



Odyssey of the Mind®

Newsletter

Volume 34

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Number 2

THINK OUTSIDE OF THE . . . CUBE!

OotM participants love stretching their creative thinking abilities. Because of this, Odyssey of the Mind has partnered with a new educational program called *You Can Do the Rubik's Cube*. Like Odyssey of the Mind, this new initiative encourages problem solving, teamwork, creative thinking, and many other skills important to STEM and 21st Century learning.

The Rubik's Cube was invented by Professor Erno Rubik to teach his students 3D Geometry and Design. Now it can be utilized for much more. In this new initiative, the Rubik's Cube is being used across the country as a tool to teach **math concepts** such as fractions, measurement, geometry, algebra and **21st Century Skills** such as problem solving, sequencing, critical thinking and more.



As an Odyssey of the mind member, coach, or director, you will receive special benefits and access to the program. Learn more and purchase at www.YouCanDoTheCube.com/OotM. Here, you will find a discount code, interesting teaching packages and lesson plans, and even a unique OMER mosaic of cubes.

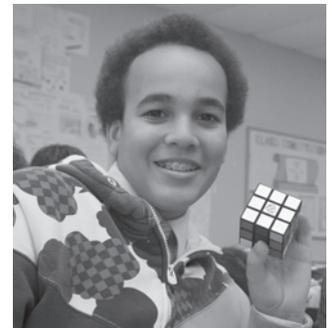
Since its creation in 1974, the Rubik's Cube has continued to fascinate, bewilder and challenge millions of people. While many have tried to solve the cube, few succeeded. Now you can learn how to solve the puzzle and much more.

The benefits of learning to solve the cube and the Rubik's Cube competitions complement Odyssey of the Mind's missions to instill creative problem solving and teamwork all while having fun and building new friendships.

www.YouCanDoTheCube.com/OotM



- **Learn** to solve the Rubik's Cube with a step by step guide and instructional videos.
- **Teachers:** excite students about math, science, engineering & STEM! Explore how to use the Rubik's Cube in the classroom and order Education Kits.
- **Students:** learning is fun with this challenging activity that teaches perseverance, problem solving, critical thinking and more.



Like OotM, the Do the Cube Program makes learning fun. Visit the program's web site to receive special benefits for OotM members.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE . . .

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PROBLEM TEE REMINDER

Show off your OotM problem as a team member, or your support as a parent or coach with the newly-designed 2011-12 problem t-shirts. Not only do they make great shirts to show your Odyssey pride, but they can also be worn during competition and are exempt from cost as written in the *2011-12 Program Guide*.

The shirts can be viewed in color and purchased online at www.odysseyofthemind.com/shop. They are available in all the long-term problems, including Primary. The shirts feature the problem name, icon, and current year. They are a fun way to make a great team impression in your school and beyond.



PROBLEM CLARIFICATIONS

Stay up-to-date with clarifications by logging on to www.odysseyofthemind.com

CLARIFICATION REMINDER

The problem clarification system is not intended to replace reading the problem and program guide. Please reread both again before submitting a clarification. Do not submit a clarification that asks: (1) if an idea is creative or if one idea would receive more score than another. (No comment regarding subjective scoring will be provided); (2) where the judges or audience will be during the performance (That is a question for your tournament director); (3) to confirm the wording of the problem; (4) if something may be different from an aspect that is specifically required (For example, if the problem requires 1/8" wood for a part you may not use 1/16" wood for that required part).



Great
Minds

THE AMERICAN WOODSMAN

Today's documentaries about our planet merge art and science. Series such as *Planet Earth* by the Discovery Channel takes us to parts of the planet most would never be able to reach. While the material is educational and interesting, the quality of the work is groundbreaking. High-definition cameras can take us into the depths of the oceans, dense rainforests, wild deserts and much more. Before such technology existed, there were people just as passionate about learning about our earth and re-creating it for the masses.

