



# Odyssey of the Mind® Newsletter

Volume 46

Fall 2021

Number 1

## See you in '22 at ISU! An OM/ISU Homecoming

There's no better place for a return to normalcy than the welcoming grounds of Iowa State University! We are pleased to announce that 2022 World Finals will take place May 25th- May 28th at ISU in Ames, Iowa.

OM and ISU have many wonderful memories, with many more to come starting in 2022. Look out for new venues, upgraded dorms, reimagined events along with the midwestern kindness ISU is known for.

This will be the 11th time ISU has hosted our World Finals. That is more times than any other venue! The first year was 1990 teams solved these problems:

1. Geographic Odyssey
2. Omitronic Humor
3. The Seven Wonders of the World
4. Structures in Harmony
5. Recycle
6. Friends of Nature

There will surely be alumni from those teams

coming to volunteer as officials or coaches as many stay with OM long after their competitive days are over. Of course OMER will be there to cheer for teams as well.

"We are glad to welcome OM teams back to the full World Finals experience—staying in dorms and seeing what living on a college campus is like, making new friends from different areas and backgrounds, and of course seeing all the best creative ideas at work," said Sammy Micklus, Executive Director.

There will be plenty to see and do with OM, Ames & ISU:

### OM World Finals

When teams aren't competing over an exciting three days there are plenty of opportunities for fun: the Creativity Festival, International Festival, Float and Banner Parade, OM Graduation and the Coaches' Competition, fun experiences made possible through our sponsor ARM & HAMMER™ and our partner NASA, and of course the Opening and Awards Ceremonies.

### AMES, IOWA

Located in the heart of the Midwest, Ames is the source for tradition, discovery, diversity and of course, Iowa State University and the Cyclones. Located just 40 minutes south of Ames, the Des Moines International Airport is served by several commercial airlines. Ames offers downtown boutiques, diverse dining, 36 woodland parks and 55 miles of bike and pedestrian trails. Learn more: <https://www.thinkames.com/>

### IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

ISU was the nation's first land grant college and has since established itself as a world leader in a wide range of disciplines as engineering, veterinary medicine, and agriculture. With over 35,000 students from more than 100 different nations, ISU offers cultural diversity and brings distinct international flavor to the Midwest. Learn more: <https://www.iastate.edu/>

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# Odyssey Angels

The 2021 Odyssey Angels group is Johanna Perrin Middle School from Fairport, New York. The team helped a local preschool re-open safely during a pandemic by building outdoor sensory tables, toys, and other items that could provide educational opportunities for young students as they returned to the school, which was held primarily outside. They helped younger students in their community find a new sense of normalcy and helped parents go back to work knowing their children were safe.

expand the project by building an outdoor exercise/sensory path for the school. They worked closely with the school and even presented their project to the parents to get feedback and improve their solution to make sure it was safe for young kids.



According to the group's coach, here are just a few ways OM skills helped, "They learned by cutting and measuring lumber, drilling, screwing and nailing the projects together, along with painting and staining. Through their continued pursuit to help the preschool, they had to utilize public speaking, design and layout, basic

The director of the Preschool, Jamie Gullo, praised the group's efforts and good will, "The work the girls put into creating these pieces of furniture was on their time, with no expectation

material estimation for budgeting, development of PowerPoint presentations, customer relations as they were listening to what



to receive any praise, reward, donation or gift of any sort. They completed these projects simply because there was a need and they wanted to help out. Their altruistic motivation simply amazed us all. The craftsmanship is outstanding! They completed the project quickly so we would have it prior to the start of school and were so excited to see that our children were using it and enjoying it so much! What I loved most about these girls is that

other needs are and adjusting the plan based on the feedback. The team continues to learn new skills as they are starting to engage the community by developing flyers for the fundraising, and will be doing some small presentations on the vision in order to get additional help and funding for the project. These girls are continuing to be role models for the community as they lead by example, and teach and mentor others along the way, while still really enjoying what they do."

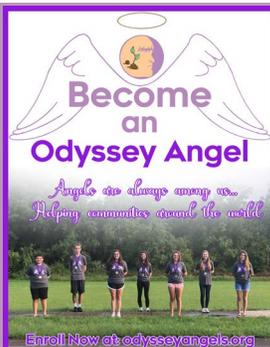


they were happy to see us happy! Their purpose for completing these projects was for no other reason than to bring glory to our children at preschool! And....they did just that!"

This group has a passion for helping others any time an opportunity arises. They successfully used the skills they have learned through Odyssey of the Mind and can be proud of their skills and what they accomplished. Congratulations to this year's Angels!

