

OVERSEING THE LOCAL JOOI CLUB

Each JOOI Club has an adult who is involved in the day-to-day operations of the Club. This adviser attends all meetings and projects the Club does and oversees all aspects of the Club. The Club Adviser does not have to be an Optimist member and in many cases is a faculty member of the school where the JOOI Club exists. Strong, helpful advisers are essential to the success of a JOOI Club.

THREE STEPS TO TOTAL JOOI INVOLVEMENT

There are different levels of JOOI Clubs for different age groups, so kids never outgrow JOOI:

Alpha Clubs – for ages 6 to 9, Alpha Clubs focus on learning and teamwork and work on simple service projects and fundraisers with a lot of help from their Club adviser

Junior Optimist Clubs – for ages 10 to 13, these Clubs focus on leadership skills and serving others, enjoy some social events and rely on quite a bit of help from their adviser.

Octagon Clubs – for ages 14 to 18, Octagon Clubs are driven by the students with minimal guidance from the adviser.

Members strengthen their leadership, look at the needs of their local communities and then follow through with projects and fundraisers that help meet those needs. Members work hard but also take time to play hard!

And when they graduate from high school, more opportunities await JOOI Members in Optimist International.



HOW YOUR SCHOOL CAN START A JOOI CLUB

If there is an Optimist Club in your area, the Club could be a sponsor for your school's JOOI Club. Having Optimists as adult mentors can certainly benefit the kids involved in JOOI.

If there is not an Optimist Club available in your area, the JOOI Club can be formed with the help of the Optimist International District in which your school is located.

To find out more about what is available in your area, contact Optimist International using the information below.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Optimist International is one of the world's largest service club organizations with more than 125,000 adult and youth members in 4,000 clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico and throughout the world. Carrying the motto "Bringing Out the Best in Kids," Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than six million young people each year.

For more information about Optimist International, contact:

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www.optimist.org



JOOI

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOUR SCHOOL



WHAT IS JOOI?

JOOI stands for Junior Optimist Octagon International and is a service-learning organization. JOOI is the organization that connects all of the Optimist JOOI Clubs throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and France. Much like Optimist International, JOOI is governed by an International Board of Directors as well as by District officers. Each year, Optimist JOOI Club members attend District and International Conventions to elect their peers to fill these important offices. Administrative support for JOOI comes from the JOOI Clubs Department at Optimist International.



JOOI'S MISSION

Junior Optimist Octagon International is an all-inclusive youth organization that embraces the positive values of optimism, respect for self and others, and independence of mind through the unlimited opportunities of community service and sponsorship by Optimist International.

THE BEGINNING OF JOOI

Junior Optimist Octagon International was created to enable kids to do community service. JOOI reached the international level in 1989. Since that time, JOOI has grown to 17,600 Members in 690 Clubs throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and France. And guess what? The numbers are rising all the time thanks in part to visionary educators who recognize the desire so many kids have to help other kids in their community.

JOOI INTO THE FUTURE

JOOI's vision is to become a prominent youth service organization in the world.

WHY SHOULD STUDENTS JOIN?

- Students can learn about teamwork, communication, self-esteem, money management and citizenship in non-traditional, fun ways
- When kids help other kids, everyone wins!
- JOOI looks great on college applications
- It can fulfill high school graduation requirements for community service
- JOOI is fun!

"JOOI is the best school of life and everybody can be part of it! We choose by ourselves the projects we want to pursue, and it is up to us to take the steps to make them happen. To join JOOI is also to choose optimism as a way of life, and it is a choice that can only bring positive things in your life and to those around you."

— a former JOOI International President

NASSP

JOOI has been given the NASSP seal of approval. The National Association of Secondary School Principals has added JOOI to its National Advisory List of Contests and Activities, putting JOOI in the same ranks as National Honor Society and Student Councils.



"Wow! Why do I like JOOI? I think that JOOI has helped me to really care, really be someone, a giving and emotional human being. I can honestly say it has really impacted my life — for the better."

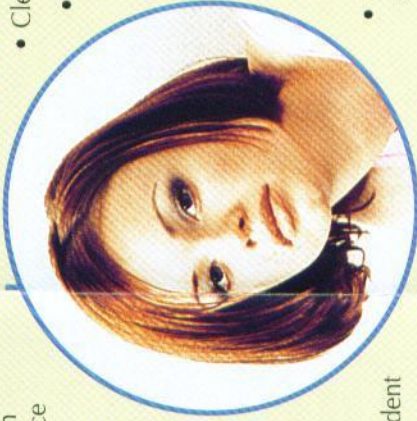
— a Member and former JOOI Director

JUST WHAT DO JOOI CLUBS DO?

The beauty of JOOI Clubs is that Members of each individual Club can decide the projects they want to do. But JOOI is always ready with suggestions for those who need some ideas to get started. Here are just a few:

SERVICE PROJECTS

- Clean up school grounds
- Make food baskets for the underprivileged
- Toys for Tots
- Conduct a recycling project
- Plant trees
- Sponsor a book drive
- Start a pen pal program
- Collect supplies for a local animal shelter



FUNDRAISERS

- Have a car wash
- Organize a bake sale
- Have an ice cream social
- Baby sit
- Penny Wars between grades/homerooms
- Sell school spirit items

