



Odyssey of the Mind®

Newsletter

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CELEBRATE CREATIVITY WITH ODYSSEY!

Odyssey of the Mind tournaments are all celebrations—where else can you experience anything like them? World Finals is the ultimate worldwide celebration showing off the wonderful ideas from students around the world, but this year it will be extra special. This will be the 40th Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, which means there have been about 760 World Champions of creativity!

It has grown from a tournament with about 12 schools from across the US to the largest creative problem solving competition in the world. Almost 800 teams will compete over three fun-filled days at Michigan State University. There will be teams from across the US and around 13 other countries. Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland are just a few that make a regular appearance.

While the size of WF has grown over

There are also other opportunities to experience worldwide creativity, different cultures, and create new and lasting friendships through Odyssey of the Mind. There are several international festivals in the works that celebrate Odyssey of the Mind and creative problem-solving!

For almost 30 years Eurofest has provided a great opportunity for teams to show off OotM solutions and meet new people. This year it will be held April 25 – 30 in St. Petersburg, Russia, which is known as the cultural capital of Russia. This will be the 27th festival held.

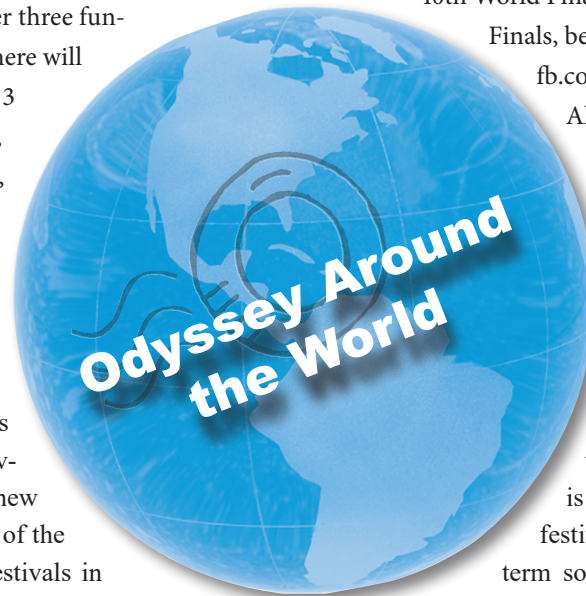
the years, one thing remains the same—the program wouldn't exist without the countless volunteers that make it possible each year. There are over 450 volunteer officials at World Finals now compared to the 40 at the first — and each one is essential for the event to be a success. Of course, the backbone of the event are the coaches who work all year long helping kids explore their imaginations and making their creative ideas a reality.

Over the next few months be on the look out for fun updates on 40th World Finals events. Even if you do not attend World

Finals, be sure to follow along on social media:

fb.com/odysseyhq and on twitter @odysseyhq.

All the evening events are shown live as well on www.odysseyofthemind.com. You will see Dr. Sam and OMER take the stage once again to celebrate all you've accomplished all year, no matter where you placed in competition.



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 showcase their long-term solutions, practice spontaneous and make new friends from around the world. It's a true celebra-

tion of camaraderie and creativity! Aside from the showcase, there will be a Mixed-Team Problem where teams from three different countries solve a special problem and present on the final day of the festival. Other fun activities include the International Fair and Cultural Festival.

Countries participating include Belarus, Germany, France, Switzerland, Poland, Moldova, Ukraine, Hungary, Czech Republic, Romania, Kazakhstan, China, India, Togo, USA, and more. If you want to participate visit the website for more information:

<http://odysseyofthemind.ru/eurofest2019/>

Other festivals include Afrifest at the International School of Abidjan on the Ivory Coast and the Asia Pacific Festival to be held in Shanghai. We hope with the addition of two more festivals that teams will have an even bigger chance for cultural exchange.

Also in this issue...

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 2. Reminders | 4. OotM Souvenirs |
| 2. Great Minds | 5. Souvenir Order Form |
| 3. Odyssey Angels Progress Report | 6. Odyssey News |



Problem Clarifications Reminder

Continue to stay up-to-date for each level of tournament that you attend by visiting:

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 was February 15, 2019. Please continue to check clarifications after the deadline and until the day of your tournament. If you advance it is important to continue to check all the way until World Finals.** If you have a question about your solution, contact your Association Director.



*Great
Minds*

CHANGING THE FACE OF MEDICINE Dr. Mary Walker, 1832 – 1919

Dr. Mary Walker changed the face of medicine during the US Civil War. She could not be deterred from opposing sides in her quest to save lives during the war, even when it would have been easier to give up. Walker was a surgeon, a POW and possibly a spy -- and out of the about 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients, she is the only woman to receive one. She kept this focus going throughout her life as she worked to advance women's rights in the medical field and beyond.

Walker was born in Oswego, New York in 1832. Her parents encouraged their five daughters to pursue an education, which was rare at the time. Walker embraced getting an education, and in 1855 graduated as a medical doctor from Syracuse Medical College. She was the second woman to graduate from this college.

She had her own private practice for a few years. When the American Civil War broke out in 1861, she wanted to join the army as a surgeon but wasn't allowed because of her gender. Because of her credentials, she didn't want to be a nurse, either, so she found other ways to help.

Walker worked for free at the temporary hospital set up at the U.S. Patent Office in Washington, D.C. She also organized the Women's Relief Organization to help the families of the wounded who came to visit them at local hospitals.

