



What Is Odyssey of the Mind?

Odyssey of the Mind (OotM) is a worldwide program that promotes creative problem solving. Under the guidance of a coach, teams of seven students learn creative thinking and problem solving skills while finding innovative solutions to a variety of technical and performance problems. From the start, OotM recognized the importance of many of the skills now emphasized in education today such as Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.

Odyssey of the Mind encourages teamwork and the development of individual creativity. Team members solve a "Long Term" problem, which they create, produce, practice, and then present their solution, at a competition. The problem might be to design a vehicle, build a balsa wood structure, write a song, or design a musical instrument - problems are different each year. Within each of these problems, students will be set-building, costume-making, creating props, acting, and writing a script. These skills all develop self-confidence and public speaking skills. The coach guides the team in their problem solving process, and everything that you see at an Odyssey performance is done by the team members - from writing the script for a play, to building a set, designing mechanisms, to making a costume, and designing the props! In addition to the long term problem, the team also prepares for a "Spontaneous" problem, which they must solve or respond to in a short period of time. Competing and practicing for spontaneous can be fun, and sharpens their creative and quick thinking skills. With all of these different elements, OotM brings together kids with varying interests that often form lifelong friendships.

Why is Odyssey of the Mind Good for Kids?

The Odyssey of the Mind teaches students to learn creative problem solving methods while having fun in the process and "thinking outside of the box". By tapping into creativity, and through encouraging imaginative paths to problem solving, students learn skills that will provide them with the ability to solve problems - great and small - for a lifetime. The Odyssey of the Mind teaches students how to think divergently by providing open-ended problems that appeal to a wide range of interests. Students learn how to identify challenges and to think creatively to solve these problems. They are free to express their ideas and suggestions without fear of criticism.

"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." - Maya Angelou

Odyssey of the Mind Try-outs

Where: Mountain Lake Park, 46 Bowen Rd, Warwick

When: Tuesday, October 10th, 5:00-7:00 pm

Who: Division 1, 2, 3 - Grades 3-12

What to do: Complete project choice, bring to tryouts and fill out google form

What to Bring: A photo of student trying out and one project choice:

1. Writing Sample
- or 2. Recycled Item Project
- or 3. Artwork

Please base this project choice with a theme of CARNIVAL and be prepared to present or read your project to a small group at tryouts

The Odyssey of the Mind tryout is an audition process. **It is mandatory that all students attend the tryout date in order to be considered for an Odyssey team. Those who competed in previous years MUST audition.** Unfortunately, there are a limited number of spots, so some students may not be placed on a team.

Being that we are a school club, there are fees associated with Odyssey of the Mind. The participation fee of \$125 will help cover costs of the student's t-shirt, registration, competition fees as well as materials. If teams advance, there is a \$50 fee for States and mandatory fundraising if your team advances to the World Finals.

Odyssey of the Mind is a HUGE TIME and EFFORT commitment. At the beginning, teams meet for one or two practices a week. Inevitably, when it comes closer to the competition, MORE practices are needed. Teams will meet on weekends at some point.

Due to teams being limited to 7, we are looking for more coaches.

Please email us if you are interested in helping out. No experience needed!

SAVE THE DATES:

- The Regional tournament will be held on March 2nd (snow date March 3).
- First Place teams who move onto States will have a chance to compete in Syracuse, NY, on April 13, 2024.
- World Finals are May 22-25, 2024

This google form must be completed before tryouts on 10/10. Please fill out ASAP!

Scan Form here →



Or type it from here → <https://forms.gle/jSiWKQV2CgRY2PGD8>

If you have any further questions, please email ddenny@wvcsd.org and cbrown@wvcsd.org

We hope you can find the time to be involved in this great program!

Donna Denny and Christy Brown

Co Odyssey of the Mind Coordinators