

SWIS DISTRICT OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Tri-Star Basketball Event Materials

April 24, 2027

For all kids

age 6 to 13

Dear Coordinator:

Thank You for stepping up to this leadership role and bringing this great event to your local Optimist club! In the pages that follow, we hope that you find useful content to plan and run your event.

- A simple flyer we have created to advertise our local event. You can make copies of this and share it with coaches, friends and neighbors to get the word out, and to share the scoring and registration form on the flip-side in advance.
- The next few pages include the actual rulings from Optimist International. Be sure to keep these handy on the day of your event, as you need the measurements and stipulations at arm's reach.
- We have also included a formal write-up to Parent/Guardian of the 1st place finishers (feel free to make copies for disbursement). On the flip side of that, please also share the map of Prairie View Middle School in Sun Prairie.
- A compiled listing of some of our own tips and recommendations to help your club in planning and coordinating your event are also included. Optimist International also has a few tips we have shared as well, along with our very own club checklist and a sample "day-of-event" timeline to assist in some of your planning efforts. We encourage you to create your own, but hope that this gives you a head start.
- The form needed to register your contestants for the District event is also included in this comprehensive packet.

If there is anything I can help you with in the planning or execution of your Tri-Star sports event, please let us know. I wish you lots of success – and look forward to meeting your "Kids at our district event in April. I will be contacting you this spring to ensure we have the names of your winners advancing, their information and the $15 registration fee (per student).

And finally, I would like to extend the offer of either attending or volunteering at the district event in April. It is a great way to support your local youth and the event holds a lot of excitement.

Regards,
Maureen Crombie
District Tri-Star Coordinator

6th Annual Local Tri-Star Basketball Contest

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Getting young people involved in sports and community activities is a GREAT way for kids to build self-esteem, meet new friends and develop new skills. On **Sunday, March 14, 2027**, the Sun Prairie Optimist Club will be hosting its annual Tri-Star Basketball Contest. We hope you and your children will participate in what will be sure to be an enjoyable day!

Local Tri-Star Basketball Contest
Sunday, March 14, 2027
3:00 p.m.
Sun Prairie YMCA
1470 Don Simon Dr, Sun Prairie, WI

The contest is composed of three basic skills tests in **passing**, **shooting**, and **dribbling** for boys and girls from ages 6 to 13. Each participant will be evaluated individually within his/her own age bracket and gender group.

To register, complete the entry form on the reverse side of this sheet and bring it to the gym on the day of the contest [entry forms will also be available at the gym on the day of the contest]. **Students are encouraged to bring their own ball with which to practice / warm-up prior to the competition. There is no cost to register.**

All age levels should register by 12:00 p.m. on March 14th

Everyone is a winner in this contest – and special prizes will be presented to the top three scorers in each age and gender group. First place contestant winners will also be given the opportunity to participate in the **Southern Wisconsin (SWIS) District Contest on Saturday, April 25th** at Prairie View Middle School in Sun Prairie, 9:00 a.m. to Noon (more details will be distributed to those advancing).

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to event coordinator, Maureen Crombie at crombie0112@gmail.com or 608-576-5819.

SAMPLE

TRI-STAR
Optimist International

Final Score_____

Age as of March 15th (circle one)	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Gender (circle one)	**Male**	**Female**						

Sponsored By (Local Optimist Club)_____

Name _____**Date of Birth (mo/da/yr)**_____

Phone_____ **Email**_____

Parent's Approval (Signature) _____

Gym shoes are required. Contestants may compete in only one local contest and will compete only against others of the same age, as of March 15th. Decisions of the judges are final.

Passing Skill

Three direct passes and three bounce passes from a marked line to a 12" diameter target, 36" from floor. Contestant allowed one step to line.

Distance from Target

Age	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Feet	9	9	12	12	15	15	18	18

THREE DIRECT PASSES _____

THREE BOUNCE PASSES _____

Eight points each time target is hit **Score**_____

Dribbling Skill

Contestant must dribble through a prescribed course in as short a time as possible. Three points deducted from a starting score of 75 for each second of elapsed time.

Time _____ **75 points minus (3X) = Score**_____

Shooting Skill

Four free throw shots at varying distance according to age; and two shots from anywhere on court outside of key area.

