

# OMER'S WORLD NEWS



FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2018 | ODYSSEY OF THE MIND 2018 WORLD FINALS | IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Parade celebrates culture

People from around the globe participating in Odyssey of the Mind crowded Hilton Coliseum to kick off the Float and Banner Parade.

According to one of the announcers, the parade would be “a great opportunity for everyone to express their creativity.”

Teams from regions, countries and states walked their banners around the stage and in front of the judges, who judged each team’s banner based on creativity.

Some teams, like South Carolina, had a song and dance that accompanied their banner. As each team passed, the announcer provided fun facts about each area the teams represented, and explained the banners meaning when necessary.

Some regions had floats rather than banners, which followed similar judging rules as the banners.

Washington, D.C. and Maryland made a float together based on their shared history. Their “pentacrab” had five sides, each with its own historical meaning.

Some floats didn’t tie into a region’s history, but all showed creativity. Delaware’s float, for example, had people roll onto the stage in a pirate ship pushed by people in t-rex costumes.

### Banner finalists:

China  
California  
South Carolina  
Japan  
Michigan  
New Jersey  
Vermont  
Missouri  
Virginia  
Hong Kong

### Float finalists:

Mexico  
Maryland/Washington, D.C.  
Maine  
Hong Kong  
Texas  
New York  
Japan  
Delaware  
British Columbia  
Georgia



## Creativity Festival is in full swing

The Odyssey of the Mind Creativity Festival kicked off Thursday afternoon at Lied Recreation Athletic Center. Pin trading is a popular tradition for Odyssey of the Mind competitors, and often happens at the Creativity Festival. The organization has even released a page of Pin Trading Rules in order to keep trading fun and fair for all competitors.

“We’re really into it,” said Gabi Amaral, 14, a third-year competitor from Arkansas. “If we didn’t have to do the competitions, we would probably just do this the whole time.”

Bennett Nielsen, an 11-year-old from Milford, Pennsylvania, started his collection with two pins he received from a student in his father’s classroom, who previously competed in Odyssey of the Mind.

The Creativity Festival will also be open on Friday and Saturday, and the event is free and open to the public. More information about this event, as well as other things to do this week at Iowa State, is available at the Odyssey of the Mind’s website and the World Finals app OMER’s World.

## OMER Dining News

Your wristband is good for entry into the dining centers and special events.

**CONVERSATIONS DINING (OAK-ELM):** Pink 1, Pink 2

**UNION DRIVE MARKETPLACE:**

Orange 1, Orange 2

**MEMORIAL UNION FOOD COURT:** Yellow

**SEASONS MARKETPLACE:** Red 1, Red 2, Yellow 2, Blue

**Friday, May 25 -  
Saturday, May 26**

**BREAKFAST:** 6:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**LUNCH:** 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**DINNER:** 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, May 27**

**BREAKFAST:** 6 a.m. – 9 a.m.

**LUNCH\*\*:** 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. (Seasons Marketplace Only)

**DINNER\*\*:** 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. (Seasons Marketplace Only)

**Monday, May 28**

**BREAKFAST\*\* AT ESM:** 5 a.m. – 9 a.m. (East Side Market)

*\*\* Only for those with a post-conference package*

Access to the all-you-care-to-eat dining facilities are limited to participants wearing wristbands and their guests purchasing meals.

## Check out the App!

**STAY UP-TO-DATE ON ALL THAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE ODYSSEY OF THE MIND WORLD FINALS APP!**

■ Go to the App Store on your phone or tablet device and search for **OMER's World** or scan the QR code here!



## Prop return shipment reminder

**Y**ou will need to pre-arrange for prepaid or C.O.D. shipment of any materials that you want shipped back to you. Return labels must be picked up in advance at the Prop Information desk. All returns must be processed through the Prop Information desk at the Memorial Union. All return goods must have a

return label attached. ISU will not be responsible for returns left without proper paperwork. **The deadline for material to be picked up for return to Central Stores is Noon, Saturday, May 26.**

For further information, please call (515) 290-7189 and ask for shipping and receiving information.

## OMER'S World News Staff

### Odyssey of the Mind Editor

Jennifer Veale

### Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau

Crystal Davis  
Bri Gerke  
Sandy Larson  
Nicole Onken

### Iowa State Daily Staff

K. Rambo Emily Berch  
Jill O'Brien Devyn Leeson

### Printing and Distribution

Daily Freeman Journal, Webster City,

## Team Photos

Plan to get your team photo taken during World Finals. All teams photographed will be in the yearbook.

