

MEMO TO PARENTS

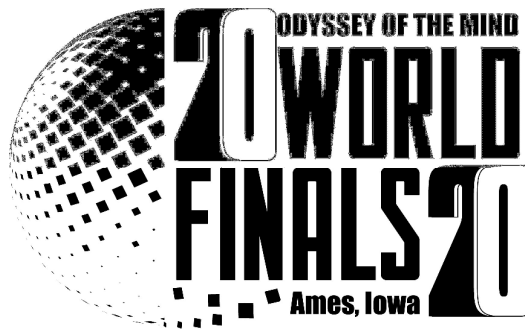
To: Parents of Odyssey of the Mind World Finals Team Members

From: Sammy Micklus, Odyssey of the Mind Program Director

Congratulations! Your child will be participating in the largest and most historic creative problem-solving competition in the world. At the Odyssey of the Mind 2020 World Finals, thousands of volunteers and hundreds of University staff will be on hand to ensure the experience is fun, fair, and exciting. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- ✓ We will present an exciting experience, but our top priority is ensuring your child's safety. Odyssey Officials are easily identified by their red tee shirts with "Official" imprinted on the back. University personnel appear throughout campus wearing "Staff" shirts. Please let your child know these are the people to approach if they have an emergency of any kind.
- ✓ We recommend that team members use a buddy system so they are never alone, especially at night. They should always have a charged phone or be with someone who does. If your child needs assistance they can go to any problem site and find Odyssey of the Mind or ISU Officials.
- ✓ Most important is that the coach and chaperones are aware of any health concerns regarding your child, especially allergies to watch for and medicines they take. The University will attempt to accommodate any special medical needs or diet restrictions if they know of them in advance. There is a place on the Registration Form for the coach to enter this information.
- ✓ A checklist for World Finals preparation is on the back of this page and is available online at www.odysseyofthemind.com/wf2020. You can also find a comprehensive FAQ at this site. Please refer to both leading up to World Finals.
- ✓ Please read the Coaches Packet from ISU. It is included in the back of the packet your team received and is online. It describes the campus and services available and contains important forms to be completed.
- ✓ Pin trading is extremely popular at World Finals. Check on the availability of pins with your Association Director. It sounds odd to buy pins just to trade away, but it is a very popular activity at World Finals and provides a great opportunity to meet new people and make friends.
- ✓ The Opening Ceremonies and the Awards Ceremony will be broadcast online and our photo gallery will have images posted throughout the event. For family and friends who can be there for a day or two, there are local hotels nearby, and all performances, ceremonies and most other activities are free to attend.
- ✓ 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 and it is available in the Coaches Packet and online at www.odysseyofthemind.com/wf2020. You should make two copies, one for the coach and one for your child to keep with them at all times just in case of emergency.
- ✓ We do our best to return any lost and found items. Mark your child's belongings with their name, state, and membership number to help make this happen if something is lost.

Creative Competitions, Inc. takes pride in presenting the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. The dedication of thousands of volunteers makes Odyssey of the Mind and World Finals possible. We are all committed to providing your child and their team a rewarding experience at the Odyssey of the Mind 2020 World Finals.



World Finals Checklist

This is for parents and participants. This list is a general reminder of some of the things you want to keep in mind as you prepare for your trip to World Finals.

- ✓ Download our free OMER's World app from your app store. It has all the information about World Finals including competition and activities schedule, site maps, shuttle routes, and contacts, plus you can create a custom calendar. It's a great way to stay up-to-date with announcements. Those at home can use it to stay informed too.
- ✓ Remember to ship all of your props, scripts, and costumes. Shipping labels are found in the enclosed Coaches Packet from the University and online at: www.odysseyofthemind.com/wf2020.
- ✓ Ship or bring a tool kit. Consider including hot glue & hot glue gun, duct tape, hand tools, and a backup of any specialty part your team is using.
- ✓ Be sure to pack important items to take with you. **Mark your belongings with your name, state, and membership number. This helps us return lost items.** If you are flying, be aware of the rules of what can be carried on to the plane. Be sure to bring:
 - Phone and charger Medicine Money/debit card
 - Signed media release Toiletries Signed medical release
 - Sweatshirt/jacket Clothes Good luck charm!
- ✓ Did you get pins to trade? Pin trading is a popular activity at World Finals and a great way for kids to make new friends from all around the world! If you bought pins, be sure to pack them. If you didn't, find out how to get them from your Association when you are at WF in case you change your mind.
- ✓ Do you know about the Buddy Team program? Information is included and online.
- ✓ Read through the packet from the University (enclosed). It gives you a lot of tips on travel and what to expect when you arrive on campus.
- ✓ Setup a plan for staying in touch with home. Designate a time to text or call.
- ✓ Follow Odyssey HQ on Social Media to see pictures and coverage of the event.