Distance from Basket

Age	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Feet	9	9	11	11	13	13	15	15

FOUR FREE THROW SHOTS_____

TWO OTHER SHOTS_____

10 points each basket made **Score**_____

Basketball Skills Contest:

Dribbling

Participants must dribble with either their right or left hand through four cones and return back through the course *(see diagram 5)*. Points will be awarded based on speed and control. If a participant does not maneuver through the course correctly, the judge should require him/her to return to the point of error and start over. The stopwatch should run at all times during a participant's attempt. Participants will begin with a starting score of 75 points. Three points for each second elapsed should be deducted from 75 points.

The starter will organize the participants and explain the rules, answer questions, start the participants and record their scores on the entry forms. The timekeeper will start timing upon signal from starter. Timing ends when participant crosses the finish line. A judge should check the validity of each participants' attempt.

Equipment needed:

- 4 Cones - place eight feet apart
- 1 Basketball
- 1 Stopwatch
- Tape - tape direction arrows and starting/finish line

Passing

Participants will be allowed six attempts, three bounce and three chest or overhead, at a designated target from assigned distance. The target should be a 12" circle set three feet from the ground *(see diagrams 6 and 7)*. Participants will be allowed one step toward the passing line and must not touch or go over it. Eight points will be awarded for each pass hitting any part of the target regardless of how slightly. No points will be awarded for a pass that completely misses the target.

The starter will organize the participants and explain the rules, answer questions, start the participants and record their scores on the entry forms. Two judges will be needed, one to watch for shooting fouls and one to count each successful pass.

Target options:

- Bounce-back type apparatus as seen in many gyms
- Gym wall with circle outlined by tape
- 3' X 4' 3/4" plywood with circle painted on surface, firmly supported to insure ball return

Passing distances:

8-9 years	12 feet
10-11 years	15 feet
12-13 years	18 feet

Equipment needed:

- 1 Target
- 1 Basketball
- Tape - to mark passing distances

Diagram 5

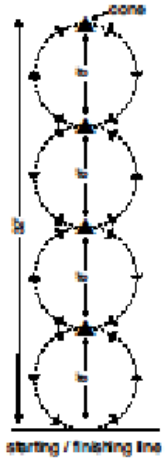


Diagram 6

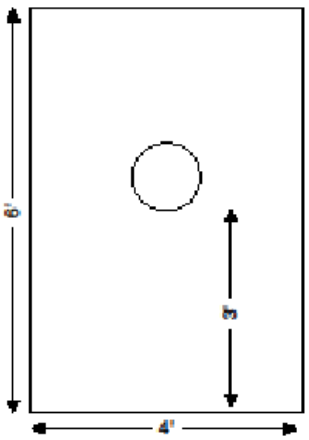
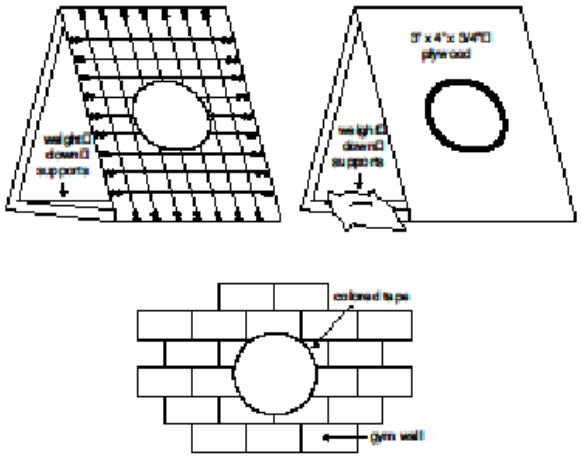


Diagram 7



Shooting

Participants will be allowed six attempts, four free throw attempts at varying distance according to age and two attempts from anywhere outside of the key area. Ten points will be awarded for each basket (successful attempt), making 60 points a perfect score. Attempt will be invalidated if a participant steps on or over the assigned free-throw line.

The starter will organize the participants and explain the rules, answer questions, start the participants and record their scores on the entry forms. Two judges will be needed, one to count the number of baskets and one to pass the ball back to participants.

