



The Optimist Gist



Ken-DUCKY Derby

Try your luck at our 10th annual Lucky Duck Derby held at Squaw Valley Park on Wednesday, May 22. The first heat of 40 ducks will hit the water at approximately 6:00 PM with subsequent heats approximately 5 minutes apart. Top two finishers in each race receive a prize valued between \$25 and \$150. Ducks are \$10 each (you can name your duck!) or 6 ducks for \$50. If you would like to get your ducks in a row early, please email Joyce DeLuca, joyce_deluca@comcast.net, order on-line through our website, or see an Optimist member to purchase your ducks before the event!



Become a Sponsor

This event is our largest fundraising event of the year and with a 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY we hope to make it bigger and better than ever! The Lucky Duck Derby would not be possible without the support of our amazing sponsors. We are always looking to add new and maintain former sponsors! We have added (by sponsor request!) an additional level to this year's sponsor categories - the Double Diamond Level at \$1000.

Sponsors will have their information listed on the website, added to our duck race t-shirts, headlined on our large duck raft, announced during a heat on the microphone, and posted on signage around the event. In addition, sponsors will receive a number of ducks based on their level to enter into regular heats and will be entered into our special sponsor heat with basket of cheer prizes. Our different levels of sponsorships are included below. If you are interested in becoming one of our incredible sponsors, please email joyce_deluca@comcast.net.



Sponsor Levels Include:

\$1,000 Newly added - Double Diamond!!

\$500 - Diamond \$250 - Platinum \$100 - Gold

Website: <http://www.pittsburghoptimist.com/duck-race>

On the Horizon Lucky Duck Derby

Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Location: Squaw Valley Park

Link: [Ducky Derby Link](#)

Details: With FC District Association

How you can help: secure sponsorships, sell ducks, and volunteer at the event!

Sponsor Levels Include:

- \$1000 - Double Diamond
- \$500 - Diamond
- \$250 - Platinum
- \$100 - Gold
- Prize donor
- \$10/duck or 6 ducks/\$50

Bongiovanni Scholarship Golf Tournament

Date: Friday, June 14, 2019

Location: Pgh National Golf Club

Link: [Golf Tournament Link](#)

Goal: Raise \$15,000/host 88 golfers

Details: \$150 includes golf & dinner
\$100 for dinner only

Toy Drive Party

Date: December 7, 2019

Location: FC Racquet Club

Link: [Toy Drive Party Link](#)



Home Run of an Event

We sponsored our 3rd annual Major League Baseball® Jr. Home Run Derby™ on Saturday, April 13 at Emmerling Park. The weather was fantastic and the batters involved had a wonderful and memorable time competing. We had a great turnout of optimist volunteers who helped register, run, pitch, provide popcorn, and catch throughout the afternoon. Sixteen athletes under 14 swung for the fences and a chance to attend the Major League All Star Game later in the year. We are looking forward to increasing participation in the future and have already batted around some ideas to consider moving forward including moving to the larger field, timing, and increased communication with coaches. If you have any ideas, please email John Harford - jharforjr@aol.com.



Our fantastic winners of each age group are listed below:

14U - Jacob Patterson - 19 homeruns

12U - Blake Krushinshi - 12 homeruns

10U - no home runs - all participants were winners!

Jacob and Blake are now qualified to move forward to the Regionals competition if they so choose. They are strong hitters and we will be rooting them on!

Spring Meeting Summary

• Criteria for Club Donations

- Must directly support local kids
- Prefer organizations where our impact can make a large difference and affect as many kids as possible

• Donation Process for a New Request

- Present new requests to Allotment Committee member (Joe, John, Somer)
- All requests are framed for success within our mission and guidelines and then presented to the board
- Requests are seldom completely eliminated - we will entertain anything and give it a good chance to succeed in accordance to our mission
- After the board approves the request, it is brought in front of the club at a meeting and officially approved at this time

• Donation Process Basics for an Already Approved Organization

- The same procedure will be used for requests to increase the size of a donation to an already supported organization
- The board will be alerted on same size donations to already approved organizations (no vote unless requested)
- It is best to remind organizations to renew their request annually

• Scholarship Updates

- Updated members on Rich Kriston and Carl Bongiovanni Scholarship applications and continue to discuss ways to publicize

• Guest speaker Jason Fate, Program Director, LAW Community Center

• Duck Race, Duck Race, Duck Race

- Donations for basket of cheer (prize sponsor race) - give to Joyce
- Members can help collect prizes -gift cards are preferred in \$25 amounts, sell ducks, and secure sponsorships!

Program Spotlight



Sponsoring Camp Lauri Ann West Friday Speaker Series

Jason Fate, program director of Camp Lauri Ann West, attended our April meeting to provide additional information about our newest sponsorship! Each Friday during summer camp, the Optimist Foundation will sponsor a guest speaker. Keep an eye on the website for an official list; some projected speakers include: Assemble Pittsburgh, Creative Reuse, Pittsburgh Zoo and more!

The goal for our partnership is to secure presentations and activities to enrich camp participants as much as possible and to grow the program moving forward. In an exciting new development, we were able to also sponsor a handful of families to allow them to enjoy a summer at camp that they may not otherwise be able to attend. We are looking forward to the fun Fridays ahead for the campers attending Camp LAW!

