

# Optimist International's Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

April 30, 2022 | Watertown, South Dakota



## WHO

The North Dakota School for the Deaf School-Age Outreach Department is extending an invitation for youth to participate in the annual Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) offered by Optimist International. There is no minimum age, but participants must be under the age of 19 by **October 1, 2021**.



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## WHAT

Students in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Manitoba with a 40 dB hearing loss in the better ear have an opportunity to compete for a \$2,500 scholarship. Contestants must write a four to five minute speech on the given theme, then present it on **Saturday, April 30th**, at the Optimist International Club's district meeting in Watertown, South Dakota. Sponsoring clubs may require participant to submit a draft for review before presenting in South Dakota.



The theme is:

**“Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times”**

## HOW

Outreach Staff from North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing can assist each interested student in developing their presentation as well as practice giving it. The speech may be presented in sign language or with voice. NDSD/RCDHH also assists in making arrangements for travel, lodging and sponsorship by local Optimist International Clubs.

## WHY

Students with 40 dB hearing loss in the better ear can compete for the chance to win a \$2,500 scholarship to a college or technical school of their choice. They will also get to meet other students with hearing loss.

If you have a student from North Dakota with a hearing loss who is interested in competing in the CCDHH, please contact Ashley Martin to discuss *entry details, deadlines, and practice sessions*.

Ashley can be reached at [ashley.martin@k12.nd.us](mailto:ashley.martin@k12.nd.us) or (701) 239-7375.



North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
A division of the Department of Public Instruction, Kirsten Baesler Superintendent.