

**ODYSSEY
OF THE MIND**



Welcome to
**Odyssey of the Mind
Orientation Meeting!**

What is Odyssey?

- **International Problem Solving Competition**
 - ◆ Regional / State / World Competitions
- **Problems Defined By World Organization**
 - ◆ Long-Term (8-Minute Skit)
 - ◆ Spontaneous
- **Teamwork**
 - ◆ 7 Team Members
 - ◆ K-12 grades (+ college)



Who is Odyssey?

- **Creative Competition International (CCI)**
 - ◆ Organizes World Competition
 - ◆ www.odysseyofthemind.com
- **Virginia Opportunities In Creativity Explorations (Voices)**
 - ◆ State Competition
 - ◆ www.vaodyssey.org
- **NoVA South (Region 12)**
 - ◆ Regional Competition
 - ◆ www.novasouth.org

**ODYSSEY
OF THE MIND**



Who's on an Odyssey Team?

➤ Coaches / Co-Coaches / Assistants

➤ Team Members

- ◆ Primary = K-2 (7 kids)
- ◆ Division 1 = K-5 (7 kids)
- ◆ Division 2 = 6-8 (7 kids)
- ◆ Division 3 = 9-12 (7 kids)

➤ Tournament Day

- ◆ 1 Volunteer Per Team - 2 Hours
- ◆ 1 Judge Per Team - 2 Day Commitment

**ODYSSEY
OF THE MIND**



Where is Odyssey?

➤ Someone's House or Other Location

- ◆ Wherever Coach and Team Decide
- ◆ Maybe at School or Other Meeting Place
- ◆ Recommend Two-Deep Leadership

➤ Need

- ◆ 8' x 10' Minimum (Stage)
- ◆ Storage for Props
- ◆ Room to Paint and Build



When is Odyssey?

- **Coaches Training** November
 - ◆ One Saturday in November
- **Team Meetings** Nov-March
 - ◆ Coach / Team Decide
 - ◆ Usually 1½-2 hours Weekly
 - ◆ More Frequent Near Competition Day
- **Regional Competition** March
- **State Competition** April
- **World Competition** May

Check www.novasouth.org For Dates



How are Teams Formed?

➤ Coaches / Students Identified

- ◆ Teams Cannot Form Without Coaches!!
- ◆ Coaches Say When They Can Meet
- ◆ Kids Sign Up and Teams Form Based On Times
- ◆ Coordinators Register Teams With CCI and Region 12
- ◆ Coaches Take Over With Teams From Here

➤ Team Meets

- ◆ Organize - First Meeting (With Mentor?)
- ◆ Work On Team-building Exercises

➤ When SURE Team Is Final

- ◆ Teams Get The Long-Term Problems To Review
- ◆ Choose Problem
- ◆ Begin Work On Long-term Problem



How Much is Odyssey?

➤ School Membership Cost \$135

- ◆ Membership Is One Team / Division / Problem

➤ Team Costs (2013-2014)

- ◆ Registration = \$75
- ◆ Coaches Training = \$25
- ◆ Balsa Crush-a-thon = \$20 (Optional)
- ◆ Spontaneous Workshop = \$80 (Optional)

➤ Other Shared Team Costs

- ◆ T-shirts
- ◆ Materials for Skits and Spontaneous Problems
- ◆ Snacks



How Much is Odyssey?

➤ "Competition Cost" (\$50-\$140)

- ◆ Total Value of Items on Stage
- ◆ "Cost limit" is NOT individual fee

➤ Examples:

- ◆ Cardboard Box = \$0 (junk)
- ◆ Feather Hat = \$5 (bought)
- ◆ Feather Mask = \$1 (made)
- ◆ Old pants = 25¢ (yard sale price)

➤ Creativity counts!

- ◆ Thrift stores, Yard Sales, Basements, Attics, Neighbors, Trash day, Donations
- ◆ See Free Costs in Program Guide (Wheelchairs, Shoes, Electric cords etc.)



How is Odyssey Run?

- **No Outside Assistance!**
 - ◆ Kids Rule!
 - ◆ Coaches Coach, Lead, Guide, Teach
 - ◆ Parents Support, Don't Interfere
- **KIDS Come Up With Ideas**
- **KIDS Build Things**
- **KIDS Write Scripts**
- **KIDS Make Stuff**



**ODYSSEY
OF THE MIND**



HOW is OM Done?

➤ Parents / Adults

- ◆ Snacks
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Team-building
- ◆ Skill-building
- ◆ Cheer-leading



➤ Kids Rule!