Recommended heights
(if you have access to adjustable rims):

8-9 years	9 feet
10-11 years	9.5 feet
12-13 years	10 feet (regulation height)

Shooting distances:

8-9 years	11 feet
10-11 years	13 feet
12-13 years	15 feet

Equipment needed:

- 1 Basketball
- 1 Roll of masking tape - to mark shooting distances
- 6 Cones

Football Skills Contest:

Order of Events

Field 1	Field 2
Pass	
8	11
9	12
10	13
Place-kick	
8	11
9	12
10	13
Punt	
8	11
9	12
10	13

Scoring

Each participant will be allowed one attempt per event. Scores will be based on distance and accuracy. Distance is simply how far the ball is thrown, kicked, or punted from the starting line. Accuracy is how far from the scoring line the ball lands. Distance minus deviation will equal the participant's score. Each foot will equal one point with scores being determined to the nearest half foot thus allowing for half points. A sum of the passing, place-kicking, and punting scores will equal the participant's total score.

The starter will organize your participants in the bullpen area, explain the rules and answer questions, call the contestants to the starting line, and record the event scores on the entry forms. The assistant starter will watch for line fouls, provide needed assistance to the participants and help measure the distance of each attempt. Using a field marker, the umpire will be responsible to mark the exact point on which the ball first lands. The assistant starter will hold the end of the measuring tape at the starting point and the measurer will hold the other end to the point marked by the umpire. The measurer, with assistance from the umpire, will measure the deviation. The deviation will be determined by measuring from the scoring line to the point on which the ball landed at a 45-degree angle.

Penalties

If a participant steps over the starting line during passing or punting, a penalty will be assessed against his/her score. Each 1/2 foot over equals 1/2 penalty point. In the place-kicking event, participants will be allowed to step over the line without being assessed penalty points.

SWIS District Optimist
Tri-Star Basketball
District Contest Information

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Congratulations! Your son/daughter has won the opportunity to represent your local Optimist Club at the SWIS District Optimist Tri-Star Basketball event detailed below. We hope you will be able to attend!

The Southern Wisconsin (SWIS) District Tri-Star Basketball Invitational will be held on **Saturday, April 24, 2027, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. This event will be held at the Prairie View Middle School in Sun Prairie. A map of the area is included with this announcement.

The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the 6- and 7-year-olds. Awarding of medals for this group will occur as soon as they are finished. Then, the 8- and 9-year-olds will start at approximately 10:00 a.m. The 10- to 13-year-olds will follow at approximately 11:00 a.m.; however, everyone must be present by 10:00 a.m. The facility will open at 8:00 a.m. and some practice space is available for those arriving prior to the event start at 9:00 a.m. *(note: you are encouraged to bring your own practice ball to warm-up)*.

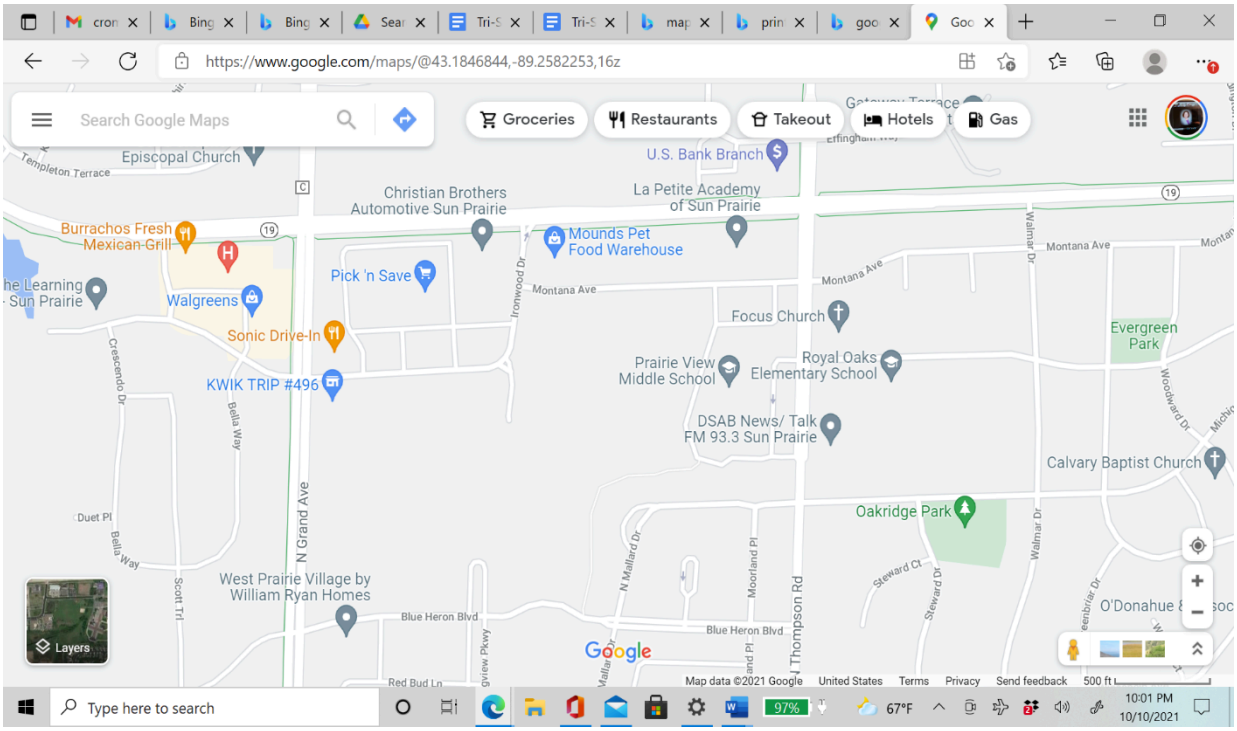
There will be a raffle conducted mid-morning for all participants for which you must be present to win (by 10:00 a.m.). Concessions will also be open during the event for refreshments and goodies – and you are encouraged to patronize this volunteer effort.

