



# Odyssey of the Mind®

## Newsletter

Volume 40

Winter 2018

Number 2

## CELEBRATE CREATIVITY WITH ODYSSEY!

**T**here are now multiple opportunities to experience world-wide creativity, experience different cultures, and create new and lasting friendships through Odyssey of the Mind. This year there are three festivals around the globe celebrating Odyssey of the Mind and creative problem-solving!

The first and oldest is Eurofest, to be held April 27 – May 2 in Germany. Perfectly situated within a biosphere reserve on the banks of Lake Werbellin, Eurofest will be held at one of the largest youth camps: the EJB Werbellinsee. This exciting event will bring over 1,000 creative minds together from 16 different countries. This will be the 26<sup>th</sup> festival held.

It is an annual showcase of solutions by teams from across Europe and beyond. It is not a typical tournament, but a fun-filled festival where attendees show off their long-term solutions, practice spontaneous and make new friends from around the world. It's a true celebration of camaraderie and creativity!

Countries participating include Germany, France, Switzerland, Poland, Russia, Moldova, Ukraine, Hungary, Czech Republic, Romania, Kazakhstan, China, India, Togo, USA, and Slovakia. This year's motto is "My circus, my OMers." To learn more and register visit: [www.odysseyofthemind.eu](http://www.odysseyofthemind.eu) and be sure to follow along on Facebook or Instagram.

Another is Afrifest! The International School of Abididjan on the Ivory Coast is hosting its first festival ever. Here teams will showcase their solutions from this year's problems and take part in a Spontaneous problem. There will also be a Spirit of Africa problem

where teams will solve a problem specific to the continent. For this problem, new teams will be formed from attending members. This festival is open for Division I and II teams from around the world. The festival will be held from April 13 – 17.

The organizer of the festival believes that starting small will help to grow the program and make the festival an annual event, "It has been a dream of mine to bring the Odyssey of the Mind to Africa, where our students here can benefit from such a wonderful program that promotes higher level thinking," said organizer Andrea Morris.

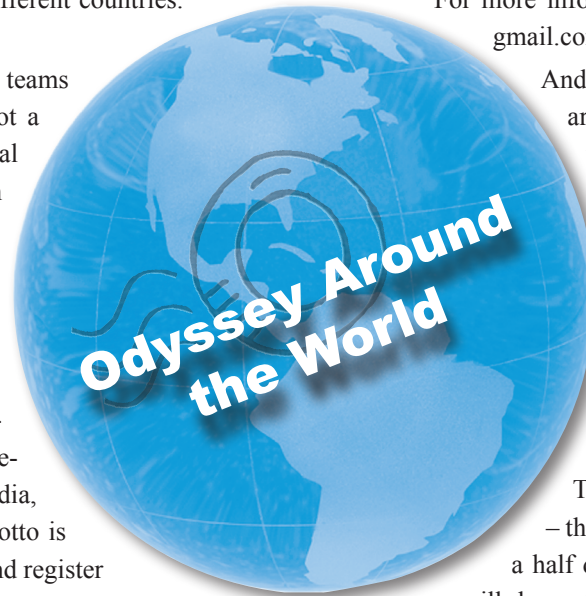
For more information email Andrea: [andrmorris40@gmail.com](mailto:andrmorris40@gmail.com).

And the third celebration of creativity around the world is the Asia Pacific Festival to be held in Shanghai, the largest city in China, from August 10-15. At this festival members from China and different countries will be mixed to form new teams to complete Odyssey challenges. There will be a problem released on site, with vouchers for teams to "buy" materials to use in solutions. All props will be made on site.

There will be one mini long-term problem – the newly formed teams will have two and a half days to solve it. On the final day teams will show off their solutions. There will also be three spontaneous problems on competition day. Of course, there will be a carnival where teams can experience traditional Chinese experiences such as calligraphy, painting, Tai Chi, tea ceremonies, and more. For more information email: [omchina@163.com](mailto:omchina@163.com).

There are plenty of opportunities for teams to come together as a world-wide family to learn, experience, and solve problems together! Last year, several teams from the U.S. traveled to EuroFest in Belarus and had a great time representing the country and stretching their creative muscles while extending their OotM family across the world. We hope with the addition of two more festivals that teams will have an even bigger chance for cultural exchange.

