



[WWW.MONACOSOUTH.ORG](http://WWW.MONACOSOUTH.ORG)

## **OPTIMIST CLUB OF Monaco South** **PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

The following describes the various youth, community service, and organizational projects that your Monaco South Optimist Club sponsors and/or actively participates in running. This list is not all-inclusive, since we actively encourage our members to create or find new projects in which to get involved.

### **YOUTH PROJECTS-OUR PRIMARY MISSION**

#### **SUPER CITIZEN (Our Premier Service Project)**

Our Club presents **Super Citizen Awards** for outstanding citizenship at McMeen, Samuels, Bradley, Southmoor, Holm, MPB, and Hamilton University Park, and Slavens schools. At the elementary schools, at one or two assemblies during the school day, a Monaco South member presents each **SUPER CITIZEN** with a framed certificate signed by our Club President, Denver's Chief of Police and Mayor, and a T-shirt proclaiming them to be Super Citizens at that school. Photos are taken of each child with his/her parent and/or teacher. At Hamilton Middle School, Monaco South presents the awards during the evening at gathering of the award winners, their families, their teachers, and Hamilton's school administration

<p><b>When:</b> Monthly or Quarterly, as assigned <b>Where:</b> assigned school <b>Who:</b> One chairman and one or more assigned per school; 2008 chair: Don Thomson</p>
---

#### **COLORADO HISTORY DAY**

Middle school and high school students write papers, assemble displays, produce documentaries, or write and perform original live performances related to the year's official theme. Monaco South members serve as judges (except for the papers) at the DPS History Day event and at Colorado History Day held at CU-Boulder. Training is provided. See <http://www.colorado.edu/history/coloradohistoryday/index.html> and [www.nationalhistoryday.com](http://www.nationalhistoryday.com) for more information.

<p><b>When:</b> April <b>Where:</b> Hamilton Middle School &amp; CU Boulder <b>Who:</b> Karl Geil</p>
---

#### **LIBERTY DAY**

Liberty Day is a non-partisan grassroots celebration of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Andy McKeon, a Monaco South member, is Director of the Liberty Day organization, which teaches kids to learn the constitution, and then go out and quiz citizens in various venues to raise awareness of the constitution and the ideals of our founding fathers. Liberty Day is March 16<sup>th</sup>, and Monaco South will be helping sponsor activities for civic leaders, DPS teachers and students to learn about and promote the Constitution and its history.

When: Ongoing Activities Where: Various Who: Phil Perington; Andy McKeon
--

### **EAGLE SCOUT RECOGNITION DINNER**

At the Denver Area Council's annual Eagle Scout Dinner, Monaco South makes special awards for the outstanding Eagle Service Projects for the current class of Eagle Scouts in the Council. The awards are for each Scout District and the Council at large. The dinner is arranged by the Council and hundreds are in attendance, with a special keynote speaker and numerous other special awards made by the Council or the Eagle Scout Association.

When: Annually in Feb. Where: Local Hotel Who: Donlie Smith
---

### **ESSAY CONTEST**

This event is sponsored by Optimist International, and it awards scholarships to high school students. The Monaco South's involvement is to solicit student entries and to find qualified people willing to read and grade the essays.

When: February Where: TJ High School Who: Joe Marci/Wyatt McCallie
--

### **GOBLINS CALLING**

Since 1983, this annual Halloween event brings together Monaco South members to fill goodie bags, and then telephone elementary school children to determine if they are home on time by the Mayor's suggested curfew. If they are home, they will receive a goodie bag at school the next school day. Program leaders design, have printed, and distribute information/instruction sheets and sign-up slips to the schools, collect the sign-up slips, purchase the goodies, and arrange a location (with lots of phone lines) for bagging goodies and calling kids on Halloween night. Goodie bags are delivered to schools the morning of the next school day.

When: 6 – 10 pm, Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup> Where: Schlessman YMCA, Colorado/Yale Who: Kent Gloor/Gary Miller
--

### **HUGH O'BRIAN YOUTH FOUNDATION**

The club provides support and donations to HOBY. Each year, we provide judges to interview HOBY participants at the annual conference for scholarships to the national convention.

