

Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem solving competition

- 4-7 person teams
- Long term problem solution presented as an 8 minute skit
- Tournament includes a spontaneous problem & points for style

Teams do one of the following long term types problems

1. Vehicle
2. Technical (think robots or other things that have to do something)
3. Classics
4. Structures (balsa wood structures that hold weight)
5. Theatrical

Note: only 1-2 teams can do each problem.

Schedule

Summer:

Consider coaching - You don't have to have art or technical skills
Start getting a group together to form a team

Sept/Oct:

Problems are chosen (team may not get their first choice)
Teams get started working on their problem
Most teams meet once a week

Jan/Feb:

Teams may start having additional meetings

End of Feb/Early March:

Regional tournament - An all day event usually at Concord High School

How to form a team

- The best way to be on a team is to form one yourself
- Start chatting with other families that are interested
- Good to have some diversity of skills and interests on a team and not just best friends
- There are some existing teams, but they will have very few open spots

Is it right for your family?

- Out of the box thinking, working with others, building, art, tinkering skills
- It can get quite busy in Jan & Feb
- Have to be able to commit for the season. Dropping out hurts the whole team (replacement team members are not allowed)

Forming teams

To have enough teams for all interested kids, **we need coaches**

Coaching

- Coaches do not need to have any special skills
- Coaches provide the structure and the schedule but are NOT allowed to help
- Being a coach gives you the ability to set the schedule and requirements for the team

Team requirements

- Teams need a place to work
 - Most meetings take place in a team members home
 - A garage or outdoor space for building is handy
 - Early season meetings can be at school, one LES team meets at a church
 - Zoom also works well for brainstorming meetings
- Judge for the day of the tournament
- 2 hour volunteer at tournament
- Engaged parents providing help with snacks, spontaneous problems and supply runs
- Kids that are engaged and respect the work space

Considerations when joining/forming a team

- Does the practice schedule work for your family? It's hard when kids miss a lot
- Do your goals match the team's?
 - Some teams want to win, others are more focused on the process
- Does the time commitment work for your family?
 - Some teams are co-op style and want a lot of parent involvement, others are mainly run by one or two coaches (Though all teams require some parent help)
- If a team member leaves after the season starts, they can't be replaced. Make sure the team is a good fit for your child before you commit.

Process for joining/forming a team

- If you want to join a team fill out this form <https://forms.gle/4M46YcvK2DhyoTzp7>
- Or email Kathi Dente for more info