



Feb 25, 2026

**OPTIMIST CLUB OF KEEGO HARBOR
Must live or work in Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, or Sylvan Lake
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

The Optimist Club of Keego Harbor is a volunteer organization of civic-minded people from all walks of life who are committed to community service. Members are motivated by the desire to contribute to the community from which they and their families derive daily benefits. There is no greater opportunity for participation in community affairs and service than in an Optimist Club.

The purposes of the Optimist Club of Keego Harbor is to develop optimism as a philosophy of life, to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs, to inspire respect for the 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 individuals, communities and the world.

The Optimist slogan is "*Friend of Youth*". The club believes one way to befriend youth is to assist them in seeking education beyond high school. This is being done by means of scholarships for students residing or working in the cities of Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake and Sylvan Lake.

Amount of Scholarships: \$1500 \$1,000, \$500 scholarships have been approved by the Optimists of Keego Harbor Board of directors.

- Scholarship monies will be paid directly to the institution of higher learning towards the applicant's education including trade schools.

CRITERIA FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS:

1. Resident or Working in Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake, or Orchard Lake.
2. Currently fulfilling high school graduation requirements.
3. Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
4. Participation in extracurricular activities, community service, and/or work experience.
5. Application or acceptance to an accredited two or four-year institution or trade school.
6. Scholarship awarded based on school acceptance.
7. At least 2 references, with at least one from a school staff member
8. Financial information
9. One 500 word essay
10. Completion of last page: Scholarship Candidate Agreement Form

KEEGO HARBOR OPTIMIST SCHOLARSHIP
(Please type or print clearly)

Personal

Name: _____

Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Family

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Number in Household: _____ How Many Household Members Attend(ed) College _____

School

High School: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Major area(s) of Interest: _____

University/college(s) or post-secondary institutions (like trade school) to which you have applied/accepted for admission (give student ID number if possible): One line per School

SocialMediaPlatforms(Optional): _____

Extra-curricular Activities: _____

Community Service/Activities: _____

Honors and Awards: _____

ESSAY

Using the leadership roles or extracurricular activities you indicated as being important to you, describe in your essay the following: What impact has the experience (s) had on you and how you see the world? How has it influenced your plans for the future? Who or what influenced you and what may you contribute as a result of that influence through higher education? Specifically address:

- Your global perspective
- How you see your future
- The influential people in your life
- How you might give back or influence others as a result of your education

Your essay has a maximum of 500 words. Word processed copy is preferred over handwritten. Please use separate pages for your essay. Please add the words of your essay on the sheet

SCHOLARSHIP CANDIDATE AGREEMENT FORM

This is the final section of your application. This is an agreement between you and the Optimist Club of Keego Harbor for final consideration of scholarship funds. Please read each section below carefully. Receiving a scholarship will require obligations on your part.

FINAL APPLICATION CHECKLIST

PLACING A CHECK MARK IN THE BOX BEFORE EACH STATEMENT WILL ENSURE THAT YOUR APPLICATION IS COMPLETE

- All Sections of the application have been filled out and check carefully
- Two letters of recommendations (one must be from school staff member)
- High school transcript
- One 500-word Essay
- This form completed and signed

IF YOU ARE FORTUNATE TO BE ONE OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS WILL YOU AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING? (Write "Yes" or "No")

_____ If possible, to attend an activity of the Keego Harbor Optimist Club during the year and to give a short presentation on how my year is progressing including successes and challenges. By person or by email.

I HAVE COMPLETED THE APPLICATION AND CAREFULLY CONSIDERED MY RESPONSES.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STUDENT E-MAIL: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

PARENT NAME: _____

PARENT E-MAIL: _____

CONTACT NUMBER: _____

Mail the completed package, postmarked no later than May 1, 2026 to:

**Optimist Club of Keego Harbor
PO Box 484, Keego Harbor, MI. 48320**

<p>Any questions contact Scholarship Committee Chair Mel Hager 248-875-9773 Email: melhager1949@gmail.com</p>