In 1862, Walker moved to Virginia, treating the wounded at field hospitals throughout the state. In 1863, her medical credentials were finally accepted by the Union Army and she was appointed as a War Department surgeon, becoming the first female surgeon in Army history. Walker was captured in April 1864 by the South and held as a prisoner of war for about four months. She and other doctors were eventually exchanged for Confederate medical officers. According to the National Library of Medicine, it was rumored that Walker had been captured intentionally so she could spy for the North, but there is little evidence to support that claim.

Not long after being released by the Confederates, Walker returned to medicine as an assigned medical director at a hospital for women prisoners and was awarded a Medal of Honor for her service by President Andrew Johnson. When standards for the Medal of Honor were revised in 1910, Walker's medal was one of 900 taken away. Her efforts as an army surgeon and time spent as a POW did not qualify for the award because she was a civilian. However, she refused to give the medal back and wore it for the rest of her life. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter restored the honor thanks to efforts made by her family.

Aside from her wartime efforts, Walker was also an outspoken advocate for women's rights. Not only did she fight to become a respected doctor and an army surgeon, but she also argued for the right to wear clothing that enabled better mobility. Walker chose to wear a modified uniform throughout the war. It was a dress-and-trouser combination that was very unpopular, but she wore it anyway. She eventually switched to men's clothes, even being arrested for impersonating a man. She argued that she was given special permission by the government to dress that way as part of her defense.

Through many different distractions Walker spent her life standing up for women's rights and saving lives—no matter what society argued was improper.

Odyssey Angels: The Final Step

The response to the Odyssey Angels program has grown even more as it enters its 6th 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 Canada, India, Mexico, 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 1st 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

Last year's winning Odyssey Angels team was Big Cypress Elementary from Naples, FL. This group helped to provide comfort to the local homeless community by creating and giving away sleeping mats. They used many Odyssey skills —creative problem-solving, repurposing trash items, independent study, improving an existing idea, teamwork, and much more --- to help the homeless population. The team learned how to make "plarn"—strips of plastic bags that are weaved together to create the mats. Each mat uses over 500 plastic bags that might otherwise be discarded. They also trained other groups to help spread their project throughout the community and beyond!



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!

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: Enrollment for 2019-20 begins July 1, 2019 :
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Official OOTM Souvenirs

HOODIE SWEATSHIRT: This is a 50/50 cotton/polyester Fleece Pullover Hoodie. It comes in charcoal gray and has a fun green and white Odyssey of the Mind design imprinted on the front. Adult sizes Youth XL, S, M, L, XL, **XXL. **\$45**

ODYSSEY TEE: This comfortable designer tee is a 50/25/25 mix of cotton, polyester, and rayon. The fun red and gray Odyssey design on the front really stands out on this forest black shirt. Adult sizes XS, S, M, L, XL & XXL. **\$20**

GIRLS TEE: This sky blue tee is 100% cotton and features a fun design with “Endless Creativity” imprinted on the front in deep blue. Adult sizes XS, S, M, L, XL & XXL. **\$20**

2019 PARENT PIN: Parents love pins too! Show your appreciation for their support by gifting them this 1 1/2” enamel pin created just for them. **\$4**

2019 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

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** @ \$15 *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* _____
- ___ **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 supplies needed to practice with the Basics kit* _____
- ___ **Advanced Spontaneous Kit** @ \$40 *Problems and all the supplies needed to practice at the next level* _____
- ___ **Advanced Spontaneous Kit Refill Pack** @ \$25 *All supplies needed to practice with the Advanced kit* . _____
- ___ **Odyssey of the Mind Program Guide** @ \$7.50 (one is included with a membership) _____

Souvenirs & Pins

- ___ *Hoodie Sweatshirt @ \$45 ___ YXL ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL** _____
- ___ Odyssey Tee @ \$20 ___ XS ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL _____
- ___ GirlsTee @ \$20 _____
- ___ 2019 Coach Pin @ \$4:..... _____
- ___ OMER Parent 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:** Order and pay by credit card online at:
www.odysseyofthemind.com.

Shipping Address (For UPS Delivery)

Is this a residence? _____ yes _____ no

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____

Zip _____ Country _____

Phone # _____



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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.

Odyssey Anniversaries

Many thanks to Associations celebrating an Odyssey anniversary! We are now into 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!

Perhaps even more exciting, there are new associations celebrating their first anniversaries! All associations should be proud of all the students they are helping -- through past years and far into the future!

Congrats New York to 40 years of Odyssey!

West Virginia and Florida will be celebrating 35 years this year at their tournaments!

Also congrats to SoCal Odyssey of the Mind, it's celebrating its first year as an association!

Division IV Team Member?

Apply for a scholarship!

The Wayne Kehrl 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.

Learn more and apply:
www.cou.org.



Desiderio Pilla from the University of Delaware being awarded the third Wayne Kehrl Memorial scholarship at the 2018 WF Awards Ceremony. Pictured with Wayne's family.

Become an Odyssey Alumni!

Interested in staying connected with OotM after competing or graduating? Join the OdysseyAlumni! Connect with alumni wherever you live, there's lots of opportunity to connect with others and help continue the Odyssey tradition through volunteering and judging.

Learn more: odysseyalumni.org