Should your child be unavailable to attend this event and represent your local community, please advise your local contest coordinators, or, one of the district coordinators at the contact information below so that an alternate might be arranged.

Thank you -- and again, congratulations! We look forward to seeing you at the District contest!

Regards,
Your District Tri-Star Coordinator
Maureen Crombie
Cell: 608-576-5819
crombie0112@gmail.com

Map of Prairie View Middle School
400 N Thompson Rd
Sun Prairie, WI 53590



SOUTHERN WISCONSIN (SWIS) DISTRICT
2027 TRI-STAR INVITATIONAL
BASKETBALL SKILLS CONTEST

Prairie View Middle School – Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

April 24, 2027 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Optimist Club:_____

Contact Person:_____

Boys	Name	Birthdate	Girls	Name	Birthdate
Age 6			Age 6		
Age 7			Age 7		
Age 8			Age 8		
Age 9			Age 9		
Age 10			Age 10		
Age 11			Age 11		
Age 12			Age 12		
Age 13			Age 13		

Number of Entrants from the Club: _____@ $15.00 = $_____

Amount Owed_____

Make checks payable to the: Sun Prairie Optimist Club

Mail to: Maureen Crombie
1309 Brown Bear Way
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
Cell: 608-576-5819
Email: crombie0112@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION IS MONDAY, APRIL 19th, 2027
REGISTRATIONS ARE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR, HOWEVER, CONTESTANTS NOT PRE-REGISTERED WILL NOT BE LISTED IN THE EVENT FLYER

SWIS District Optimist

Tri-Star Sports

Tips for Running a Successful Event

Publicity

- You cannot get enough publicity. Most people react to repeated messages, one shot won't do it. Use social media platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, Facebook or YouTube etc.
- Get the story in the community news section of the paper and emphasize free – no – entry fees.
- Your community may have their own media center. Make sure to write press releases to your local radio and television stations.
- Put posters up in schools, grocery stores, daycare centers, fast food restaurants, any place where kids and parents go frequently.
- Most middle and grade schools have bi-weekly or monthly newsletters to parents of students. Get them to include the flyer in your newsletter. Many middle and grade schools now have an online newsletter called peachjar.
- Visit the coaches of school, community sponsored teams and select teams and ask them to promote the contest. They bring out big crowds for you and work on dates to avoid conflicts with other tournaments.
- On Contest day, remember to promote your club membership. How many times will you get a big captive audience in which to speak?

Organization and General Successful Event Planning

- Get every member involved in both the planning process and on contest day: If you get a big crowd, you will need all the help you can get.
- Find a local youth club to help you out on the contest day. You might need the help, the kids need service hours and you can reward them with movie passes or small gift cards to their favorite food places.
- Get the equipment needed on a checklist and get targets, cones, tape measures, etc. made-up well in advance.
- If available, create a “practice area/practice gym” near the contest location so that the kids can practice their skills before the actual contest (perhaps a second gym or second set-up).
- Have your key speaker (emcee) ready to go on the contest day, and, if possible, keep their duties to a minimum, that will help to keep your event on track.
- Invite your local fire, police and paramedics to entertain the kids.
- Stay as close to the rules as you can. If you send your participants onto the district contest, you won’t want them to have different rules/restrictions.

