



MEMO TO PARENTS

To: Parents of Odyssey of the Mind World Finals Team Members

From: Sammy Micklus, Odyssey of the Mind Program Director

Congratulations! Your child will be participating in the largest and most historic creative problem-solving competition in the world. At the Odyssey of the Mind 2019 World Finals, thousands of volunteers and hundreds of University staff will be on hand to ensure the experience is fun, fair, and exciting. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- ✓ We will present an exciting experience but our top priority is ensuring your child's safety. Odyssey Officials are easily identified by their red tee shirts with "Official" imprinted on the back. University personnel appear throughout campus wearing "Staff" shirts. Please let your child know these are the people to approach if they have an emergency of any kind.
- ✓ We recommend that team members use a buddy system so they are never alone, especially at night. They should always have a charged phone or be with someone who does. If your child needs assistance they can go to any problem site and find Odyssey of the Mind or MSU Officials.
- ✓ Most important is that the coach and chaperones are aware of any health concerns regarding your child, especially allergies to watch for and medicines they take. The University will attempt to accommodate any special medical needs or diet restrictions if they know of them in advance. There is a place on the Registration Form for the coach to enter this information.
- ✓ A checklist for World Finals preparation has been provided in the registration packet and is available online at www.odysseyofthemind.com/wf2019. You can also find a comprehensive FAQ at this site. Please refer to both leading up to World Finals.
- ✓ Please read the Coaches Letter from MSU. It is in the packet and online. This letter describes the campus and services available.
- ✓ Pin trading is extremely popular at World Finals. Check on the availability of pins with your Association Director. It sounds odd to buy pins just to trade away, but it is a very popular activity at World Finals and provides a great opportunity to meet new people and make friends.
- ✓ The Opening Ceremonies and the Awards Ceremony will be broadcast online and our photo gallery will have images posted throughout the event. For family and friends who can be there for a day or two, there are local hotels nearby, and all performances, ceremonies and most other activities are free to attend.
- ✓ If your child is under 18, you must sign a **Medical Release Form** so that he/she may be treated in an emergency. Your team's coach has a copy of this form for you and it is available online. You should make two copies, one for the coach and one for your child to keep with them at all times just in case of emergency.

Creative Competitions, Inc. takes pride in presenting the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. The dedication of thousands of volunteers makes Odyssey of the Mind and World Finals possible. We are all committed to providing your child and their team a rewarding experience at the Odyssey of the Mind 2019 World Finals.