When: Each Summer Where: School of Mines Who: Paul Bernard
--

### **OPERATION STUDENT SUPPLIES**

Monaco South purchases school supplies at the beginning of the school year for our Super Citizen partner schools, which the schools then distribute to needy students. Volunteers are needed to purchase/solicit the supplies and deliver them to the schools.

When: Each Fall Where: 8 Elementary Schools Who: Oscar Sorensen
---

### **OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION**

Established in 1971, the Optimist International Foundation (OIF) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. OIF works with Optimist Clubs located in over 3,800 communities in the United States, Canada, Europe and the Caribbean. A majority of support received by the Optimist International Foundation is unrestricted. These donations are applied to the annual campaign, and are used to support the Oratorical, Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) and Essay Contest scholarships, the Junior Optimist Octagon International program (JOOI) and other Optimist International programs. In addition to the annual club donation, individual members are encouraged to give tax-deductible donations.

When: Annual donations from the Club and individuals Who: Jim Brown
--

### **ROUNDUP FELLOWSHIP**

Monaco South plans and participates in outings with disabled children at Roundup Fellowship. Volunteers are needed to help plan the activities and to attend the outings. Roundup Fellowship staff members look after the children; Monaco South members go along on the activities to interact with the kids.

When: Various Where: Various Who: Jim Vanderkamp
--

### **TRI-STAR BASKETBALL**

This activity is sponsored by Optimist International. Volunteers from our club are needed to schedule this one hour basketball skills competition, to recruit participants and to officiate at the events. We hold a club level event at the Boys and Girls Club, and help with the Regional event. Top winners go to the District event at the Pepsi Center. Monaco South also provides assistance at all levels of this great event for kids from 6-11 years of age.

When: Feb/ March/April (finals) Where: Finals at Pepsi Center Who: Jack Rife
--

### **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS THANKSGIVING DINNER**

As it has for the past 25 years, Thanksgiving comes early for about 1000 boys and girls (and their families) at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver and at Girls, Inc of Metro Denver. Members of the Optimist Club of South Monaco serve turkey - about 800 pounds of it - and all the trimmings at two locations on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Kids are bused in from most of the metro area Boys and Girls Clubs to get to the location of the dinner, which for many would be the only Thanksgiving dinner they would have. Some bring their siblings and parents, and many take advantage of the "to go" boxes to take turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie to the folks back home who can't come. Monaco South purchases the food, which is prepared by a local hotel catering operation for free. As they have for over two decades, Monaco South club members have a great time serving the food to the noisy crowd.

When: The Tuesday before Thanksgiving Where: Boys and Girls Club and Girl's Inc. Who: Donlie Smith, Russ Paul
---

### **CHRISTMAS BASKETS & GIFTS**

The Christmas Baskets & Gifts Project is an offshoot of the Thanksgiving Basket Project which was started in the 1980's. This project was expanded in the 1990's to include

When: Saturday before Christmas, 8-10 am Where: Legion Hall Who: Don St. John
---

furnishing a full Christmas Dinner and usually some toys to needy families with children in the elementary schools where we sponsor Super Citizen Programs.

The Committee Chairman for Monaco South starts a sign-up sheet about a month before the event (which is always the Saturday before Christmas). The Chairman makes arrangements with various food sources for the essential ingredients of a Christmas Dinner. The Club pays for these items, but we try to get grocery stores to give us a discount price on the food & foil pans that we buy. Often we will have a canned food drive.

Early in the morning on the Saturday that we deliver the food baskets, several members of the club will meet to pick up the food and take it to the designated spot for assembling the food boxes for each family. At a designated time, the rest of the members who have signed up to work this project will meet at the assembly area and box up the food for delivery.

The Christmas Gifts, for the children of six families in each school are purchased by Monaco South with budgeted funds and by other benefactors. The Social Services representative at the schools gives us a list of the names, gender and ages of each child. Club members will then deliver the food baskets and gifts to the designated families.

The total time of assembling and delivering the food baskets and gifts is about 2 hours.

### **THANKSGIVING BASKETS**

This project is identical to the Christmas basket project, but without the gifts and without the canned food drive.