Rewards

- Depending on your budget; you may try to get some rewards for every participant. Even a simple participation ribbon and/or certificate is a keepsake and a reminder to the kids and parents that their local optimist club made the project happen Again; depending on your budget, trophies or medals for age group and gender winners are treasured keepsakes
- McDonalds, Culvers, George Webb, Rocky Rococo, Chick-filet – if approached, these local businesses may give you some free item coupons for participants. If so, make sure you acknowledge them in your program, social media and/or announcements.
- Post winners with pictures, if possible, in your community newspaper.
- Be sure to promote the district event to your winning participants (see letter to Parent/Guardian). Proud parents will make a big effort to get the kids to the district event.

Tips and Recommendations for Local Contests

- Ask your club President to give the greeting on behalf of the club before each Age group presents their presentation. This should be a simple and straightforward welcome, not a big speech.
- Invite the parents and guests to “check-out” your local Optimist club and stop In to a meeting or to visit your next event (you never know when a potential new Member may be sitting there!). We also announce to them that Optimist International is a volunteer organization of more than 4000 clubs and 80,000 members worldwide.

Equipment and Supplies

- Basketballs – Some kids may bring their own basketball, but you should have specific “competition” balls that remain at each station (to be fair and consistent). All the girls, as well as the 6,7,8 & 9 year old boys are given the option to use the slightly smaller ball (28.5). All boys 10 or older must use t full size ball (29.5). A lot of girls especially the older girls, may prefer to use the full size ball and they can do that if they so choose. So, plan to have one of each size at each station. Make sure the judges offer the right size ball to the contestants when the students come up to each station to perform their skill. Any extra balls can go to the practice gym/practice area.
- Four cones are needed for each dribbling station. (So, a total of 8 if you have a practice gym/area.)
- The targets for the passing station can simply be “taped” on a wall. So, just tape is needed – and we recommend painters tape as it lifts from the flooring and walls fairly easily and does not have a residue.
- You will also need clipboards for the score sheets (so people can write on them as they walk the kids from station to station). We would suggest about 10 …. Otherwise; magazines would easily work too.

Order

- Ribbons – We encourage that all kids who participate get a ribbon. Or you may want to put together a SWAG bag with items/certificates from local businesses. These can be picked up at the scorer table when they submit their score sheet or before they leave for the day. And, if you order ribbons, we suggest getting some that are not date specific. This way you can order plenty. The extras can be used in future years and ordering a larger quantity can be more cost effective in the long run.
- Medals or Trophies – We have found that medals are just as exciting as trophies and can be much more cost effective, but either way, it is very exciting for the winners.

Additional Supplies/Materials to Purchase and Gather

- Roll (or two) of Painters or Masking Tape (to mark lines on floor for different distances/age brackets; mark passing target on the wall.)
- Tape measure (or two)
- If funding allows, we encourage that all the first finishers get a new basketball and a t-shirt with your local club name on it (to promote your club and community at the next level!)
- General Item – copies of registration form, copies of the set-up rules/distances, copies of District Competition information, pens, sharpie marker, pad of paper to list winners, photo release forms (to be signed on behalf of all students, then you have permission to use on your website and submit to newspaper), and (as mentioned previously), clip boards. Calculators are also handy to have at the scorekeepers table. And, you will also want to have a camera for photos.
- Raffle Prizes (if applicable) – and if so, a way to enter raffle as well as container to hold submissions.

Volunteers

- Assign judges, registration, scorers and other helpers who can rebound at the baskets and walk the kids from station to station. In our club, we allow people to choose where they would like to help out – and in our experience, it just works out.
- We suggest having several “stationary” volunteers/judges to run each station. This way, each student consistently receives the same instructions and judgement. One or two people at each shooting, dribbling and passing station, respectively should suffice.
- You may also want two or three people to assist with registration. We have also found that three or four people at the Scorekeeping/Tally table is best. Ensure that the scorers know what they are doing and our comfortable with it, as that is an area of exposure if there is any miscalculation.
- You will want to have an Emcee and an Assistant to Emcee to help with announcements, general instructions, keeping the day moving, handing out medals, etc.
- You will need people to take the kids from station to station. We have found it easiest to have the kids line-up and sit on the floor/front roll of benches, or all sit in one general area, then have the volunteers take the kids, one at a time, through all three stations, then drop off their score sheet and pick up a participation ribbon/certificate. (then the volunteer can get another child to take from station to station). These volunteers

have the score sheet (preferably on a clipboard) and write down the information. This also helps to make sure that people take turns, get to all three stations, etc.