Photos will be taken at the Creativity Festival (Lied Rec Center)

■ Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ Saturday: 9 a.m. to noon

Photos will also be taken at Hilton Coliseum (Main Concourse)

■ Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

■ Saturday: 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Team picture prices:

■ 5x7 — \$10

■ 8x10 — \$18

■ Key Chain package — \$20 (includes a 5x7 team photo with two photo key chains)

■ Odyssey Yearbook — \$22

# Flowery Branch Came for the Competition, Stayed for the Pins



**Flowery Branch Georgia Pin Trading**

PHOTO BY NICOLE ONKEN/AMES CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

**O**n Wednesday afternoon, you could find the Flowery Branch, Georgia, Odyssey of the Mind team hanging out at State Gym. They had spread out towels covered in pins, preparing for the pin trading slated to happen the rest of the week.

Darcie Turpin, Flowery Branch team coach, wasn't surprised.

"I think they enjoy the recreation and pin trading the most at World Finals," said Darcie Turpin. "Deep down, they're excited about the performance too."

Team member Siarra Chavez has been to Odyssey of the Mind World Finals three times so far, collecting hundreds of pins each time.

"Pin trading is my favorite part of World Finals," said Chavez. "I think I've collected over 2,00 pins so far."

Chavez estimates that she has spent about \$800 buying pins, so she can continue trading them for different ones. Recently, she has focused on collecting Harry Potter pins.

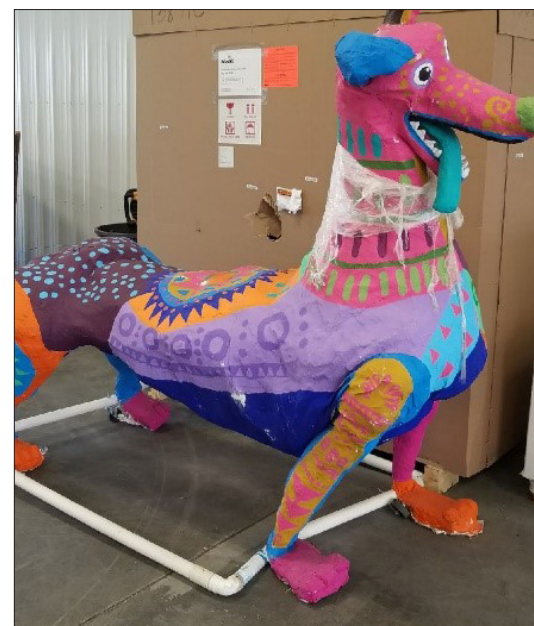
Teammate Kennedy Turpin has attended World Finals at least five times. She enjoys pin trading, as well as the experience of staying on a college campus.

"I really like pin trading, but I also like the experience of World Finals," said Kennedy Turpin. "It's fun to spend time on a college campus and live in a dorm."

But although pin trading is fun, the team hasn't lost sight of their original goal.

"I'm excited to perform and compete against other teams," said Kennedy Turpin.

## Expect the Unexpected: Props!



**2018 Odyssey Prop**

PHOTO BY SANDY LARSON/AMES CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

**L**ots and lots of boxes, large and small, national and international, have been arriving on campus for the last couple of weeks in preparation for the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.

For competition, it's not uncommon for teams to send one large package or even 25 small boxes that need to be identified, gathered and organized for delivery. Jared Hohanshelt, interim director of ISU logistics and support services (formerly central stores), said that some boxes reveal a big surprise. "That dog from Mexico definitely stands out in a crowd."

### DID YOU KNOW?

- 700 packages (and counting) have been delivered across campus
- China wins for package from the longest distance (7,000 miles)

## Social Media

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/OdysseyHQ](http://www.facebook.com/OdysseyHQ) • **TWITTER:** @OdysseyHQ • **HASHTAG:** #odysseywf



2018 Odyssey of the Mind Team from Warwick, New York  
PHOTO BY NICOLE ONKEN/AMES CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

# Warwick Teams Travel Over a Thousand Miles to Compete for the Second Time

Approximately 14 hours and over 1,100 miles later, the Warwick, New York teams rolled into Ames Tuesday afternoon. They left their hometown at 2 a.m. to take a bus to New York City, then boarded a plane to fly across the country. One more three-hour bus ride later, and they were finally checking in at Stephens Auditorium with the rest of the teams. Exhausted but still smiling, they were excited to be back at Odyssey of the Mind World Finals for the second time.