When: Saturday before Thanksgiving  
Where: Legion Hall  
Who: Bob Avery

### **T. J. CRAFT FAIR**

Each year the Club members help the Thomas Jefferson High School control and monitor the traffic flow during the set up of the T. J. Craft fair, which supports the school.

When: Saturday before Thanksgiving  
Where: T.J. High School  
Who: Craig Eley

### **BRAIN BOWL**

The Brain Bowl is similar to the old GE College Bowl TV show (for those too young to remember, think Jeopardy with teams), but for middle school kids. Three competitions go on at the same time: one for 6th grade, one for 7th grade, and one for 8th grade.

Teams take a written test and engage in verbal rounds against other teams which test their general knowledge. The teams surviving the preliminary rounds of competition then face head-to-head single elimination in verbal competition rounds until the championship matches at each grade level.

When: January at Fairview/Boulder and Feb. at GW High School  
Who: Karl Geil

In January and February of 2008 the Brain Bowl hosted 160 competing teams in two tournaments located in Boulder and in Denver. Teams come from all around the state, and the assistance of 30 other Optimist Clubs throughout the Colorado-Wyoming District is necessary in order to put on the event.

### **TURNAROUND AWARDS**

The Optimist Club of Monaco South presents the Optimist Turnaround Awards to students at George Washington High School who have failed the 9th grade their first attempt

When: February  
Where: GW High School  
Who: Karl Geil

but who are turning around their school careers in terms of academics, social interaction, and disciplinary relationship with the school administration. These awards are presented twice each year: (1) after the end of the 1st semester, and (2) at the beginning of the next year for those who managed to complete their turnaround the previous year.

### **ORATORICAL CONTEST**

Monaco South participates, along with most of the other Optimist Clubs in the Colorado Wyoming District, in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest, which is a 3 level event. Each year students under the age of 16 years present a 4 to 5 minute speech on the official topic which is determined by Optimist International. The judging is done by 3 non-Optimists and the competition is divided into Boys & Girls contests. Each club sends the boy and girl who win its contest to the next level, which is the Zone contest. The winners of the Zone contest move on to compete for the championship of the Colorado/Wyoming District, with the Boys & Girls winners each receiving a \$1,500 college scholarship provided by the Optimist International Foundation.

When: March Where: Schlessman Y Who: Tom Hoch, John Stoffel, Jim Vanderkamp
---

### **JUNIOR GOLF**

Each year, Monaco South members help with the O.I. Colo/Wyo District Junior Golf Tournaments. We provide 15 or more people to help with scoreboards, set up, food, give directions, and help with fundraising. Many of the winners are sent to the O.I. International Tournament in Florida. Our club raises funds to help send 20+ kids to this tournament each year.

When: June/July Where: Various Courses Who: Joe Marci
---

### **ROBERT SULLIVAN SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Robert Sullivan Scholarship fund was established by Monaco South to honor Bob Sullivan who was an outstanding member of the club and president of the Thomas Jefferson High School booster club. This fund annually provides scholarships to deserving college-bound seniors from Thomas Jefferson High School. The fund accepts contributions and also raises funds from selling Rockies baseball tickets to club members and others.

When: April 15th Who: Joe Marci
------------------------------------

### **HAMILTON READING PROGRAM**

Each student who scores at least 500 points on the Accelerated Reader program at Hamilton Middle School receives a \$100 Savings Bond from our club. This program encourages reading and literacy in our middle school students.

When: April Where: Hamilton Middle School Who: Karl Geil
--

### **ALTA VISTA CENTER**

The Alta Vista Center for Autism, located in south Denver, is a treatment center for children with autism and related disorders, and has been serving families in Colorado and beyond since 2003. Its services include full and half day programs, clinical and consultation services, home and school program development, and assessments. The club supports the center will and annual donation and members can contribute time and/or goods in kind to help this worthy cause.

## **AURORA ANGELS PROJECT**

The Aurora Angels wrap Christmas gifts for those kids less fortunate than most. They host a Christmas party and give out the gifts to over 500 kids in the northeast metro area. Club members provide new unwrapped gifts and the Club supplements this with a donation to help with the wrapping and party.