- If you elect to have two different gyms (a practice gym and a competition gym) for the day of, we would suggest having a couple of "Lion Tamers" in the Practice Gym (If we have extra volunteers, you could have one person keeping an eye on everything and then one person at each practice station to assist with there to assist with their "practice.") At the very least, you will want one person in there as there always seems to be parents with general questions, kids that need to know where the bathroom is at, etc. Of course, if you don't have a practice gym (or practice area), this is not necessary.
- And, if you have plenty of volunteers you could always station someone at the door to help get people to the right place and be a Greeter. This person could also have the responsibility to serve as the Event Photographer.
- Don't be overwhelmed with how many volunteers are listed above …. You can run this event with 8 to 10 people (kind of a bare minimum)…but, a few more volunteers than that is better! If you plan to have a practice gym, two passing stations and one dribbling station, about 15-20 volunteers would be much better and less stressful!

Day-of Schedule

- If the event is set to begin at 9:00 a.m., you may want to have registration ready to go by 8:30 a.m. Check-in is fairly easy (especially if they bring the form completed already), but there is almost always an early bird and you should be prepared!
- We may want to ask other volunteers to arrive between about an hour early to allow time for basic set-up of the practice and competition stations, set-up any awards and registration and perhaps allow 15 minutes to give an overview of the event to all the volunteers and hand-out placement assignments. This allows the volunteers to know what will happen, provide answers to basic questions, explain how to run registration, scorekeeping, what happens at each station, where bathrooms are at, etc.
- **Set-up skill test or "competition" stations.** For fewer than 100 kids, we recommend two baskets for shooting, one target for passing, and one course for the timed dribble. If you are expecting over 100 kids, you may want to add a second passing target.
- **Set-up your registration table** near the gym entrance.
- **Set-up a "master" scorekeepers table** and one table next to it for any awards, ribbons, medals/trophies, t-shirts or other prizes to be given ou

- If space allows, set-up a **practice gym** with two baskets, a passing station, and a dribbling course. If you have enough volunteers, station one or two people in the practice gym to explain basic rules, answer parent questions and keep things under control (otherwise, make sure to have someone checking-in on these students). And, if you give out club basketballs in the practice gym, make sure you get them back.
- Then, at the event time, call for the 6 & 7 year olds to come into the competition gym with their family/supporters and completely run the event with all those kids.
- In our local and district contests, we always ask the age group that is competing to sit on the floor in front of the stands and to go back there when they finish so they are easy to keep track of. We also announce the age competing several times (in both the practice and competition areas) to be sure everyone participates before the final scores are added up and announced.
- Have the judges or other club members **demonstrate each skill** before the kids start to go around to the stations. Be sure to let people know that the judges will watch the lines close to be fair to everybody. Any other general tips or announcements can also be shared at this time.
- If you elect to have a raffle or other entertainment between age groups, run that after all 6, 7, 8 & 9 year olds go through all the stations and while final score tabulations are being done. At this time, you may want to snap a group photo, then, once tabulated, you can announce 8 year old and 9 year old winners (both genders), get winners of photos, hand out medals/balls/shirts and give the parent/guardian information on the district event to the first place finishers. Should the first place winner know immediately they cannot attend, you can ask the second place finisher to go in their place.
- Once all the littlest ones are done (6 to 9), thank them all for coming and dismiss them, if they would like to leave (but are welcomed to stay, too). Then, call up the 10 & 11 year olds - same drill.
- Lastly, the 12 & 13 year olds get their turn. Of course, if you'd like to do all the awards (for all age groups) at the very end and keep everyone there, that is also an option – it is up to you (keep in mind the space restrictions you may have for seating and such).
- After all the kids have wrapped up, perhaps get a snap shot or group photo of the volunteers.
- Then just take down & clean-up. It's that easy!

Resources

- The Optimist International website is a great resource – it is available at www.optimist.org
- Many seasoned clubs in the district have run successful Tri-Star sports competitions for years and would gladly share information and help if you ask them, and, as your district chair, it is my duty and pleasure to help you in any way we can … so please, just ask!

Maureen Crombie
Tri-Star Basketball Chair
Crombie0112@gmail.com
608-576-5819