"It was difficult traveling here, but it's a

great experience," said Stephen D'Ambrosio, age 11, one of the 21 Warwick team members and supporters. "It's fun to hang out with all the other teams, and I'm just happy to be here. That's what matters."

D'Ambrosio and his team finished in first place in their problem and division at last year's 2017 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, hosted by Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

"We're elated to be here in Ames and extremely excited to participate again," said Vanessa Holland, one of the parents

accompanying the team. "We did a lot of fundraising to get here, and we've been working really hard to make this happen."

The Warwick teams are ready to compete again, and they hope to bring home another first-place finish. D'Ambrosio offered some advice to others who would like to be as successful as the Warwick teams.

"There's good news and bad news," said D'Ambrosio. "The bad news is there's no key to success, but the good news is, the door to success isn't locked."

## Check out the International Festival

World Finals is a great opportunity to learn about other cultures. Want to make the most of it? Be sure to stop by the International Festival on Saturday, where teams from around the world will be selling items from their home countries.

It's a win-win: the international teams raise money that helps to fund their trip to World Finals, and everyone gets another chance to experience cultural exchange.

The International Festival will be Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Lied Recreation Center.

## Graduation and Coaches Competition

Tonight at 7 p.m. will be graduation for those participants who missed their own graduations to be at World Finals. Then, beginning at 8 p.m., cheer on the coaches during the coaches competition.

## Stay Healthy at Odyssey of the Mind!

Here are a few important tips for staying healthy during Odyssey of the Mind!

**1: Drink water.** Staying hydrated helps relieve jetlag, and will help you stay mentally sharp during your events! Aim for 8 8oz. of plain (or flavored) water each day.

**2: Enjoy your food.** Our dining centers are made for you to pick and choose what you would like to eat. Listen to your body for how much to eat. Eating more food than normal can make you feel sick, and you won't be able to enjoy Odyssey of the Mind as much.

**3: Get sleep.** Adequate sleep will not only help you feel well rested and prepared for your day, but will also help you think more clearly. Try to sleep 8 hours a night.



Flavored water dispensers at Seasons Marketplace  
PHOTO BY NICOLE ONKEN/AMES CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

## COU raffle reminder

Creative Opportunities Unlimited is holding a quilt and pin set raffle to raise money for its scholarship fund. Get tickets at both souvenir sites! See the display at the Memorial Union.

## Return airport shuttle information

For those participants that scheduled a return airport shuttle, please check in at the Ames/ISU information desk at the Memorial Union for details about departure times and

location pick-up. The Ames/ISU information desk is open from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Important phone numbers for the 2018 World Finals