When: December  
Where: Northern Aurora  
Business Association  
hosts  
Who: Rich Wagner

## **COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

### **MS 150**

Our members participate in this 150 mile bicycle ride as a fund raiser for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. This race attracts thousands of riders each year in July. Monaco South members have raised over \$10,000 over the years as riders. Monaco South, along with the assistance of the Tamarac Optimist Club, also sets up and staffs the largest and best rest stop for this long, hot ride. This includes a special tent with water misters to cool down the riders, plus we serve GatorAid<sup>®</sup> and fruit to very tired and worn out cyclists. Hundreds of riders take advantage of our rest stop each year.

When: June 29 2008  
Where: North of  
Broomfield  
Who: Phil Perington;  
Don St. John

### **RESPECT FOR LAW**

Each year, around May 1, Optimist International encourages its member clubs to honor one or more individuals in a show of respect for the operation of law. Our club usually honors a Denver area law professional or helps promote respect for law among our youth.

When: April/May  
Where: Legion Hall  
Who: Greg Young

### **FURRY SCURRY**

The Furry Scurry is an annual fund-raiser for the Denver Dumb Friends League and it is always held at Washington Park in Denver. This event gets bigger every year and raises a great deal of money for the League. Monaco South Optimist Club has volunteered to help the League in this endeavor for the last 10 years and our participation has been greatly appreciated by the League.

We start sending around a sign-up sheet around at the Breakfast Meetings about two months before the event, which is always held the first weekend in May. We usually have between 15 and 25 members sign up and our responsibility is to set-up the vendor's tents, help them unload their supplies, set up the water tables and anything else that the League wants us to do. We begin by helping to unload the tables and chairs on Friday afternoon.

On Saturday, the starting time for our members to arrive at Washington Park is 5:00 am. As part of the fun, we set up our cook stoves and tents, and sell and serve as many as 150 pancake breakfasts as fund raiser. We are usually through with our work by or 10:00 AM and the volunteers can both stay and enjoy the event or go on to other activities they have scheduled for that day.

When: First Saturday in  
May, and the Friday  
before for setup.  
Where: Washington Park  
Who: Don St. John;  
Bryce Slaby, Phil  
Perington

### **ALZHEIMER'S MEMORY WALK**

Similar to the Furry Scurry, each year, members support the Alzheimer's

When: Mid September 6-  
9 am  
Where: City Park  
Who: Joe Marci

Association by providing early morning (7:00-9:00am) setup and pre-race coordinators. Rewards include a nice T-shirt and the satisfaction of helping a worthy cause. Many members also sign up to do the walk at 9:00 to help raise funds.

**MARCH OF DIMES MUD VOLLEYBALL**

Similar to Alzheimer's, Monaco South members provide support to help set up, park cars and other lite duties. From 5:30am to 9:00. Breakfast after at a local restaurant.

When: August  
Where: Aurora  
Who: Cy Regan

**BINGO**

Monaco South and Tamarac share a bingo night once a month, on the 4th Thursday of the month. Between the two clubs we have 13 or 14 members who work the bingo program on these nights, usually 6 or 7 from each club. The sponsoring club for the bingo program is Highland Park Optimist Club.

When: Monthly  
Where: Barry's Bingo Parlor at Jewel & Federal  
Who: Don St. John

**ORGANIZATIONAL**

**NEW CLUB BUILDING:**

We are always looking to find a community which is not currently being served by an Optimist Club and to build a new Optimist Club or JOOI (Junior Optimist Octagon International) club to serve the youth of that community. Recent examples are the groups established to build new clubs in Lowry and in Parker, by going door to door and business to business to solicit new members to establish the new club.

When: As needed  
Where: open  
Who: Anyone with desire

**NEWSLETTER:**

Monaco South publishes a weekly newsletter of meeting and other happenings. It is titled "*Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South*," "G.U.M.S." for short. Assistance in editing and mailing is always needed. We currently have four editors who rotate one each month preparing the newsletter, and five other members who do the weekly mailing.

When: Weekly  
Who: Chair, Bob Finkelmeier

**NEW PROJECTS:**

Monaco South is always looking for new youth and community service projects and has a standing committee for the development of new projects.