Not only did the group help their community but it utilized many creative problem solving and building skills, repurposing items, and fundraising when needed. They then decided to

Do you want to make a difference in someone's life? Do you want to give back to your community and solve a problem with the skills you've learned in Odyssey?



Reach out to your friends and become a team of Odyssey Angels!

Visit us at:

[www.OdysseyAngels.org](http://www.OdysseyAngels.org)

to sign up and begin making a difference in your community!

# Have You Heard of The Old Schoolhouse? Starting a New Journey | TryHomeschooling

Your child is a problem solver, a thinker with a creative mind. You made a wise decision to connect your child with Odyssey of the Mind's fantastic atmosphere for thriving.

Home is another wonderful environment to thrive and learn in, and home education is growing in popularity nationwide. There's no place like home for delivering steady education and individualized instruction tailored to your child's strengths and interests. No one knows your child and their natural curiosity better than you do. No one wants the best for your child more than you do.

Imagine it! Dream of your child's potential with individualized instruction at home. What would flexible homeschool days allow time for? Solving more problems? Following more pursuits? Launching more adventures? Investing more time in projects that challenge and build on your child's unique interests? Try homeschooling!

A free homeschool info-pak filled with advice and information on how to begin your homeschool

journey is ready for you at [TryHomeschooling.com](http://TryHomeschooling.com). You'll find encouragement and helpful resources as you consider how homeschooling will benefit your child now while preparing him or her to be a confident and capable adult. Over sixty eBooks are included in this FREE info-pak, with titles including:

- *A New Beginning*
- *Secrets of Successful Homeschooling*
- *Homeschool with Confidence*
- *Homeschooling the High Schooler*

Your curious child will find a few eBooks in the info-pak waiting just for him or her, too!

Your free info-pak is brought to you by The Old Schoolhouse® ([www.TheOldSchoolhouse.com](http://www.TheOldSchoolhouse.com)), which publishes the industry-leading homeschool education print magazine, The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine. Established in 2001, The Old Schoolhouse® is focused on providing high-quality, encouraging, affordable solutions for homeschooling families. Claim your info-pak today at [TryHomeschooling.com](http://TryHomeschooling.com)!



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Claim Your **FREE** "Getting Started" Info-Pak

60+ FREE eGifts



[TryHomeschooling.com](http://TryHomeschooling.com)

The Old Schoolhouse  
The Family Education Magazine



creative  
opportunities  
unlimited

the annual  
**ODYSSEY OF THE MIND**

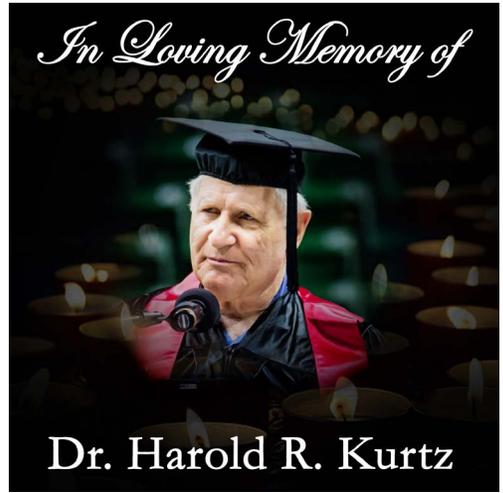


**PIN SET AND SHIRT  
FLEECE BLANKET  
SWEEPSTAKES**

Brought to you by Creative Opportunities Unlimited (COU)

Congratulations to our 2021 COU Sweepstakes winners Sharon Miller, Amanda Abraham, Shruti Corbett and Marilyn Griffin! Thank you to all who participated in our Pin & T-Shirt Fleece Blanket Sweepstakes last season and for supporting Creative Opportunities Unlimited with your participation. Proceeds go to support teams around the world with scholarships for individual OMers, housing grants for World Finalists, and local Association grants that help member associations around the world bring the Odyssey of the Mind program to more students.

Looking to join the fun for this year's pins & t-shirts? Stay tuned, the current season Sweepstakes will be launched in early 2022!



**Dr. Harold R. Kurtz**

This past summer we were all deeply saddened with the passing of Harold Kurtz, a founding and current board member of COU. From the very beginning, Harold was always insightful, fair and positive with the kids as a judge at every stage of competition. Throughout the years Harold was the driving and sustaining energy of COU, serving as a trusted partner and friend to the Odyssey of the Mind Program and the Micklus family. Harold held every position possible on the board and was willing to step in and help out wherever he was needed. His expertise, humor, laugh, thoughtful comments, energy and most of all his devotion to the Odyssey of the Mind program and the kids will be missed beyond words.