### EMERGENCY ONLY:

(fire, police, ambulance) 911  
The local area code for Ames is 515

**ISU POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY:**  
(515) 294-4428

**ISU/AMES INFORMATION CENTER:**  
(515) 294-3728

**ODYSSEY OF THE MIND INFORMATION:**  
(515) 294-3750

**PROP STORAGE INFORMATION:**  
(515) 294-3778

**ISU'S HELPVAN:** (515) 294-4444 or 4-4444  
(from a campus telephone)

**CAMPUS INFORMATION CENTER:**  
(515) 294-4357 (294-HELP)

**ISU THIELEN STUDENT HEALTH CENTER:** (515) 294-5801

**MCFARLAND AFTER HOURS CARE CLINIC:** (515) 956-4044

**MARY GREELEY MEDICAL CENTER (NON-EMERGENCY SITUATIONS):** (515) 239-2011

## Odyssey World Finals Schedule

### Friday, May 25, 2018

**7 a.m. to 6 p.m.:** World Finals Competition: Various Locations

**9 a.m. to 5 p.m.:** Souvenir Sales, Lied Recreation Center and Memorial Union, Campanile Room

**9 a.m. - 5 p.m.:** Creativity Festival, Lied Recreation Center

**9 a.m. - 5 p.m.:** NASA Science Talks and Classroom Activities, Curtiss Hall

**1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.:** Dr. Sam's Book Signing, Lied Recreation Center

**\*7 p.m. - 9 p.m.:** Graduation/Coaches Competition, Hilton Coliseum \*Line-up in tunnel area at 6:30 p.m.

### Saturday, May 26, 2018

**7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.:** World Finals Competition: Various Locations

**9 a.m. to 5 p.m.:** Souvenir Sales, Lied Recreation Center and Memorial Union, Campanile Room

**9 a.m. - Noon:** Creativity Festival, Lied Recreation Center

**9 a.m. - 10 a.m.:** NASA Classroom Activities, Curtiss Hall

**11 a.m. - 3 p.m.:** International Festival, Lied Recreation Center

**\*7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.:** Awards Ceremony, Hilton Coliseum \*Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

**9:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.:** Pre-teen Party (gold), Harvester Courtyard, Scheman

**9:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.:** Teen Party (red), Harvester Courtyard, Scheman

**9:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.:** Coaches/Officials Party, Sukup End Zone, Jack Trice Stadium

## From Plastic Bags to Mats for the Homeless, This Year's Odyssey Angels Take Recycling to the Next Level



2018 Odyssey Angels

PHOTO BY BRI GERKE/AMES CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

This year's Odyssey Angels, from Big Cypress Elementary School in Naples, Florida, helped comfort the homeless in its community by making and giving away sleeping mats made of plastic yarn (plarn).

The team went to work experimenting with several different techniques. First, they started weaving the plarn by hand. However, the problem with that method was that you ended up having a mat that resembled the shape of an hourglass. After a few more trials, they were given the idea to try using PVC looms to help make it more easily transportable, lightweight, safer and an overall better-looking product.

Once they finalized their look, they did their first mat drop off at St. Matthews House, an organization that provides housing for homeless as well as a food kitchen for those they can't house.

"At the time we had four mats, and we

asked people to come up if they wanted one and A LOT more than four came up," said team member Oen Frost.

Coach Kristi Oen explained that this project has really allowed the kids to realize that not everyone has the same resources and opportunities as they do, and that they can put those resources to use to help others in need.

The best part is, the project keeps growing. Multiple groups are committing to making mats, including individual families from across America.

"The response to our project has been overwhelmingly positive and we are so happy to be able to continue it into the future," said Oen.

This project is a great way to help others in your community and it's so easy to do!

"It takes about 500 bags and an hour and a half with six kids," explained Coach Oen as



Plarn Mats at the Creativity Festival

PHOTO BY BRI GERKE/AMES CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

she pulled out one of the finished products. "It's super easy for a family to do."

People have signed up to help in Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania and more. Even though the Angel project is over, this is just the beginning and the 2018 Angels look forward to seeing this continue to grow.

If you're interested in creating plarn mats for your own community, visit [ody.kristioen.com](http://ody.kristioen.com) where you can sign up and receive supplemental materials, as well as a "how-to" video to help walk you through the building process.

Stop by the Creativity Festival Friday (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.) or Saturday (9 a.m. - Noon) and join the Angels in making a plarn mat! All mats made during World Finals will be donated to local homeless in Ames through the Emergency Residence Project.

## Recreation facilities on campus offer fun opportunities

### FRIDAY, MAY 25:

**9 a.m. to 6 p.m.** - State Gym and Rock Climbing Wall

**Noon to 5 p.m.** - State Gym Pool  
**Noon to 5 p.m.** - Memorial Union Underground

**2 p.m. to 5 p.m.** - Ames Furman Aquatic Center (don't forget to bring a towel!)

**9 p.m. to 11 p.m.** - Teen Program, Division 3 and 4, State Gym, Pool

### SATURDAY, MAY 26:

**9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** - State Gym and Rock Climbing Wall

**1 p.m. to 4 p.m.** State Gym Pool  
**Noon to 5 p.m.** - Memorial Union Underground

**1 p.m. to 8 p.m.** - Ames Furman Aquatic Center (don't forget to bring a towel!)

### \*FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER

Don't forget to check out the Ames Furman Aquatic Center! From campus, CyRide Aqua route departs from State Gym and is available Saturday to provide transportation to the aquatic center.

## Graduation Ceremony is tonight... have you found Graduation CY?

Scan the QR code and you'll find a full list of all the Cy's and where they're at in our community!



Graduation Cy

PHOTO BY AMES CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU