

Who says **Creativity** can't be learned?

## Come join us for an Odyssey of the Mind!



### Important Dates

**September 15**

OotM Information Night  
Medea Creek MS Gym  
7:00-9:00pm

**October 3**

Coaches Training  
Oak View High School  
Room 104  
10:00am-12:30pm

**November 1**

Team registration deadline  
[FriendsOfOakParkSchools.org](http://FriendsOfOakParkSchools.org)

**February 20**

Judges Training  
All Day

**February 27**

LA Basin, Regional  
Tournament

**April 2**

CA State Competition  
@ UC Riverside.

**May 25-28**

World Finals at Iowa State  
University

**Odyssey of the Mind** is an international program that promotes *creative problem solving* for students from kindergarten through college. Under the guidance of a coach (parent, teacher or volunteer over 18), teams of five to seven students learn creative thinking and problem solving skills while *finding innovative solutions to a variety of technical and performance problems.*

**What do kids do in Odyssey?** Team members solve a "Long Term" problem, which they create, produce, practice and then present at competition in the spring. The problem might be to design a vehicle, produce a play or build a balsa wood structure –problems are different each year. In addition, the team is also presented at the competition with a "Spontaneous" problem, which they must solve or respond to in a short period of time. *Students have a unique opportunity to showcase their gifts in script writing, costume creation, music, dance, visual arts, props and scenery construction, robotics, engineering, problem solving, leadership, critical thinking, and more!*

**Why is Odyssey of the Mind good for students?** It teaches them to learn creative problem-solving methods while having fun in the process. By tapping into creativity, and encouraging imaginative paths to problem solving, students learn skills that will provide them with the ability to solve problems -- great and small -- for a lifetime. Odyssey of the Mind teaches students how to think divergently by providing open-ended problems that appeal to a wide range of interests. Students learn how to identify challenges and to think creatively to solve those problems. The creative problem-solving process rewards thinking "outside of the box."  
*Odyssey of the Mind supports STEAM, Common Core, and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.*

**How can you get involved?** Adults are needed as a coach who then forms a team of 5-7 students. Student's in grades K-5 or 6-8 can be a team member. The coach is a coordinator, asking questions to help students expand their approach, and providing a place for the team to meet weekly to work on their projects. *Friends of Oak Park Schools* will cover the cost of team registration, while teams are responsible for the cost of their own supplies, T-shirts and transportation.

**Want to learn more?** For more information on the program and how it works, including a summary of this year's problems go to Odyssey of the Mind International Website: <http://www.odysseyofthemind.com/>  
For more information on the Regional competition, and local support for the program, go to the *LA Basin webpage* <http://www.laodyssey.org/>.

**Ready to Register?** Interested coaches, parent helpers, or judges go to *FriendsOfOakParkSchools.org*.

**More Questions?** Contact the Oak Park District Science Specialist:  
Debra Hammill [dhammill@oakparkusd.org](mailto:dhammill@oakparkusd.org) or call 818-735-3223