

GATEway ADULT / YOUTH COMMUNICATION

The following are guidelines for communications between adult Optimist members and JOOI club members:

- Try to stick with kids communicating with kids and adults with adults unless there are groups. When Optimists want to communicate with the JOOI club kids, they either need to email the advisor or go to one of the JOOI club meetings. When they communicate with the District JOOI Board, they need to send emails to the entire group. When they meet with JOOI club members, they need to do it in a public place with other people around and doors (if any) open. When they transport kids, they need to do so in groups. If kids need to be taken home, they need to drop the last two off at the same place.
- Occasionally there are valid reasons that adults need to communicate with kids one-on-one. In that case, Optimists need to secure written permission from parents or guardians before making the communication. If needed, they secure phone numbers for kids through their parents, not directly from the kids, and send text messages rather than using voice. Watch kidding, especially over the phone. It can sometimes be taken too literally.

Using these guidelines helps to ensure that there are no misunderstandings between adults and kids over what was said or done. If you have any questions, please contact Alice Kuzniak, District JOOI Chair, alicekuzniak@comcast.net.

MANDATED REPORTING

All members of Optimist International in Georgia who work with children must maintain a current certificate as having successfully completed a Governor's Office for Children and Families' "**Mandated Reporters: Critical Links in Protecting Children in Georgia**" course. The online course may be founded at www.prosolutionstraining.com. Select BFTS Training Code: TG-BFTS-48348. If you have questions about how to complete this course, contact ProSolutions Training at: 1-800-939-9694. The certificate of completion expires after one year.

If you need to report suspected child abuse or neglect, call: 1-855-CHILD (1-855-422-4453)