One such person is **John Audubon**, best known for his intricate bird illustrations. Not only did he create revered works of art, he helped modernize **ornithology** — the scientific field of bird study. In his journey to document America's bird species, he discovered 25 new species of birds and 12 subgroups.

After immigrating from France to America, he experienced numerous failed business attempts. He was even put in debtor's prison. During that time, he made money as a portrait artist.

Audubon's success came when he combined two of his favorite hobbies — science and art. Since childhood, Audubon loved studying wildlife, especially birds. He went so far as to conduct his own experiments and even made important findings within the scientific community. He is credited as the first person to "band"

birds, which is placing a small identifiable band on a bird's leg to study migration. Audubon attached yarn to birds' legs to prove that they returned to the same nesting place year after year.

Aside from his scientific discoveries, Audubon changed the art world's depiction of wildlife. He developed his own methods of drawing birds and re-created the subjects as they would appear in the wild — usually on the hunt or feeding. He was able to successfully do this because of his extensive field notes and careful scientific study of each bird that he drew. Before Audubon, all ornithological portraits presented birds in a rigid pose with a plain background. He strove to create artistic and scientifically accurate paintings.

In 1826, Audubon sailed to England with a portfolio of his work. He received great acceptance as he toured England and Scotland, and was praised as "the American woodsman." His European fans greatly enjoyed his images of America and its natural attractions. This allowed him to raise enough money to begin publishing *The Birds of America*.

This vast work consists of 435 hand-colored, life-size prints of 497 different species. It includes images of six now-extinct birds. Audubon's great work took more than 14 years of field observations and drawings to create.

He received worldwide recognition after the book was published including being elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1905, **the National Audubon Society** was incorporated and named in his honor. Its mission: to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds. A copy of *The Birds of America* was sold at auction for **\$11.5 million** in 2010 — a record price for a book.

Audubon's love of art and science brought him great success. He changed two fields of study and, much like documentaries today, he allowed people to travel America's frontier and learn about the amazing wildlife that inhabits it.

ODYSSEY ANGELS: WHAT'S NEXT?

There has been an enormous response to the beginning of the Odyssey Angels program. We have received so many inspiring ideas during the Odyssey Angel enrollment period. We are proud that so many people are willing to help their communities and give aid to those who may otherwise be overlooked.

There are groups helping military members, neighbors with disabilities, fellow students, hospital patients, homeless shelters, and more. We consider everyone a hero that chose to enroll. Unfortunately, only one group can be selected to attend World Finals. Here are the next steps to completing the Odyssey Angel program for this year.

If you have enrolled in the program by completing the online enrollment form, you will be sent a follow-up email that contains the "Progress Report" form for your group.

A representative can fill it out and return it any time before the April 1st deadline. You must return it by this time in order to be

eligible to attend World Finals and present your project at the Creativity Festival.

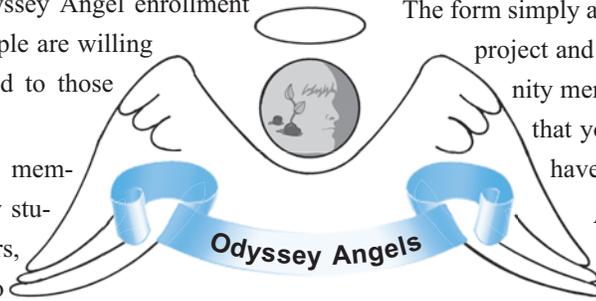
The form simply asks what you have done so far for your project and requires a reference from the community member(s) you are helping. Keep in mind that your project can be ongoing. You don't have to stop because of the deadline.

Also, remember that you do not have to fill out the form as soon as you receive it. You should submit it when you feel it is the best time to be judged on your work, as long as it is before the deadline.

If you have not enrolled in the program but wish to participate, you can start working for the next program year. We will open the next Odyssey Angel enrollment July 1, but you can start at any time.

