



CALDWELL OPTIMIST CLUB CLAIRE RUEHL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Caldwell Optimist Club's mission is to support the youth of our community and promote the values of optimism. To that end, the Caldwell Optimist Club will award one deserving student a \$1,500 1st place scholarship and one deserving student a \$1000 2nd place scholarship. These scholarships will commemorate the memory of Claire Ruehl who was an active and supportive member of the Caldwell community and its youth programs.

Students must meet the following criteria to be eligible for this scholarship:

- Must be a high school senior living within the Caldwell or Vallivue school district boundaries. Home school students within these geographical areas are also eligible to apply.
- Must attend a post - high school Idaho educational institution located in Idaho.
- Must exhibit superior potential in studies and desire relative to their continued education.
- Must provide a letter of recommendation from a faculty member from his/her current high school.
- Must provide a letter of recommendation from a personal source.
- Must have a cumulative high school GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- Must submit a written essay and a completed application form.
- Applications must be submitted by 3/31/2025

Applications may be submitted electronically to:

caldwelloptimist@gmail.com

Or

Submitted by mail to:

Caldwell Optimist Club

PO Box 1325

Caldwell, ID 83606

Essay Topic

The essay topic for this year is: *Reflect on how optimism has influenced your personal journey toward success. In your essay, discuss specific moments when a positive mindset helped you overcome challenges, seize opportunities, or inspire others. Consider the ways optimism shaped your decisions, relationships, and ability to persevere through setbacks. Conclude by exploring how maintaining optimism can continue to play a role in your future aspirations and accomplishments.*

Be sure to provide vivid examples and personal insights to make your essay authentic and impactful.

Selection of Winner

- ❑ The awarding of the scholarship will be decided by an analysis of the applicant's qualifying essay and completed application form.
- ❑ Essay will be no more than three pages in length, typed, and double-spaced.
- ❑ The winner of the scholarship will be selected by an Optimist panel from the Caldwell Optimist Club.
- ❑ The winner will be selected and notified by April 15, 2025.
- ❑ The scholarship will be awarded in the form of a check written to the winner and the Idaho educational institution of his or her choice.

APPLICATION FOR CLAIRE RUEHL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Name: (First, Middle Initial, Last) _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

Address of parent or guardian: _____

A. Grade Point Average to date: _____
High School graduation date: _____

B. What are your educational goals? (Please be as specific as you can):

C. List activities, by year, in which you have been active during high school (1 = Freshman, 2 = Sophomore, 3 = Junior, 4 = Senior; Please use this numerical key when answering sections D, E, & F):

D. List, by year, your work experience during school: _____

E. List, by year, community, civic, club, or church activities in which you have been active during high school: _____

F. List, by year, any special awards or honors you received during your high school career: _____

G. How do you plan to finance your education? _____

H. Please provide a short biographical sketch of yourself.

I. Please provide the name of one faculty member from your high school as a personal reference and attach a letter of recommendation from this faculty member.

Name: _____ Position: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

J. Please provide the name of one personal reference and attach a letter of recommendation from this individual.

Name: _____ Position: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____