

# ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem solving competition which gives students the opportunity to stretch their minds, work cooperatively towards a common goal, and accomplish more than they ever dreamed they could. It takes **dedication and commitment** to complete the experience.

Parent permission is mandatory as each student's family is expected to actively contribute to the team experience. The following information should be read carefully. Applications must be completed and returned by:

**Wednesday, October 23, 2024**

**Main Rule:** All work must be done by the students. **No** outside assistance is allowed. Direct adult help in the problem-solving process will disqualify the team, but adults can assist in directing the student to information or resources.

**The Teams:** Each team is composed of five to seven students, two adult coaches, one adult volunteer for the day of regional competition, and one regional competition judge who will have an additional full-day training commitment. Total adult help for each team is four adults.

**Team Meetings:** Each team will set its own meeting schedule and location. Most or all meetings will be outside of school time approximately once a week until regional tournament is closer. The last few weeks before regional competition may require more frequent meetings.

**Team Selection:** Those who are on “experienced” teams may submit this application to their coach. The roster form (completed by the coach) and all applications can be submitted in one set. At that time the team’s choice of problem will be honored as available and ranked. Those new to the Odyssey experience or who don’t have an intact team, should attend the team organization meeting.

**Cost:** Each student will pay \$20.00 at the time of application. Hardship cases can be considered. Pay online through RYCOR or bring cash to the organizational meeting. No money will be refunded after the second team meeting. Other costs of the competition will be covered through school fundraisers and supplemented with a small amount provided by the district.

## **Important Dates:**

Organizational Meeting – October 23 @ T.E. Weightman MS, 6:30 p.m., 202

Coaches Training – October 26 @ TEWMS 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Regional Competition – Feb. 15, TEWMS - all day

State Competition – April 12; Orange County Convention Center - all day

## **NOTICE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS:**

In the event that no one volunteers to coach, the \$20.00 will be returned to each student who registers.

# 2024-2025

## LONG-TERM PROBLEM SYNOPSIS



Problem 1  
Vehicle

### The OM-Mazing Race

Ready, set, go! In this problem teams will design, build, and operate an all-terrain vehicle that transports riders on a race for a prize. The performance will include a race to three original, team-created destinations and each leg of the race will include an obstacle that the rider and vehicle must overcome. The performance will include a host that narrates the action and it will conclude with the realization that the prize for finishing the race was not as exciting as the Odyssey they took along the way.



Problem 2  
Technical

### Mech-Animal Sidekick

The saying goes "dog is man's best friend" but this year OMers get the chance to invent their own bestie! In this problem, team will design, build, and operate an original robotic animal that has the ability to make people happy. In the performance, the Mech-Animal will perform various tricks that cheer people up. When it suddenly goes missing, the people search for it and find the Mech-Animal in a very unusual place. The performance will also include live music, a toy for the Mech-Animal, and a trainer character that explains the tricks.



Problem 3  
Classics

### Classics... Cooking with Books

Classic cooking takes on a new meaning as teams create a performance about an original chef character that is inspired by fictional literary characters and events. Teams will choose from selected classic literature and create a gourmet meal based on their chosen book. The performance will include a setting from the book that inspired the meal, a team-created cooking gadget, and a dinner party featuring the meal that includes a character from the book.



Problem 4  
Structure

### Save Me Structure

OMers to the rescue! In this problem, teams will create a performance about an unusual animal rescue character that needs to find homes for balsa wood and glue animals. Two animals will represent actual living animal species and another will be team-created. The animal rescue character will test if a home is safe by balancing and holding as much weight as possible. The performance will also include one animal getting a check-up, a humorous veterinarian character, and the creative use of Arm & Hammer Baking Soda.



Problem 5  
Performance

### AstronOMical Odyssey!

OMers always shoot for the stars, and this problem is no different! Many civilizations have used stories, myths, and legends to explain the stars in the sky and their patterns. In this problem, teams will create a humorous performance set in a team-created "historical" civilization that presents constellations and original stories explaining each one. The performance will also include a humorous astronomer character with a "stellar" costume, a lighting effect, and a shooting star!



Primary

### It's a Wonderful World!

Travel back in time as OMers explore the Wonders of the World. In this problem, teams will create a performance about the Seven Wonders and create an original wonder that celebrates an achievement in our modern time. A time traveler character will take an architect on a trip to the past to find inspiration for this new creation. The performance will include an ancient setting, original artwork depicting a Wonder, and a creative time machine.

# APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

(If part of a team, turn in this application to your coach. If not part of a team, return this application to Ms. Abercrombie, room 202, by October 23, or bring it to the the organizational meeting. The participation fee of \$20 must accompany this form: cash or pay online through RYCOR and attach receipt.)



## PLEASE PRINT

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Odyssey Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to be on a team with the following people:

\_\_\_\_\_

Odyssey Problem Wanted: 1<sup>st</sup> choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> choice \_\_\_\_\_ (see page 2)

Parent will volunteer as: \_\_\_\_\_ Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Regional Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ Judge

\_\_\_\_\_ Can Help In Other Ways: \_\_\_\_\_

*My child has my permission to participate in Odyssey of the Mind. I understand that I am responsible for transporting my child to practices and competitions. I also understand that he/she is to do all the work, and that my help is needed in other ways. In addition, I have included \$20.00 in cash or receipt from online payment or a note explaining that the money is a hardship at this time.*

x \_\_\_\_\_ (parent signature)

## Odyssey of the Mind Coaching Application

(Coaches must become approved school volunteers. Please print.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Odyssey Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in coaching Problem# 1 2 3 4 5 doesn't matter (circle one)

I would prefer to hold meetings: at my house at school other: \_\_\_\_\_

I want / don't want my child on my team.

Experienced teams will have their choice of available problems when they return a completed roster, including all payments and applications. All those new to Odyssey should plan on attending the organizational meeting on Thursday, October 23, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in room 202.