Again, we thank the groups for their hard work and generosity.

Learn more at: www.odysseyangels.org.



Family Album

There is a new Scoreroom International Problem Captain, Jeff Carter. While being an IPC is a new position for him within Odyssey of the Mind, Jeff is a long-time member of the Odyssey family. He has been a volunteer for almost 20 years and has worked in the scoreroom for 12 years.

Jeff has worked on every level and in many volunteer positions within the program. Aside from working in the scoreroom, Jeff has been a coach, school district coordinator, a problem judge, and a regional problem captain. He is also on the regional and state board of Directors and treasurer within NYSOMA. He has been the Assistant Problem Captain for the World Finals scoreroom since 2001.

Aside from his many duties within OotM, he works for Xerox. For the last 35 years, he has been an engineer and manager for both product development and information technology within the company.

OoTM has been a family affair for the Carters. His wife Harriet has been judging for 20 years as well and she has held a variety of judging positions at all levels and in multiple states. Their oldest daughter, Julie, got the family involved in the program as a competitor and started judging as soon as she was out of high school. Even their youngest daughter started volunteering and judging as soon as she was able.

He has many goals in this new position. "When I first started, we were using computers in the score room, but the bulk of the process was all manual – pen, pencil and calculators.

We have spent a lot of time over the past few years working to improve the capabilities of the computer programs that can be used to support a tournament."

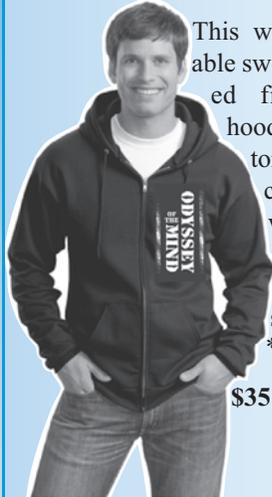
Because technology evolves so quickly, Jeff wants to empower associations by enabling them to effectively utilize it, "It is my goal to continue to make technology more accessible to everyone at all levels of the program, no matter how limited an organizations resources might be — making the scoring process easier, quicker, more accurate, and reliable, and to ensure a balanced approach for implementing these changes," he said.

Outgoing Problem Captain Bob DuBois believes that Jeff will be successful, "Jeff is extremely adept in using our scoring program and has been instrumental in computerizing the score room. I wish him every success as Problem Captain."



ODYSSEY SOUVENIRS!

ZIP-UP HOODIE SWEATSHIRT



This warm and comfortable sweatshirt has a sueded finish, drawstring hood, and is 60/40 cotton/polyester mix. It comes in black with *Odyssey of the Mind* imprinted in white. Adult sizes S, M, L, XL, **XXL.

\$35

GIRLS TEE



This black and white layered-style tee is 100% cotton with *Love Odyssey of the Mind* with a fun heart graphic imprinted in white. Adult sizes S, M, L, XL. \$14

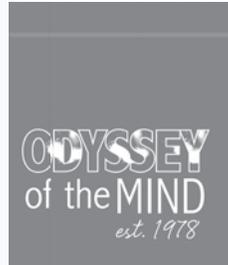
ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEE

The Odyssey of the Mind Tee is 100% preshrunk ultra heavy weight cotton with a seamless collar. It is military green with a fun twist on a nutritional label. Adult sizes S, M, L, XL, **XXL.