And don't forget the biggest creative celebration happening May 23-26 at Iowa State University — World Finals!



### *Also in this issue...*

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## Problem Clarifications Reminder

*Continue to stay up-to-date throughout the year and submit clarifications by visiting:*  
[www.odysseyofthemind.com/clarifications](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com/clarifications)

**Remember:** The problem clarification system is not intended to replace reading the problem and the program guide. Please reread both before submitting a clarification. **The deadline for submitting a clarification is February 15, 2018. Please continue to check clarifications after the deadline and until your tournament.**

Do not submit a clarification that asks: (1) if an idea is creative or if one idea would receive more score than another. (No comment regarding subjective scoring will be provided); (2) where the judges or the audience will be during the performance (that is a question for your Tournament Director); (3) to confirm the wording of the problem; (4) if something may be different from an aspect that is specifically required (for example, if the problem requires 1/8" wood for a part, you are not allowed to use 1/16" wood for that required part).



### Great Minds

#### FAMOUS, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN INVENTOR Hedy Lamarr, 1914 – 2000

The ability to see not-so-obvious connections often leads inventors to that “lightbulb moment” that becomes the beginning of an invention. This is exactly how the basis for wireless communication came about – the combination of player pianos and radio waves! The idea behind this technology was created by a renowned film star, actress Hedy Lamarr. Although Lamarr was famous on screen, her true interest was invention. She held several patents, but her call to fame in the scientific community is with spread-spectrum technology – the basis for wireless communication between devices.

**Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler** was an Austrian-born American film actress and inventor who wanted to make a difference in her new country during World War II. She had an idea of creating a radio guidance system that used frequency-hopping technology that could not be tracked or jammed. After meeting **George Antheil**, a composer and pianist, the two began to brainstorm a way to make her idea a reality – and it was Antheil’s knowledge of player pianos that lit the spark.

While a message was being sent, both the transmitter and the receiver would simultaneously change radio frequencies according to a special code. At each end of the transmission, identical slotted paper rolls, like those used on player pianos, sent the code according to a pattern of slots. Just as a player piano held and

changed notes at different times to make a melody, their invention held and changed radio frequencies to make an unbreakable code.

With an inventive mind that thrived on problem-solving, actress Lamarr shared the habits of creative thinking that we recognize in inventors. Her biographer Richard Rhodes confirmed that Lamarr “invented to challenge and amuse herself and to bring order to a world she thought chaotic.”

Lamar was seriously considering quitting acting and going to Washington, D.C. to offer her services to the newly established Inventors’ Council, but instead became involved in creating the device with Antheil. The two received a patent on August 11, 1942, for their invention of a classified communication system that would be beneficial for communicating on submarines.

She donated the patent to the US Military in hopes they would adopt the technology. The US Navy did eventually use it in the 1960s, but it was after the patent had expired. The inventors were forgotten for a time, but did get recognition more recently as their work became the basis for much modern technology.

Since Lamarr and Antheil’s groundbreaking work in frequency hopping, many other applications of spread spectrum technology—the general term for wireless communications using variable signals—have arisen, including Bluetooth, wi-fi, and GPS.

This work led to their eventual induction into the **National Inventors Hall of Fame** in 2014. They also received several awards including the 1997 **Pioneer Award** from the Electronic Frontier Foundation for contributions to the wireless communication field, and the **Bulbie Gnass Spirit of Achievement Bronze Award**, given to individuals whose creative lifetime achievements in the arts, sciences, business, or invention fields have significantly contributed to society.

So while the star was in and out of the spotlight during her lifetime, her role in how we communicate today is ever-present.

# Odyssey Angels: The Final Step

The response to the Odyssey Angels program has grown even more as it enters its 6<sup>th</sup> year. Creative ideas have been explored, friendships forged, and many lives and neighborhoods improved. There were a lot of great ideas presented during this year's Odyssey Angel enrollment.

Groups from around the world are participating -- from India, Indonesia, the U.S. and beyond. They are helping kids with disabilities, struggling families, building community gardens, and more. We consider everyone an angel that chose to enroll and help their community. One of the outstanding groups will be selected to attend World Finals. Here are the next steps to completing the Odyssey Angel program for this year.

If you have enrolled in the program by completing the online enrollment form, you will be sent a follow-up email that contains the "Progress Report" form for your group.

