



# Scholarship Application Form

The Mason Optimist Club is a service organization consisting of men and women of the Mason area who work very hard for the benefit of the youth in our community. Some of the Mason Optimist activities include:

- Donation of \$20,000+ in scholarships to graduating Mason High School seniors in 2024 and 2025
- Contributing and volunteering to the Weekend Survival Kits program for elementary children in need. The program provides food to get families through the weekend
- Sponsoring Mason High School and Middle School "closet" programs (Mason Optimist Closet) which provides needed essentials for students and their families without cost
- Supporting Project RED – 500+ student event for Greater Lansing
- Spearheading the major Skate Park development for all kids to enjoy
- Conducting the Christmas Toy Drive (Chuck and Islia Brandell) each year for area kids
- Sponsoring area youth sport teams
- Conducting an annual Youth Appreciation Event for middle and high school students
- Providing orchestral, band, yearbook and robotics support
- Sponsoring/conducting the annual Youth Sports Event at Burchfield Park (typically 300 plus children in attendance)
- Working the "kettle" for the Salvation Army
- Scholarship donation to an FFA student
- Scholarship to a Wilson Talent Center (Career Center) graduate
- Conducting Spring and Fall highway cleanup
- Serving meals at the Thursday Night Live concert events
- Fundraising efforts in order to do the above activities

In addition, Mason Optimist Club is involved in a number of fundraisers in order to fund the scholarships you are applying for. Hopefully, someday you too will be in a position to give back to your community.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The Mason Optimist Club is awarding scholarships in 2026 (up to \$2500 individually) to Mason high school graduating seniors who have been accepted to a college (2 or 4-year) or trade school, who have demonstrated good citizenship, a strong work ethic, and have financial need. To be considered for this award, each applicant must:

- Complete this entire information application.
- Include a copy of his/her high school transcript.
- Include 2 signed letters of recommendation from an adult, non-family member.
- Include a copy of the first page only of your FAFSA showing the EFC (Expected Family Contribution) **and** Student Aid letter from your chosen college/trade school (if available).
- Potentially participate in an interview (this will be reserved for the top few candidates).

**Application Deadline: February 27, 2026**

**Submit completed applications to Connie Lyke in the main office of the high school**

## **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.

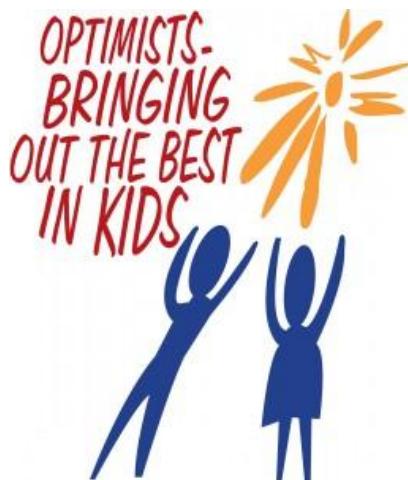
To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

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.



At no time in the Optimist Sponsored process will an applicant be discriminated against due to race, religion, age, national origin, language, sex, sexual preference, or physical handicap. All information provided in this application will be kept confidential. Upon completion of the selection process and the awarding of the monies all applications will be shredded to keep personal information private.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Write a brief autobiography to introduce yourself to the committee. \_\_\_\_\_

GPA:

## SAT Comp:

\*Please attach a copy of your high school transcript

Family members that live with you:

Are there other family members attending college at this time? Who? Class status? \_\_\_\_\_

To which postsecondary schools/programs have you applied and/or been accepted? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your educational goals and how you plan to achieve these goals: \_\_\_\_\_

### High School related activities:

### Community related activities:

---

Have you ever been a recipient of the Mason Optimist Youth Appreciation Award?

Interests/Hobbies:

Work History: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your financial need:

What does the Optimist Creed mean to you? Read the Optimist Creed on the front page of the application. Select a portion of the creed that is most meaningful to you and describe why you selected this portion of the creed and how it is exemplified in your life.

