

## What is Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They also prepare for a spontaneous part of the competition where they have to think on their feet and answer or make a solution on site. They then bring their solutions and skills to the main competition on the local, state, and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program. Odyssey of the Mind is meeting [STEM and Common Core](#), and 21st Century Skills through Creative Problem Solving.

The process begins with registering your kids via the [florispta.org](http://florispta.org) website (no fees at this time) while indicating problem interest and volunteer commitment. The parent can volunteer to be a coach (2-3 hrs per week), co-coach (same) or judge (1 day of duty and 1 day training) in order of time commitment. The team selection is led by coach for the most, he or she can select a majority of team if possible or we backfill with similar grade kids who have registered on a first come basis. The number of teams formed is usually limited by number of parents volunteering for coach roles. Without a coach we cannot form teams, and so we give the coach leeway in team selection and planning. The other 6 sets of parents pitch in various tasks every week, like taking turns preparing for few spontaneous problems every week or shopping for materials. We encourage phone based social group chats to expedite coordinating.

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| Initial Registration  | September 25th through October 10th at <a href="http://florispta.org">florispta.org</a> |
| Team Formation (by PTA)   | October 17 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Coaches Training ( <a href="http://novasouth.org">novasouth.org</a> ) | November 10th   |
| Tournament Date   | March 16 <sup>th</sup> 2019   |

I would like to encourage parents to volunteer to be a coach; it is an easy role that starts with 6 hrs. training. The training given by regional OOTM organization (<http://novasouth.org/>) is comprehensive 6hr course at a local school on the general aspects and specific aspects if you know which problem you want. Being coach or co-coach is a lot about scheduling meetings at one of parents place and ensuring discipline and encouraging results. It is the easy way to guarantee slot for your kids otherwise it is first come first serve in regular registration. All the problems are 2-part with a spontaneous component that kids train to do or answer on the spot and a long term for which results are displayed or performed.