\$10



LANYARD — This year's woven polyester lanyard has *Est. '78* and *Odyssey of the Mind* imprinted with a trendy background. Includes a standard key ring. Use them to display your pin collection! \$5



2012 DRAWSTRING BAG — This nylon bag with a drawstring allows you to carry it on your back or over your shoulder. Comes with a handy front zipper pocket with *Odyssey of the Mind* imprinted in white. Kids can display their pin collections on the outside and carry all of their OotM supplies at the same time! Comes in royal blue or pink. \$8

OOTM HAT — This black and blue cotton cap has *Odyssey of the Mind* stitched on the front, with a pre-curved black bill with a fun design. *Est. '78* is also stitched on the side. The hat is structured with an adjustable velcro back. One size fits most. \$12



COACH:

This enamel coach pin helps show everyone's support for their coach. It comes in a chalkboard design displaying a few of the great aspects of coaching. \$3



PARENT: This 1½" black enamel pin has *Parent* in multi-colored letters to represent the world-wide OotM "family." \$3



BLINKIE: This is 1½" silver-plated pin is yellow, red, and green with flashing lights. It's sure to be a hit for kids, coaches, parents, and officials alike. The lights can be turned off and on. (Batteries are replaceable.) Comes with *Odyssey of the Mind* or *Coach*. \$6

PROBLEM PINS — Show off your favorite problems by wearing these lightweight, colorful photo art pins! Separately, each pin shows the problem icon, title, and 2012. Or, combine your problem pin with the spontaneous pin to create a drive-in movie theater with your problem onscreen. See all the problem pins in color online. \$3 per pin/ \$15 per set of 6

Minimum order of individual problem, coach, and parent pins is three. Can be an assortment!



Example of pins put together. (Problem 3 & Spontaneous)

Order online with a credit card and receive a 10% discount on these items!

See all sale items in color online — you can find our entire line of souvenirs and support items at www.odysseyofthemind.com/shop/ (Sorry, no phone orders.)

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND PRODUCT ORDER FORM

SUPPORT MATERIALS

- _____ packs of **Balsa Wood** (premium grade AAA 36" x 1/8" x 1/8") @ \$20 per 50 pieces
- _____ ***Lots of Problems . . . And Tips to Make You More Creative @ \$17** tips on problem-solving
- _____ **The Spirit of Creativity @ \$15** — Anecdotes about Odyssey of the Mind, written by Dr. Sam.....
- _____ **A Creative Experience DVD @ 9.95**— Odyssey of the Mind promotional DVD
- _____ **Creative Interaction! @ \$17** Includes tips on building effective teams
- _____ **Applying Your Creativity @ \$15** Discusses different types of human creativity.....
- _____ **Spontaneous Combustion @ \$7.50** Booklet of problems and tips.....
- _____ **Odyssey of the Mind Program Guide @ \$7.50** (one is included with membership).....
- _____ **Coaches Training DVD @ \$20** Tips and techniques for coaches

SOUVENIRS & PINS (Order online and receive a 10% discount!)

- _____ ****Zip-Up Hoodie Sweatshirt @ \$35** _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL**
- _____ ***Girls Tee @ \$14** _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL
- _____ ****Odyssey of the Mind Tee @ \$10** _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL**
- _____ ***Lanyard @ \$5**
- _____ ***OotM Hat @ \$12**
- _____ ***2012 Drawstring Bag @ \$8**
- _____ ***Blinkie Pin @ \$6** (specify number of each type) Blinkie _____ Blinkie Coach _____
- _____ ***Sets of Problem Pins @ \$15**
- _____ ***A minimum of 3 of the following pins in any assortment @ \$3 each** (specify number of each)
- _____ Problem 1 _____ Problem 2 _____ Problem 3 _____ Problem 4 _____ Problem 5
- _____ Primary _____ Spontaneous _____ Parent _____ Coach

* Spend \$40 or more and get free Shipping & Handling.
 Orders under \$40, add \$7.50 Shipping & Handling.
 ** Add \$2 for each XXL
 There are no S & H charges for pins.
 Contact CCI for shipping costs outside of the U.S.

Subtotal _____
S & H _____
Total _____

Payment Method (Sorry, we do not accept phone orders.)

- **U.S. Mail:** Send this completed form along with a check, money order or purchase order, payable to CCI, or with your credit card info to: **CCI, 406 Ganttown Road Sewell, NJ 08080**
- **FAX:** Send this form along with a copy of your purchase order, or include your credit card information and fax to **(856) 256-2798**.
- **On-line:** Pay by credit card at **www.odysseyofthemind.com**.

