

VINE GROVE OPTIMIST CLUB MEMBER INVITATION

(Must be 18 years of age or older)

Please Print clearly

Name: Mr. Mrs. _____

Date of Birth: _____

Were you ever a JOOI Member? Yes No Are you currently a full-time college student? Yes No

HOME ADDRESS: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

VGOC dues are \$30 per year for individuals and \$50 per year for families. Please indicate which type of membership you are applying for. Individual Family

If applying for Family Membership, please list family member(s) name(s) and date(s) of birth:

- 1) _____ 3) _____
- 2) _____ 4) _____

Please include a \$15 per person processing fee with your application. This money is forwarded directly to Optimist International. Individuals who have committed sexual offenses against children may be denied membership and/or have their membership revoked.

YOUR SIGNATURE INDICATES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THIS INVITATION.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor: _____

Dates approved by committee: _____ by Board of Directors: _____

Please indicate which programs you would like to volunteer for:

- Respect for Law Banquet Day of Non Violence* Project Santa Claus*
- Bingo - Saturday Night Bingo - Thursday Night Bicycle Rodeo*

COMMITTEES:

- Day of Non Violence Building Committee Bingo Committee Project Santa Claus
- Membership Presidents Project Fundraising Fellowship/Meetings

*Background checks are required for all individuals working with minors.

Vine Grove Optimist Club



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

Communities in the United States, Canada, the nations of the Caribbean and other countries throughout the world have been touched by the powerful, positive force of Optimist Club Members.

From sponsoring youth athletic leagues to weatherizing the homes of the elderly to conducting oratorical contests for your people - Optimist Clubs are responding to the special needs of our local communities.

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.

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.

What Should I Expect?

Every Optimist Club was formed by people who wanted to reach out to help youth and the community. People like you and me. Members of an Optimist Club usually live in or work in the community. Members have joined together to serve others and to promote Optimism as a way of life.

Each Optimist Club is chartered as a Member of Optimist International. This gives the Club the right to use the Optimist name and provides each Club with services and programs offered by Optimist International.

Each Optimist Club operates autonomously. This means they operate independently of each other. They choose their own activities, elect their own Officers and raise their own funds. A Club's service activities are based on the needs of the community. What a Club can do is limited only by imagination and resources of the members.

The Vine Grove Optimist Club's main fundraiser is Charitable Gaming (Bingo). Our Bingo Sessions are held on Thursday and Saturday Evenings from 6 pm - 10 pm. Because of the funds we were able to generate from Charitable Gaming in 2005 and 2006, we contributed a combined total of **\$74,000** toward Community Projects and Youth Services.

JUST A SAMPLE OF VGOC PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY PROJECTS



Project Santa Claus - This program recognizes that there are many children in our community whose parents/guardians are not able to provide them with the kind of Christmas that we provide for our children. With help from local schools, our members go shopping and then spend most of the night wrapping the gifts for these children.



Tri-Star Sports Skills Contest - This program brings together the youth of our community in the spirit of fun competition! The Tri-Star program offers exciting opportunities to promote self-confidence and physical fitness. Since this program does not involve physical contact or advanced skill, it is the ideal activity for every child, including those with disabilities.



Joe Ratazzi Scholarship Program - Every year our club awards a \$1000 scholarship to a local graduating senior. The scholarship is awarded based upon essays and resumes submitted to a scholarship committee appointed by our current President.



Day of Non Violence - This program encourages peace and harmony within our community. This is an annual Festival/Carnival free to all children of our town and its surrounding communities. The entire event promotes Non Violence for the children of our community. It is always held the 2nd Saturday in May.



Respect for Law - Every year we honor a local law enforcement officer, Volunteer Firefighter and Jr. Firefighter by presenting each with a plaque and a banquet in their honor. This activity is always held the 2nd Friday of May.



Benevolent Fund - Every year our club earmarks money for the Benevolent Fund. The fund is used to make charitable donations to many individuals and non-profit organizations. Some examples are youth sports teams, local area volunteer fire departments, the "Shop with a Cop" program, local area schools, and donations to individual youths for education trips, etc.



Youth Safety - Keeping children safe in their leisure activities has been an important part of Optimist programs for many years. For many, many years this club has sponsored a Bicycle Rodeo during our Day of Non-Violence Festival. This rodeo emphasizes bicycle safety.



Childhood Cancer Campaign - Optimists have become a champion for those dealing with childhood cancer! Through this unique program, Optimists are building awareness of the disease that kills more children than any other. This club donates money to Optimist International, who supports research to find a cure.



Steve Spillman Scholarship - Every year our club contributes \$500 toward the Vine Grove Police Department's Steve Spillman Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is awarded to a local area senior who is planning a career in law enforcement.