



## ADVISERS: THE ADULT MENTOR

### Tips for Success

*The JOOI Club adviser acts as a guiding hand for the JOOI Club. An effective JOOI adviser has the energy to help spark the imaginations of the youth Members, the patience to help Members follow through with projects, and the bureaucratic skills to help cut red tape for potential community service activities. In short, the adviser works closely with the JOOI Club Members and provides varying amounts of guidance depending on age and maturity.*

*Alpha Clubs require more direction than Octagon Clubs, but each level has different challenges and rewards. For the first few meetings, students will look to you for guidance. Encourage the students to work through ideas on*

*their own. Try to keep your role as non-intrusive as possible. You may need to help keep the meeting on track, explain any procedures that the Members do not understand, help publicize events, or help find chaperones or adult participants for projects.*

*A few guidelines to keep in mind: meetings should last approximately 30 minutes to an hour, Clubs can meet during, immediately after or before school, or on weekends. Try to maintain about 20 Members for effective projects.*

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*“There is probably no better way to live up to our motto of “Friend of Youth.”*

**John O’Malley**, Evening Optimist Club of Cape Girardeau, Mo.

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## Getting Started

Read through the Youth Code on the last page of this handbook. This will acquaint you with what JOOI Clubs are all about. If your Club is not a new charter, check to see that you have written bylaws to run your Club. Optimist International will provide you with suggested bylaws, and you can make any appropriate changes.

## When Should Your Club Meet?

Choose a time and day of the week that fits your needs and those of your Members. It is suggested that your Club meet often so Club Members can get to know each other and plan activities together. Occasionally, you may want to meet on some Saturdays for a service project or a social activity. When starting out, keep your activities simple to help build confidence in the Club's accomplishments. As time progresses, you may choose to take on larger activities.

## Where Should Your Club Meet?

The Optimist Club sponsor has probably already made arrangements for your JOOI Club to meet at a particular location, such as a school or community center. As an adviser you will need to find enough space to fit all of your JOOI Club Members comfortably, for example a classroom or corner of the gymnasium.

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*"JOOI Clubs are our future."*

**Warren Bechthold**, 1996-1997  
Optimist International Vice President  
Petersburg, Ontario

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## CLUB ACTIVITIES IN A NUTSHELL

Planned activities are the heart and soul of every JOOI Club. Since there are so many projects a Club can do, it is often difficult for Members to narrow the list down! A simple way to choose projects is to decide what your Club can afford to do and how much work is required to organize the activity.

Many Clubs like to invent their own projects or conduct the same projects every year. However, if your Club needs a little imagination boost, a list of projects and fundraisers is available through the JOOI Club Department at Optimist International.

## Community Service

Community Service is the basis of JOOI Clubs. Each JOOI Club should plan and complete at least one community service project each year. The project can be anything from visiting a nursing home to cleaning up a beach to organizing a teacher appreciation day. The purpose of your JOOI Club is to assess the needs of the community and answer those needs through community service. While on the surface community service sounds easy, sometimes it is difficult to find a project that will make a difference in the community and pique the interest of the JOOI Club Members. You will find many community service ideas in this book. However, never underestimate the creative ideas your JOOI Club will come up with.

## Fundraisers

Don't let fundraisers scare you! They can be a lot of fun. Plan a simple fundraiser for your first time, such as a car wash or a bake sale. Make it clear to everyone that there is a direct relationship between fundraising success and the effectiveness of their service projects. You will find many fundraising ideas in this booklet. Also the Optimist International JOOI Clubs staff maintains a file of successful fundraising activities.

## Social Events

You may want to plan a social event to allow the kids to get to know each other or to celebrate Club milestones. "Socials" can be a no-cost activity to the Members. Try a potluck picnic or a trip to a local youth entertainment facility. Your bank account or sponsor Club contribution will probably determine the activity for you. Use your imagination. Remember the more fun JOOI Members have, the more excited they will be about every project. All work and no play is no fun for anyone!

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*"I like being a Member of the Junior Optimist Club because it makes me feel good inside to know that I can make a difference."*

**Monet Sanders**, Douglas Junior Optimist Club

Belleville, Ill.

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