



# MEMO TO PARENTS

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

From: Sammy Micklus, Odyssey of the Mind Program Director

Congratulations! Your child has the opportunity to participate in the Odyssey of the Mind 2016 World Finals. We strive to make it a great experience for everyone. Following is some information that will be useful for you to know:

√ Make sure your child packs the necessities:

\_\_\_ medicine, \_\_\_ toiletries \_\_\_ charger \_\_\_ clothes \_\_\_ snacks (as desired)

(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.)

- √ Confirm that the coach and chaperones 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 popular 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. Pre-order information is in this packet and online. Preordering guarantees participants will get preferred items and correct sizes.
- √ There will be parties on Saturday evening for participants and they will have university chaperons. Only authorized adults will be allowed to pick up any child who wishes to leave the party before it ends. 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 wise to send only those valuables that your child needs – phone, watch, etc. Advise your child to lock valuables in the room when they are not carrying them around. 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 is lost, check the lost and found located at the Odyssey 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 must keep a copy with him/her.

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

- √ You may help carry their props to and from storage areas and competition sites and to the staging areas. You are not allowed to assist team members in any part of their problem solution, including fixing hair, applying makeup, tailoring costumes, or assembling or repairing props. Penalties will be assessed if this occurs.
- √ Team members, coaches and those with a room and board package will be given tickets for the lower level sections of the arena for the Opening and Awards Ceremonies. Other supporters will require a general seating ticket in order to attend. You may obtain a free ticket for the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday at the Odyssey Information Booth. Tickets will be available for the Awards Ceremony on Saturday 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 the arena to assist you with seating. **Remember: if you have an Odyssey of the Mind room and board package, there will be a reserved seating ticket for you with your team's tickets. These are included in packets you receive when you check in at World Finals.** Please do not get an additional ticket. You don't need it and someone else will.
- √ There is a Coaches and Officials Party on Saturday evening. It is a ticketed event open only to those over age 21. Each team receives two complimentary tickets for its coaches. 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 solving an Odyssey of the Mind problem. 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 2016 World Finals.