A representative can fill it out and return it any time before the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. You must return it by this time in order to be eligible to attend World Finals where you can present your proj-

ect. It simply asks you to update us on your project. We require a reference from the community member(s) you are helping. Keep in mind that your project can be ongoing. You don't have to stop because of the deadline.

Also, remember that you do not have to fill out the form as soon as you receive it. You should send it when you feel it is the best time to have your work evaluated, as long as it is submitted before April 1st.

Then, the Odyssey Angels panel will have the difficult task of selecting just one group to attend World Finals to represent the Angels. This group will be notified by Odyssey Angels Director Cheryl Micklus and the results will be posted to the Odyssey Angels web site.

There are so many generous and creative entries! Although only one group can present at World Finals, many communities around the world benefit — they are the true winners!

Again, we thank the groups for their hard work and look forward to reading about all the good that has been done in those progress reports!

## LEARN MORE: [www.odysseyangels.org](http://www.odysseyangels.org)

*Last year's winning Odyssey Angels team was Hope Heroes from Monterrey, Mexico. Their project centered on helping residents of a local retirement home. Not only did the team spend a lot of important quality time at the residence, they also re-designed and built popular board games with disabilities in mind. They picked their favorite games and made them shorter, simpler to play, and even built new game pieces so that they were larger and easier to see and hold. By making the games more accessible to the seniors, Hope Heroes could spend time playing games and making connections with people that most needed it in their community.*



**WANT TO TRY FOR WF 2019?**

Becoming an Odyssey Angel is simple. Start looking for neighbors in need. Use your creative problem-solving skills to help — then tell us how you did it. Be sure to check out the website & past winners to get ideas for your Odyssey Angel projects! As with all things Odyssey -- creativity is key!



Enrollment for 2018-19 begins **July 1, 2018**

# Official OOTM

## SOUVENIRS

**HOODIE SWEATSHIRT:** This is a 50/50 cotton/polyester Fleece Pullover Hoodie. It comes in a nice dark heather gray and has a fun Odyssey of the Mind design imprinted on the front that describes all of our OotM pioneering minds. Adult sizes Youth XL, S, M, L, XL, \*\*XXL. \$40

**ODYSSEY TEE:** This comfortable tee is a combed 50/50 mix of cotton and polyester with a tear away tag. It has a fun blue OMER design on the front that stands out on this heathered gray shirt. Adult sizes XS, S, M, L, XL & XXL. \$15

**GIRLS TEE:** This heathered watermelon tee is a 50/50 combed ring-spun cotton and polyester mix. It has a fun and creative Odyssey design on the front that includes "I'd Rather Be Solving Problems." Adult sizes XS, S, M, L, XL & XXL. \$15

**OMER ROBOT PIN:** Here is one of our most popular pins. An Omer robot has entered into our galaxy-surely ready for some out-of-this-word creativity! The pin is a 1 1/2" enamel pin. \$4

**2018 COACH PIN:** Turn your coach into an Odyssey emoji! This fun pin lets everyone know how great Odyssey coaches are! Pin is 1 1/2" \$4

**OMER SPINNER PIN:** In this fun design you can spin the wheel to see what emoji OMER is feeling like in this 1 1/2" enamel pin. It also has Odyssey of the Mind imprinted on the spinner portion of this colorful pin. \$7

**PROBLEM PINS:** Teams, coaches, parents, and judges can show off their favorite problems by wearing these lightweight colorful photo art pins. This year's pin designs revolve around the names of each problem, so each one gets its own special theme, including Spontaneous! Get your own problem pin or get the whole set which includes Primary, Problems 1 through 5, and Spontaneous: \$3 per pin/\$15 per set of 7



Find the entire line of souvenirs (in color): [www.odysseyofthemind.com/shop](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com/shop)

