

# What is Involved in Membership?

## COME VISIT A MEETING!

Be our guest, and see what you think.  
Become a Volunteer !

Meetings: Selected Tuesday Noon meeting dates and locations vary.  
Check website Bulletin Board page to confirm schedule and meeting location\*.

(\*There will be occasional schedule changes - be sure to check for updates).

[www.NorthridgeOptimist.org](http://www.NorthridgeOptimist.org)

**Membership:** You will find our club to have a diverse membership of men and women in various stages of their careers and from many interesting business backgrounds: from presidents of corporations to employees of many different local businesses; from small business owners to self employed and retired individuals.

**Objective:** To work together to help the community, especially with activities designed to benefit youth such as recognition of their positive efforts; providing them with educational and vocational opportunities; and promoting their safety, health & welfare.

**Meetings:** Time 12:00 to 1:00 on **selected** Tuesdays. The dates and locations may vary.\* . Besides a good lunch, with lively conversation and camaraderie, club business is conducted. Some meetings feature a speaker (often with slide or video presentations). Topics are varied and informative, with examples such as politicians, historians, coaches, athletes, community leaders, journalists, and experts on many fascinating subjects with many different viewpoints.

**Activity:** The personal involvement in club activities is up to each individual member. Some members are involved in every activity while others only have time to join us for lunch occasionally. There are no attendance or participation requirements.

**Financial Obligations:** One time initiation fee is \$15.00. Members are billed \$60 quarterly for dues, with a \$10 deduction if the member attends at least one club meeting or function during the previous quarter. The dues cover obligations to Optimist International & Ohio District Optimist, liability insurance, club bulletin, Optimist Magazine, and other miscellaneous costs. The dues fee does not include meals. Meals are charged at \$12 each and only apply to actual lunches attended.

**Benefits:** Besides the opportunity to help the community and be a "friend of youth", there is the enjoyment of a weekly lunch meeting with an interesting program, various social activities, and most of all, being part of a growing service club organization of people who care! Lasting friendships will be developed with people you may not have otherwise met.

membership application available on the club website:

<http://www.northridgeoptimist.org/membership.html>

check meeting schedule on

<http://www.northridgeoptimist.org/bulletin-board.html>

contact by e-mail: [Northridge.Optimist@gmail.com](mailto:Northridge.Optimist@gmail.com)

## 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.

## The Purposes of an Optimist Club

- 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 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.

# AN INVITATION

and Introduction to  
Service Club Membership:



presented by

## Northridge Optimist Club

Dayton, Ohio

*Serving our community since 1964*



[www.NorthridgeOptimist.org](http://www.NorthridgeOptimist.org)



Friend of Youth

[www.Optimist.org](http://www.Optimist.org)

# What is an Optimist Club?

• Optimist International is an association of more than 2,600 Optimist Clubs around the world dedicated to "Bringing Out the Best in Kids." Adult volunteers join Optimist Clubs to conduct positive service projects in their communities aimed at providing a helping hand to youth.

• Each Optimist Club is a chartered as a member of Optimist International, but chooses their own activities based on the needs of the community.

• The programs and guest speakers offer the Members an opportunity to learn, grow and improve themselves. These meetings help to reinforce our commitment and allow us to take pride in our accomplishments.

• The Northridge Optimist Club is one of over 75 Optimist Clubs in Ohio, and over 22 in the greater Dayton, Ohio area. We serve the area of Northridge Schools and Harrison Township.

• Our upbeat outlook, and our commitment to creating a more optimistic future for kids is what differentiates Optimist Clubs from any other volunteer opportunity.

• Northridge Optimist Club activities include:

*Providing scholarships for Northridge students*

*Raising funds to support educational enhancements for Northridge K-12 students*

*Providing holiday meals for needy Northridge families*

• Although we come from all walks of life, Optimist Club Members share one common trait. We know that we can make a difference in the lives of others.



## Northridge Optimist Club

*Serving our community since 1964*



**Northridge Optimist Club (#24-305) Ohio District, Zone 6**  
**Mailing address: PO Box 131211, Dayton, Ohio 45413**

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## Fundraising

### The Northridge Polar Bear Foundation Fund:

With the help of an initial investment by Northridge Optimist Club, this fund was started by Northridge Local Schools with **The Dayton Foundation** for funding school related programs that were not covered by school district budgets. The club continues to donate to this fund on an ongoing basis. The disbursement of funds is handled as a grant process, with club members serving on an advisory committee that evaluates applications for funds, providing about \$4500 per school year for various educational enhancements. Since the fund's first grants in 2011, a total of over **\$50,000** in grants have been awarded to supplement various educational programs.



### The "Polar Bear Initiative"

The Polar Bear Initiative is an effort designed to keep providing these programs designed for enriching the educational experience for Northridge students. The last few years have been a challenge for the schools, with the tornado devastation in 2019, and the COVID-19 related setbacks and strains on the budget in 2020, and ongoing. **The Northridge Optimist Club and The Dayton Foundation** are seeking donors to help sustain the kind of support that enriches the educational experience for the students. We are reaching out to friends of the Northridge Optimist Club, Northridge alumni, area businesses, and community members to help support these efforts for the coming school year, **and beyond. See this link for some examples of these grants, or to donate to the fund via The Dayton Foundation:**

<http://www.northridgeoptimist.org/polar-bear-donation.html>



## What We Do

**The Northridge Optimist Club** is active in initiating youth and community projects locally, as well as bringing youth activities organized by Optimist International to the local level. Donations include youth scholarships and support of various youth serving organizations. Also various youth activities are carried out by club members during the year.

### • The Northridge Polar Bear Foundation Fund: -

*Also see under "Fundraising" in the panel to the left.*

The Northridge Polar Bear Foundation Fund is a fund administered by **The Dayton Foundation** for providing grants that support educational enhancements for Northridge students (K-12). The Northridge Optimist Club supports this fund with donations and acts in an advisory capacity in the grant selection process. A list of some of the projects funded over the past several years can be found on the club website at: <http://www.northridgeoptimist.org/polar-bear-donation.html>. *A similar amount will be awarded during the 2023-2024 school year in two grant cycles.*

### • The Denny Mantel Christmas Sharing Program:

The club provides food for about twenty needy families during the holidays. <http://www.northridgeoptimist.org/christmas-sharing-2020.html>



### • Youth Scholarships:

The endowment in the **Optimist Club of Dayton-Northridge Scholarship Fund**, a component fund of **The Dayton Foundation**, is used to fund the scholarships, awarding over 300 scholarships to Northridge students over the past **thirty plus years** totaling will over \$200,000.

<http://www.northridgeoptimist.org/the-scholarships.html>

## Optimist Club Members Receive as Much as They Give:

- The fellowship of people who get things done—and the example they set for embracing a similar Optimistic mindset
- New social and working relationships with individuals from a cross section of our communities
- The opportunity to develop and demonstrate leadership skills locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
- And the satisfaction of making a difference in lives of children as well as our communities

*Whether you are searching for an outlet to help your community, personal development, or rewarding camaraderie, you'll find what you're looking for in the Northridge Optimist Club. Joiners become more tuned in to the needs of their community.*

*Learn more about the club and its activities at*

[www.NorthridgeOptimist.org](http://www.NorthridgeOptimist.org)

