

Dear Odyssey of the Mind Coach,

Congratulations to you and your team on an outstanding performance. We are proud to host your team during the Odyssey of the Mind 2008 World Finals held at the University of Maryland, College Park. We are proud to be returning to UM this year for the 7th time.

We at Creative Competitions support your efforts to provide an outlet for children to express their creativity. It is impossible to put into words the thanks that every coach deserves. The value in the long hours and hard work you have dedicated to your team is evident in each team member's enthusiasm. While at World Finals you will represent the tens of thousands of dedicated people who coached this year so kids could have this wonderful experience.

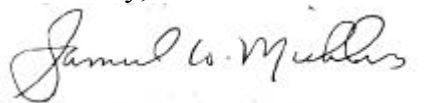
There will be more than 400 volunteers and officials on campus to judge and to help the 800+ teams that are expected to participate. Odyssey officials will be wearing red "officials" t-shirts. The University has staff posted throughout campus to help you find your way around. Your kids will make lots of friends from all over the world. Such a large competition can be intimidating, but remind the kids to relax, do their best, and to have fun.

Be sure to visit the Creativity Festival and to get your complimentary team photo. It's also a place for kids to have fun and forget about competition for a while. NASA will also have a booth full of interesting materials there. Check the Odyssey WF web site for updates on other fun activities available (www.odysseyofthemind.com/wf2008).

If you have never been to World Finals, I suggest you contact your Association Director to learn about pin trading. It is extremely popular and the kids love it. They trade pins and make friends. Be sure to read the tips on pin trading enclosed in this packet.

While you dedicate your valuable time organizing paperwork, raising funds, and pulling out some hair, remember that you are providing your team members with memories, friendships, and skills that will last a lifetime. The only way to really comprehend Odyssey of the Mind World Finals is to experience it firsthand. I look forward to seeing you in College Park. With regards, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Samuel W. Micklus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line to its right.

Samuel W. Micklus
Program Director