# Odyssey of the Mind Product Order Form

## Support Materials

- \_\_\_ packs of **Balsa Wood** (premium grade AAA 36"x1/8"x1/8") @ \$25 per 50 pieces + \$15 S&H\*/6 packs....
- \_\_\_ **Lots of Problems... and Tips to Make you More Creative** @ \$17 *tips on problem-solving*.....
- \_\_\_ **The Spirit of Creativity** @ \$15 *Anecdotes about Odyssey of the Mind, written by Dr. Sam* .....
- \_\_\_ **A Creative Experience DVD** @ \$9.95 *Odyssey of the Mind promotional DVD* .....
- \_\_\_ **Creative Interaction!** @ \$17 *Includes tips on building effective teams*.....
- \_\_\_ **Applying Your Creativity** @ \$15 *Discusses different types of human creativity* .....
- \_\_\_ **Spontaneous Combustion II** @ \$8 *Booklet of problems and tips*.....
- \_\_\_ **Basics Spontaneous Kit** @ \$35 *Problems and all the supplies needed to practice* .....
- \_\_\_ **Basics Spontaneous Kit Refill Pack** @ \$20 *All the supplies needed to practice with the Basics kit* .....
- \_\_\_ **Advanced Spontaneous Kit** @ \$40 *Problems and all the supplies needed to practice at the next level* .....
- \_\_\_ **Odyssey of the Mind Program Guide** @ \$7.50 (one is included with a membership) .....

## Souvenirs & Pins

- \_\_\_ \*Hoodie Sweatshirt @ \$40 \_\_\_ YXL \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL\*\* .....
- \_\_\_ Odyssey Tee @ \$15 \_\_\_ XS \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL .....
- \_\_\_ GirlsTee @ \$15.....
- \_\_\_ 2018 Coach Pin @ \$4:.....
- \_\_\_ OMER Robot Pin @ \$4:.....
- \_\_\_ OMER Spinner Pin @ \$7.....
- \_\_\_ Sets of Problem Pins (Primary, Problems 1 - 5 & Spontaneous) @ \$15.....
- \_\_\_ Any of the following pins @ \$3 (Specify number of each): .....
- \_\_\_ Problem 1 \_\_\_ Problem 2 \_\_\_ Problem 3 \_\_\_ Problem 4 \_\_\_ Problem 5
- \_\_\_ Primary \_\_\_ Spontaneous

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

S&H \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spend \$60 or more and get free Shipping & Handling!** Excludes Balsa. Under \$60 or more than 6 balsa bundles, contact our shipping dept. to get your S&H quote: michael@odysseyofthemind.com. Add \$2 for each XXL.

### Payment Methods (Sorry we do not accept phone orders.)

- **U.S. Mail:** Send this completed form along with a check or Purchase Order, payable to CCI, or with your credit card info to:  
**CCI: 406 Ganttown Road Sewell, NJ 08080**
- **FAX:** Send this form along with a copy of your Purchase Order or credit card information and fax to (856) 256.2798.
- **Online:** Pay by credit card at [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com).

\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_ Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ CSV \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Shipping Address (For UPS Delivery)

Is this a residence? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_



## Odyssey of the Mind

c/o Creative Competitions, Inc.  
406 Ganttown Road • Sewell, NJ • 08080  
[www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com)

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Hey Teams,  
Always remember the importance of  
working together!

Your friend,  
**OMER**

The *Odyssey of the Mind Newsletter* is published by Creative Competitions, Inc.

## Message from OdysseyAlumni



Interested in staying connected with Odyssey of the Mind after competing or graduating? Join the OdysseyAlumni! We have a new platform for connecting with alumni wherever you live, and

we're excited to offer many opportunities for alumni to connect with each other and help continue the Odyssey tradition through volunteering and judging.

Check out [odysseyalumni.org](http://odysseyalumni.org) for more info.

## Odyssey Anniversaries

Many thanks to Associations celebrating an Odyssey anniversary! We are now entering the 40-year mark in association anniversaries! Isn't it amazing to know that there are now so many generations of Odyssey families involved in the program? Participants in these associations are sure to be in for an extra treat! All associations should be proud of all the students they are helping -- through past years and far into the future!

## Scholarship Recipient

The Wayne K Memorial Scholarship was established for a Division IV team member displaying the passion, creativity and growth Wayne so greatly encouraged and admired. To be considered for the \$1,111 scholarship, team members must be a current Division IV competitor, and enrolled at a college, university or technical school in good standing.



*Linda Freehofer  
being awarded  
the second Wayne  
Kehrli memorial  
scholarship at the  
2017 WF Awards  
Ceremony. Pictured  
with Wayne's family.*

*Learn more:*

[www.cou.org](http://www.cou.org)

## Congrats New Jersey to 40 years of Odyssey!

There are two states celebrating 35<sup>th</sup> anniversaries:

**COLORADO • GEORGIA**