



MEMO

To: Parents of Odyssey of the Mind World Finals Team Members

From: Carole Micklus, Odyssey of the Mind World Finals Tournament Director

Congratulations! Your child has the opportunity to participate in the Odyssey of the Mind 2008 World Finals. We strive to make it a great experience for everyone. However, we need your help. Following is some information that will be useful for you to know:

- ✓ Ask your child to call you and give you a specific telephone number where he/she can be reached after settling into his/her room. Since lines are often very busy, you may want to arrange a phone chain for your child's team. You should make pre-arrangements with the coach regarding communications with your child. Cell phones may not work in many of the buildings.
- ✓ Make sure you pack all necessary medicine, toiletries, and clothing for your child. The university pool will be open so a bathing suit is appropriate. Make sure your child has some type of rain gear as well. It is helpful to have all items marked with your child's name. Also, make sure your coach and chaperons know anything necessary about your child's health or eating/living habits. The university will attempt to accommodate any special needs regarding medical or diet if they know of them in advance. There is a place on the Registration Form for your coach to note this information.
- ✓ Pin trading is a popular form of recreation at World Finals. Check on the availability of pins with your association. Official World Finals pins, as well as other World Finals souvenirs, will be on sale at the event. Teams received a pre-order form in this packet that allows participants to order items in advance to be sure to get preferred item(s).
- ✓ Participants who must be disciplined by Odyssey of the Mind officials or University of Maryland personnel may be removed from campus and returned home at the team's expense. Coaches and chaperons are responsible for team behavior. There will be parties on Tuesday evening for participants. The pre-teen and teen parties will have university chaperons. An authorized adult must pick up any team member who wishes to leave the party before its conclusion. The campus will be patrolled 24 hours a day and dorms will have on-duty personnel 24 hours a day as well.
- ✓ Although Odyssey of the Mind participants are among the most honest folks around, it is prudent to send only those valuables that your child needs -- camera, watch, etc. Advise your child that he/she should lock valuables in his/her room when not carrying them. Rooms should always be locked when no one is present, even if just going to the bathroom. Children should always travel in groups or pairs when traveling around campus. If something should be lost, check at the lost and found, located at the OotM information desk.
- ✓ If your child is under 18, you must sign a **Medical Release Form** so that he/she may be treated in an emergency. Your team's coach has a copy of this form for you. It should be brought to campus with the team so that it is readily available should an emergency occur. The team member should also keep a copy with him/her. It is always advisable to let the coach know where you can be reached in an emergency as well.

If you will be going to World Finals with your child's team:

- ✓ Please remember that you may not assist team members in any part of their problem solution, including assembling or repairing props, fixing hair, or applying makeup. You may help carry their props to and from storage areas and competition sites and to the staging areas.
- ✓ Because we focus on the participating children, we have reserved seats for all team members and their coaches in the lower level sections of Comcast Arena for the Opening and Awards Ceremonies. Only team members and coaches will be given tickets for this reserved seating. Supporters will require a ticket in order to attend the Opening and the Awards Ceremonies that allows them to sit in general seating. You may obtain tickets for the Opening Ceremony on Saturday at the Odyssey Information Booth at Stamp Union. Tickets will be available for the Awards Ceremony on Tuesday at the same location. Tickets are free and everyone is welcome to attend. Each person must pick up their own ticket for the Opening and Awards Ceremonies. We appreciate your cooperation. Ushers will be on duty at Comcast Arena to assist you with seating.
- ✓ There is a Coaches and Officials Party on Tuesday evening. It is a ticketed event open only to those over age 21. Each team receives two complimentary tickets. There are a limited number of tickets available for purchase to this party at the Odyssey of the Mind souvenir stations.

World Finals will bring together children from many different countries in a spirit of friendship and friendly competition. Out of the 800+ teams that are expected to participate, only 19 will become World Champions, but every participant is a winner just by being on an Odyssey of the Mind team. We hope your child has had a rewarding experience in Odyssey of the Mind throughout the year and has a wonderful time at the Odyssey of the Mind 2008 World Finals.