



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 oldest and largest creative problem solving world championship. At the Odyssey of the Mind 2017 World Finals, thousands of volunteers and hundreds of MSU staff will be on hand to ensure their experience is as fun, fair, and exciting as possible. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- ✓ While the event is about a competition you should know that your child's safety is our greatest priority. Odyssey officials are easily identified by their red tee shirts and university staff is apparent throughout campus. 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 MSU 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 has been provided in the packet and is available online at www.odysseyofthemind.com/wf2017. Please refer to it leading up to World Finals. Please read the Coaches Letter from MSU. It is in the packet and online.
- ✓ Pin trading is 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.
- ✓ The Opening Ceremony and the Awards Ceremony will be broadcast online and our photo gallery will have images posted to it throughout the event. For family and friends who can be there for a day or two, there are local hotels nearby, and all performances and most other activities are free.
- ✓ 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 online. 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.

Creative Competitions, Inc. takes pride in presenting the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. The dedication of thousands of volunteers make Odyssey of the Mind and World Finals possible. We are all committed to providing your child a rewarding experience at the Odyssey of the Mind 2017 World Finals.