

**Odyssey of the Mind  
Parents Contract**

**NAME OF STUDENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

I understand and agree to the following conditions of participation of my child in the Odyssey of the Mind Program:

- I understand and will support the Odyssey of the Mind “No Outside Assistance” rule.
- I am responsible for my child’s safety. My child’s school supports the parents in organizing this program. However, full responsibility for child safety is the responsibility of each child’s parents/guardians as it is in soccer, little league and scouts.
- I assure my child’s team that we will arrange our family calendar so that she/he can be available to attend the regional tournament (and state tournament if qualified).
- I am willing to play an active role in supporting the team as needed by the coach.
- Each member of the team shares the costs: materials, team registration, other incidentals such as T-shirts and snacks.

I can help support the team as:

- \_\_\_\_\_ A coach or co-coach (including attending a coach’s training session.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Creating spontaneous problems or assisting with spontaneous practice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Being a volunteer door monitor at the tournament(s) (2 hours scheduled during a time your child is not performing).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Serving as a judge or helping recruit a tournament judge (each team must supply one person who will attend judges training and work at the tournament as a judge).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Serving as team snack organizer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Helping drive for team field trips and shopping trips
- \_\_\_\_\_ Providing prop transportation to the tournament(s) in my van/SUV.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN  
SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **REMINDERS FOR PARENTS**

**NO OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE:** Parents and supporters may act as tutors or instructors, but advise them that they may not suggest to the team members how to solve the problem. They might mean well, but could cost the team an outside assistance penalty. If a team arrives at a solution that you feel is beyond their capability (for example, requires the use of power tools you don't feel they can use safely) then they must find another solution they can perform themselves.

On tournament day, parents must remember that team members have been working 5-6 months to prepare for the competition. The tournament is when teams get to present their problem solutions to the judges. Parents must refrain from making suggestions (Why don't you...?), helping (doing hair, makeup, etc.), touching (This needs...), etc. Your team can receive outside assistance penalties if a judge or tournament officials observes any of these things.

**BE EARLY FOR THE LONG TERM PERFORMANCE** – Teams receive a schedule of their performance time well before the tournament date. Make sure all family and friends are aware of this time. As a courtesy to the performing team, **NO ONE** may enter or exit the Long Term performance area once the judges close the doors. During the competition day, some sites may run behind schedule, but they will never run ahead to insure you can see your child's performance. Make sure you allow plenty of time to locate the performance room. As a reminder, no one but team members are allowed in the spontaneous competition.

**DURING THE PERFORMANCE** – While attending a performance, be an involved audience member by reacting to the performance, but do not do anything that could be perceived as outside assistance. Don't prompt lines, make hand gestures, etc. The longest 8 minutes of your life may occur if some part of the teams solutions does not work. When the performance is over and the judges have finished talking with the team, parents may, at the coach's request, help move everything from the performance area.

**FOLLOW THE TEAM'S EXAMPLE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** – Remember that the tournament officials, judges and volunteers have all given up many hours of their time to provide a positive Odyssey of the Mind experience for your child. While rare, teams can be penalized for the unsportsmanlike actions of parents or others associated with the team.

Only coaches are authorized to question judges concerning the team's performance and scores. Other tournament related questions should be addressed to the tournament director.

**ENCOURAGEMENT** - Competition day can be a hectic, trying day. Your main job is to encourage your child. Keep comments positive and have FUN!!

## WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP?

1. Ask team members about their progress.
2. Learn and practice spontaneous with team members.
3. Volunteer to work a two hour shift at a competition.
4. Recruit judges/volunteers to work at a competition.
5. Be supportive without giving suggestions for the problem solution.
6. Help with fund raising, as needed.
7. Teach a skill, at the team's request.
8. Provide transportation for team members.
9. Transport items to and from practice or tournaments.
10. Provide munchies at practices.
11. Help supervise on field trips or at competitions.
12. Make phone calls for the coach, as needed.
13. Remember that competition is a working time for team members and coaches.
14. Clear the stage after the Long Term performance at the competition – after the judges finish talking with team members.
15. Get the word out about Odyssey of the Mind!!!