Odyssey Problems

- Problem 1 - Vehicle
- Problem 2 - Technical
- Problem 3 - Classics
- Problem 4 - Structure (Balsa)
- Problem 5 - Drama Performance
- Primary - K-2nd Grade
- Spontaneous



Problem 1 - Vehicle

➤ Design and Build Vehicles



**ODYSSEY
OF THE MIND**



Problem 2 - Technical

- Solve a technical problem - usually involving devices



**ODYSSEY
OF THE MIND**



Problem 3 - Classics

- A solution based on the Classics

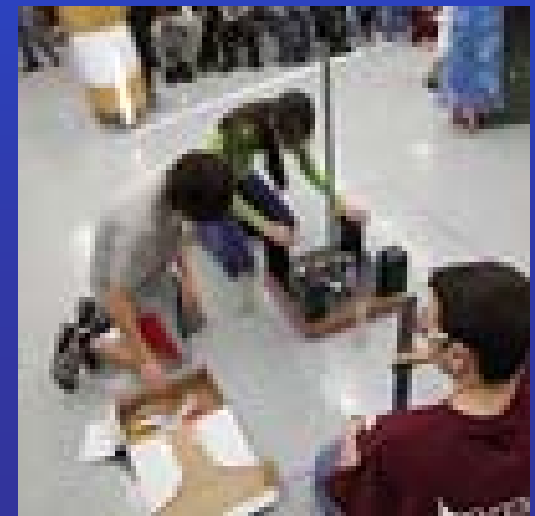
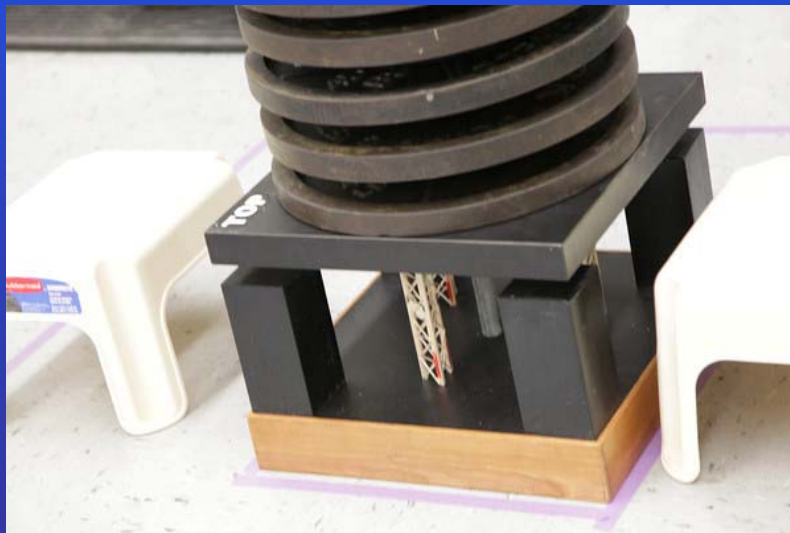


**ODYSSEY
OF THE MIND**



Problem 4 - Structure (Balsa)

- Build a Balsa Wood Structure
- Crush It



ODYSSEY
OF THE MIND



Problem 5 - Performance

- An original performance
- Usually includes song and dance



Primary - K-2nd Grade

- Present Something For Fun
- Participation Problem - Not Judged



Spontaneous

- 7 Minute Timed Competition
- 5 Team Members Compete - 2 Sit Out
- Unique To Tournament Competition Day



Spontaneous

➤ Three Problem Types

- ◆ Verbal

- ◆ Name Things That Are Green

- ◆ Verbal-hands-on

- ◆ Using Only Your Fingers, Make A Different Noise And Explain What The Sound Represents.

- ◆ Hands-on

- ◆ Build A Bridge Using Straws, Tape, And Paper

➤ Judged As Creative Or Common



Key Timeline

- 1st Team Meeting Oct / Nov
- Coaches Training (Regional) Nov
- Coaches Q&As Jan
- Team Registration Deadline Jan
 - ◆ Need Volunteer (2 hrs on Tournament Day)
 - ◆ Need Judge (2 day Commitment)
- TJ Spontaneous Invitational Jan
- Judges Training Feb
- Regional Tournament Mar



Elements of Success

- **Team Commitment Comes From Within**
 - ◆ Kids - 2 hours/week
 - ◆ Coaches - 5 hours/week, shared
 - ◆ Coordinators
- **Coaches, Judges, and Volunteers!**
 - ◆ Teams Must Have All of The Above
- **Regional Support**
 - ◆ Coordinator Liaison
 - ◆ Coaches Training
 - ◆ Judges Training Prior To Competition
- **Focus on - The PROCESS!**
 - ◆ Have Fun ...

