

March 18, 2010

Winter Park Optimist Announces its 2010 Past Player Scholarship Program

WPO announces its intention to award two, one thousand dollar scholarships, to local high school seniors from the class of 2010. The club's directors have approved this scholarship program in which former participants of WPO baseball and softball programs can apply. The scholarship is designed to be used for a higher education program of their choice.

Being a need based award, the scholarship is intended to help encourage two young people to improve their lives permanently by attending college now. The Club's board will review applications and make the final decision regarding which applicants receive the awards.

Winter Park Optimist has been fortunate in receiving abundant support from the Wilmington Community since 1958. That support has been received in the form of volunteers, loyal Christmas tree customers, long-term participants in our sports programs and general support from our county residents and county government officials. WPO is thankful for that support and proud to be able to give back to our community in the form of this scholarship program.

Persons interested in applying for this scholarship or learning more about the Optimist programs can find information at www.winterparkoptimist.org.

Winter Park Optimist 2010 Scholarship Award

Program: Award two \$1,000 scholarships to a 2010 NHC graduating male and female.

Program Purpose: The WPO club intends to identify students whose ability to attend college or other secondary education is in question due to financial limitations. This program is designed to help encourage that student who is undecided in regards to college, to apply and attend. It is our hope that this program's encouragement will help make two additional successful community leaders of the future.

Guideline and eligibility requirements: This is a combined needs and merit based award for seniors from Laney, Hoggard, New Hanover or Ashley High Schools. To be eligible for this scholarship award, the students must have participated in baseball or softball at Winter Park Optimist for at least one season (spring or fall) and they must plan to attend a secondary education institution in the fall of 2010.

Award Selection Criteria: The Board of WPO will select one male and one female graduating senior for this award. The selection for this award will be based on 1) the student's specific family circumstances and needs for assistance, 2) the student's High School academic performance, 3) the student's past positive contributions to the community, and 4) the student's post HS graduation plans.

Payment Details: This program is intended to be a tax free scholarship award. As such, it must be paid directly to the higher learning institution for the benefit of the winner. The payment(s) can be made over the course of time to ensure it is applied to tuition and fees associated with higher education.

Application Procedures: Please mail the completed application, a one page written summary of your qualifications and needs, a letter of reference, and a copy of your federal financial aid form (SAR) to the following address:

Winter Park Optimist
Senior Scholarship Program
P.O. Box 3511
Wilmington, NC 28406

The completed package must be received no later than April 30, 2009. Students who are selected will be notified May 29th. Only the winning students will be notified.

The scholarship awards will be posted on the WPO web page www.winterparkoptimist.org

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