Huntsville may use the photo/video in any publication they see fit.

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Rules

GENERAL RULES:

1. Child must be age eleven or younger.
2. The speech will be prepared by the contestant, advice allowed as well as changes or improvements are allowed.
3. Quotes must be cited.
4. The official topic must be stated at the beginning of speech.
5. Speech must be at least two minutes long, and not exceeding three minutes.
6. A signed Parent/Guardian registration form must be included with each contestant's submission.

CONTEST RULES:

1. Timing starts right after the topic is stated.
2. Presentation text and/or notes are permissible.
3. Microphones are allowed.
4. A Drawing administered by the contest chair will determine speaking order.
5. Contestants will be judged on poise, content of speech, presentation, and overall effectiveness.
6. Three points will be deducted for failure to announce the official topic at the beginning of the speech.
7. Two points will be deducted for each fifteen seconds or portion over or under the allotted time.