_____ VISA _____ MasterCard _____ American Express _____ Discover
 Acct. no. _____
 Exp. _____ CSV Code _____
 Signature of cardholder _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS (For UPS Delivery)

Is this a residence? _____ yes _____ no

Name _____
 Address _____

 City _____ State/Prov. _____
 Zip _____ Country _____
 Phone number: () _____ - _____



Odyssey of the Mind

c/o Creative Competitions, Inc.

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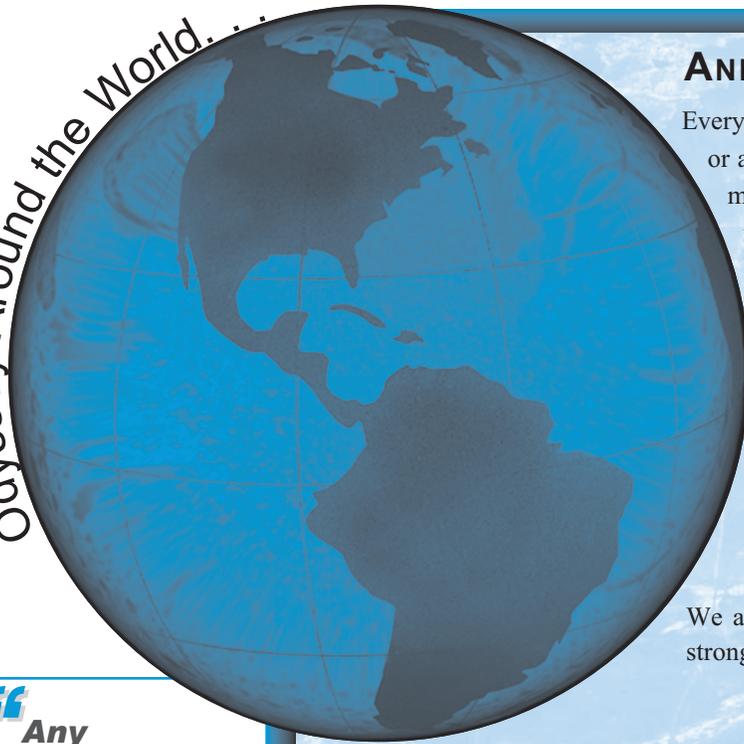


Hey Teams,
Always remember that solving the problem
makes you a winner!

Your friend,
OMER

The *Odyssey of the Mind* Newsletter is published by Creative Competitions, Inc.

Odyssey Around the World...



ANNIVERSARIES HERE AND ABROAD

Every team is important in Odyssey, whether it is just starting out or a group of seasoned performers. Also, the associations that make the program available to the U.S. and abroad are important because they give students the chance to explore their creativity and find their niche in the world. That is why celebrating all anniversaries are important within the program.

30th anniversaries:

- Arkansas
- North Carolina
- Kentucky
- South Carolina

25th anniversaries:

- Iowa
- China

We are proud to have so many veteran associations still going strong! Congratulations to all and thanks again!

EUROFEST 2012

EuroFest will be held in St. Petersburg Russia from April 24 - 30. Hosting EuroFest will bring creative minds together from across the globe. This April will be the 20th annual Eurofest with over 70 teams from about 15 countries expected to attend.

This festival gives Odyssey teams a chance to interact internationally, have fun, and to showcase their solutions. Some expected countries are Hungary, Belarus, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Moldova, Romania, and others.

Additionally, each team learns about other cultures while working together in groups to solve a unique Eurofest problem in only three days!

Last year, several teams from the U.S. made it to EuroFest in **Poland** and had a blast representing the country at the event.

ff Any
**problem can be
solved using
the materials in
the room.**

- Edwin Land,
American Inventor