



## **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

**Grades 3-5:** Monday, Sept. 23rd, 5:00-6:30pm (Callback: Thursday, Sept. 26th, 5-6pm)

**Grades 6-12:** Thursday, Sept. 26th, 6-7pm (Callback: Monday, Sept. 30th, 5-6pm)

**Do:** Complete project choice, fill out form, 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 OCEAN 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. **No one is guaranteed a place on a team.**

Being that we are a school club, there are fees associated with Odyssey of the Mind. The participation fee of \$150 will help cover costs of the student's t-shirt, registration, competition fees as well as materials. **All team members and families are expected to participate in fundraising throughout the Odyssey season.** If teams advance, there is a \$75 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.

## **SAVE THE DATES:**

- The Regional tournament will be held on March 1st (snow date March 2).
- First Place teams who move onto States will have a chance to compete in Syracuse, NY, on April 5, 2025.
- World Finals are May 21-25, 2025 in Michigan.

**This google form must be completed before tryouts on 9/22.**

**Please fill out ASAP!**

Scan Form here →



Or type it from here →

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKZf8o20sz3qMQZQ2BNui45CXy625mtEjnYRsv5nDjbKGv0Q/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKZf8o20sz3qMQZQ2BNui45CXy625mtEjnYRsv5nDjbKGv0Q/viewform?usp=pp_url)

If you have any further questions, please email [ddenny@wvcsd.org](mailto:ddenny@wvcsd.org)

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

Donna Denny

Odyssey of the Mind Coordinator

## Odyssey of the Mind Student Sign Up

Do you like to have fun? Do you want to belong to an enthusiastic team? Do you like dramatics, building, mechanical building, and being a creative problem solver?

Please let me know a little about yourself and bring this with you at the tryout on

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle the days that your child is available to meet for Odyssey of the Mind:**

Monday    Tuesday    Wednesday    Thursday    Friday    Saturday    Sunday

What other activities is your child involved in (such as sports, drama club, acting classes, dancing classes, etc) during the school year?

Fall \_\_\_\_\_

Winter \_\_\_\_\_

Spring \_\_\_\_\_

**Please have your child answer the following questions:**

Have you ever participated in Odyssey of the Mind?    Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No \_\_\_\_\_

**Why do you want to be part of Odyssey of the Mind?**

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**Circle the things that you REALLY like to do:**

building things	acting	singing	writing stories/poems
drawing/painting	giving speeches	using tools	finding out how things work

**Do you have any other special talents or hobbies that might help your team?**

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