When: open  
Where: open  
Who: Anyone with desire

**SPEAKERS' BUREAU:**

Finding and scheduling interesting speakers is essential to making our weekly breakfast meetings vibrant and interesting. Volunteers are needed to find and arrange speakers.

When: Weekly  
Where: Meeting Site  
Who: John Moser

**CHRISTMAS TREE LOT:**

Each year, Monaco South establishes and runs a Christmas tree lot. This is the club's **major fund raiser** for the year and provides the funding foundation for most of our many youth and community projects. One dollar from each tree sale is donated to Childhood Cancer, an Optimist International supported project. We have maintained this lot for over 25 years. We sell up to 1500 trees, wreaths, and garland. **ALL** members are encouraged to put in a minimum of three 3 hour shifts (we run 9am to 9pm, seven days a week) over 3 weeks, and help out with the set up and teardown of the lot. This is the most wonderful time of the year and a great time to get to know your fellow Optimists. The annual club chili cook-off is held on the second Saturday of the month, at the lot trailer. We also get help from local high school youth groups (JROTC, Sports teams, etc.), and make a donation to those groups that participate.

When: December 1-23  
Where: Monaco and Evans  
Who: Joe Marci , Mike Miller

## FUN TIMES

### **WIVES TO BREAKFAST:**

Each year we try to have a special program for our wives at breakfast during Valentine's Day. Volunteers are needed to plan the entertainment for this meeting.

When: Around Valentine's Day  
Where: varies  
Who: 2008 Tom Overton

### **KIDS/GRANDKIDS TO BREAKFAST**

Each year we invite our kids and grandkids to breakfast around the end of the year. A fun program is planned to entertain the children...it's all about the kids!!!

When: Last meeting of the year  
Where: Legion Hall  
Who: Gary Laman

### **HONEYMOON WEEKEND**

Each year in June or July, many members and their wives/significant others gather in a fun Colorado vacation spot for a weekend of "honeymooning." Golf, shared fun at mealtimes and a wide range of activities, or just relaxing, make this a stand out time and most enjoyable weekend to see *Colorful Colorado*.

When: June or July  
Where: varies  
Who:

### **ST. PATRICK'S DAY & STOCK SHOW PARADES:**

Monaco South sanitary engineers, nattily attired in their white tuxedos and equipped with shovels and buckets, display their "Pooper Scooper" skills to pick up horse droppings during these annual parades. The participants have great fun clowning with the crowd.

When: Stockshow & St. Patrick's Day Parade  
Where: Downtown Denver  
Who: Gary Strowbridge

### **YEAR END HOLIDAY PARTY:**

Monaco South puts on a holiday party after the Christmas tree lot closes. This event is usually at Canyon Club, and is a fun way to meet members and spouses, and have a great time with music, dancing, and good food and libations.

When: Around Christmas  
Where: Canyon Club  
Who: John Young, Craig Eley

### **SUMMER PICNIC:**

In late summer Monaco South puts on a Summer Picnic for members and their families, often with other clubs. Usually, we try to coordinate this with a concert in the park sponsored by the City of Denver. The club provides a barbeque and

When: August  
Where: Local Park  
Who: Howard Fry

drinks. Help is always welcome in planning this event.

### **GREAT GULCH GOLF AND COUPLES GOLF**

Each May, the duffers get together and play a 9 hole par 3 course using only and putter and on other club. We invite wives and friends, and have prizes and a picnic afterwards. We also have numerous other golf outings during the summer, including couples golf.

When: Summer;  
Columbus Day  
Where: Local Parks  
Who: Don Thomson

### **BRIDGE GROUP**

A monthly group plays couples bridge, hosted in rotation at the participant's house. Join this fun activity as a great way to meet and compete with other members of the club.

When: Monthly  
Where: Member Homes  
Who: Frank Middleton,  
coordinator

### **WESTERN DANCE**

Each year a square dance is organized to keep us swinging and fit. Join this great activity as a fun way to socialize with members and have a rousing good time. Also, it is a great way to bring guests to introduce them to club members and encourage them to join.

When: Spring  
Where:  
Who: Frank Middleton,  
coordinator