



Creative Competitions, Inc.'s

Odyssey of the Mind®

406 Ganttown Road • Sewell, NJ 08080

phone: 856/256-2797 • fax: 856/256-2798

www.odysseyofthemind.com

Spring 2009

Dear Odyssey of the Mind International World Finals Team,

Congratulations! You have earned the right to participate in the Odyssey of the Mind 2009 World Finals at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA from May 27 to May 30, 2009. Opening ceremonies will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2009.

Included are the forms for World Finals registration, room and board reservations, transportation information, announcements about special events, a copy of the Coaches Competition problem, and other pertinent information.

Please register online through our website at www.odysseyofthemind.com **IMMEDIATELY. NO PAYMENT IS NEEDED AT THIS TIME.** You will need to be on campus starting Wednesday, May 27 through Sunday, May 31. Therefore, Package 1A is the package you need to select. We are holding space in the university residence halls for international teams. Please let us know if you need an invitation letter. **Bring the completed Media and Medical Release Forms with you to the university.**

If your team is interested in transportation from O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Illinois to the campus, please contact Iowa State University through the link on our website for more information.

Creative Opportunities Unlimited, Inc. (COU) has revised its international grant program. The free housing package assistance will no longer be automatically provided to all international teams. All teams will need to complete the Travel Grant Application at www.creativeopportunities.org, or by logging onto our website at www.odysseyofthemind.com and clicking on the link for COU. Only teams that are scheduled to compete at World Finals are eligible to apply for the COU grant. Questions regarding COU Travel Grants should be submitted to the COU Travel Grant Chairperson, Ron Raab-Long at ron@delcaps.org.

Mabry King, International Liaison, and Chris Eaton, Homestay Coordinator, have been working with international association directors to facilitate home stays after the event. Please work with your association director if you wish to participate in a home stay after the World Finals. You will be assigned a "buddy" team while you are on campus. This is a U.S. team that is participating in the World Finals and has volunteered to help you while you are on campus. This buddy team will assist you in getting around campus, obtaining any materials or services you may need, and making you feel welcome.

There will be a meeting for all International (non-English speaking) teams with the International Problem Captains at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 27. It is important that your coaches, team members and interpreters attend this meeting. There will also be a meeting for international association directors at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 28 at the officials' hotel.

Please note that team members cannot practice on the actual competition site. Any team observed by an official doing so will be given an unsportsmanlike penalty. Practice facilities will not be provided.

Since competition takes place over three days, it is most difficult for team members to keep the spontaneous problems secret. However, please remember that any competitor overheard revealing the spontaneous problem given in competition will subject his/her team to penalty or disqualification. In addition, should a competitor hear the problem before competing, adjustments may be made in scores or scores may be eliminated to overcome this advanced knowledge.

We hope you are looking forward to your participation. We are looking forward to hosting you.

Sincerely,

Carole Micklus

Carole Micklus

World Finals Tournament Director