



BE A “BUDDY” TO AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM!

Odyssey of the Mind asks World Finals teams from the United States and Canada to serve as “Buddy Teams” to International teams participating at World Finals. We want you to help us provide each International Team a warm welcome and ongoing support as they travel to the U.S. to participate in World Finals, many for the first time.

Imagine how happy they will be to see friendly faces when they arrive on campus. You will have a great time exploring campus together and talking about your solutions! How much time you spend together varies but the international students will be excited to learn about where you live, what your school is like, the music you listen to, and even the clothes you wear. If you get a chance to eat some meals together you can talk about what you think they eat and tell them about your favorites (and least favorites). You can take an excursion off campus, go swimming, play soccer, or just hang out together. They may need your help finding their way around campus, going to get materials and tools for last minute repairs, or even trying to trade pins with others.

We work hard to match up Buddy teams. Many variables are taken into consideration such as: Problem and division of the teams, ages and gender of team members, and duration of time on campus. This year we will be looking for Buddy Teams that can arrive on campus on Tuesday or early Wednesday.

Buddy Teams find the experience highly rewarding. Here are some comments from coaches and team members after previous World Finals experiences:

Mike, a coach, wrote, “It was an amazing experience. While the team was from half way around the world and a culture that might be considered very different, we could not have been drawn closer thanks to Odyssey. I asked my kids what they enjoyed most about their trip to World Finals and every single one of them said “Buddy Team”. Not one said pin trading or finishing in fourth place. I know as a parent and coach that this provides an experience for my child and our team that will forever change their lives and perceptions of people and cultures.”

Marci, also a coach, wrote, “Having a Buddy Team was one of the highlights of our World Finals experience. What we enjoyed the most was that it gave us the opportunity to meet kids from a totally different background with whom we share this common interest. I don't know that my kids would have gone outside their "comfort zone" otherwise, to meet another team, if it hadn't been assigned to us.”

When asked if he would recommend the buddy program, Trey, a team member, responded “We had an absolute blast with our Buddy Team from Berlin. Would I recommend this program to other teams attending World Finals in the future? With 100% of my being! It just made the whole trip even BETTER! Thank you so much for the opportunity to meet such an awesome group and share something so wonderful like Odyssey with a team from another country...all I can say is WOW!”

To participate as a Buddy Team, your team must register for World Finals and Iowa State University housing and fill out the online form by April 29, 2016, at: www.odysseyofthemind.com/buddy_teams. If you're not using online registration, mail this form to Odyssey of the Mind, c/o Creative Competitions, Inc, 406 Ganttown Road, Sewell, NJ, 08080; or Fax (856) 256-2798. Late Applications will be accepted from those states whose tournaments are after the deadline.

(Note: Most Buddy Teams and International Teams exchange small gifts with each other. We suggest these items be representative of your area of the country such as post cards, pins, or T-shirts.)

For more information please contact Buddy Team Coordinator, Paula Mittner at pmittner@comcast.net

Odyssey of the Mind[®] 2016 World Finals Buddy Team Request Form

To participate in the Odyssey of the Mind Buddy Team Program, please complete this form online at www.odysseyofthemind.com/buddy_teams. Or, return this form by April 29, 2016, to Odyssey of the Mind, c/o Creative Competitions, Inc., 406 Ganttown Road, Sewell, NJ, 08080; Fax: (856) 256-2798. Late applications will be accepted from those states whose tournaments are after the deadline. For more information, please contact Buddy Team Coordinator, Paula Mittner at pmittner@comcast.net.

Notification of assignments will be made approximately two weeks before World Finals.

Membership Name: _____ Membership #: _____

Coaches Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

*E-mail: _____

***Most communication is by e-mail, so it is essential to include an e-mail address and to print it clearly.**

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ Fax _____

Problem Name: _____ Division: I II III IV

Campus arrival day: ____/____/____ Time: _____ Campus departure day: ____/____/____ Time: _____

Have you been a Buddy Team Before? _____ Have you applied to be a buddy team before? _____

Any foreign languages spoken by members of your team: _____

Names, gender, and ages of team members:

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____

7. _____

If there is anything special you feel you could offer to an International Team, or any other information you would like to share, add it below or on another sheet. If selected, do you need to be housed with another team from your school? If so, please provide their membership name, number, problem, and division: _____