Are you a high school  
sophomore, junior,  
or senior?  
Have you applied  
for the Odyssey Alumni  
Awards and Scholarships?

**APPLY HERE**

**ODYSSEY OF THE MIND**

**AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

**EMERGING  
ALUMNI  
AWARD**

Current HS sophomores  
and juniors.  
\$250 gift card  
+ membership donated  
in your name.

**COU  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Graduating HS seniors  
pursuing a higher  
education degree.  
\$500 academic  
scholarship.

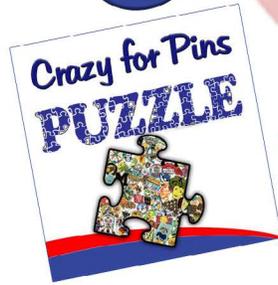
**ALUMNI  
AMBASSADOR  
AWARD**

Completed 1 year and  
between the age of 18-25.  
COU Ambassador at WF.  
Room and board at WF,  
\$250 travel stipend.

Visit [odysseyalumni.org/awards](https://odysseyalumni.org/awards) to find more info  
and apply by Feb. 15th!



# Odyssey Shop



**Black Friday Sale  
Starts 8:00am EST  
Friday 11/26**



## Great Minds

### Re-inventing the Sculpture

Alexander Calder was someone who refused to ignore his creative side. After attempting various careers, he found a home with abstract sculpture. He reinvented the art form by turning its concept inside-out. He focused as much on what was physically part of the sculpture as the open space surrounding it. He took an art form that focused on dormant objects and turned it into one that moves. He created a new kind of sculpture that has since become popular all around the world.

Calder spent much of his childhood traveling between Philadelphia, New York, and California with his artist parents. Wherever they went, his parents reserved a space intended as Calder's workshop, where he built intricate metal wire sculptures and made his own toys. While they always supported his creativity, his parents wanted him to pursue a different, more stable career. He excelled in math in school, so Calder went on to earn a degree in mechanical engineering in college. He spent a few years trying different engineering jobs, but was dissatisfied with all of them.

He took a chance and decided to pursue an art career and enrolled at the **Art Students League in New York** to study painting. After graduating, he continued to study in Paris.

During a visit with painter **Piet Mondrian**, Calder's art dramatically changed. He became interested in abstract art. After seeing a mural of triangles on Mondrian's wall, Calder decided that he wanted to see them move. So, he created large versions of the triangles and connected them

with wire, pulleys, and motors.

This hanging, moving sculpture was coined a “mobile” by another abstract artist and friend **Marcel Duchamp** because in French the word refers to motion and motive. Calder soon became a leader in the **Kinetic Art Movement**, which is art that moves or appears to move. “Just as one can compose colors, or forms,” Calder said, “so one can compose motions.”

In 1949 Calder was one of 250 sculptors who exhibited in the 3rd Sculpture International held at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. His mobile, International Mobile, was the centerpiece of the exhibition and still hangs there today.

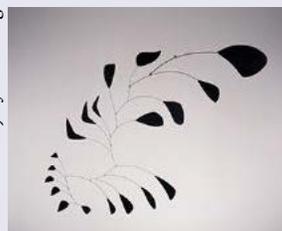
In the 1950's, Calder increasingly concentrated his efforts on producing monumental sculptures. Calder's largest sculpture, “El Sol Rojo,” was 67 feet high and was constructed for the Olympic games in Mexico City.

Shortly after his death in 1976, **Gerald Ford** awarded Calder the **Presidential Medal of Freedom**, the United States' highest civilian honor.

Calder was a major contributor to kinetic and abstract art. His mobiles changed the major concept of a sculpture. Instead of stone or wood masses, he focused on ideas of open space, transparency, light, and movement. Along with other giant sculptures he created later in his career, Calder invented a new type of art — one that became so successful that many of his works have become landmarks in cities around the globe.

Calder said of his art, “To most people who look at a mobile, it's no more than a series of flat objects that move. To a few, though, it may be poetry.”

Photo courtesy of calder.org



*Untitled*

1942

Sheet metal, wire, and paint

62" x 66" x 56"

Calder Foundation



# Odyssey of the Mind®

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Questions? Email: [membership@odysseyofthemind.com](mailto:membership@odysseyofthemind.com) or call 856-256-2797**

For new AND renewing members, complete this entire form and return it with a check or purchase order. **Check one:**

### Divisions I, II, and III:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual school: Must register in the school name. May enter one team per problem per division in competition.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two or more schools: Must share the same principal to be under the same membership. Use school district name. May enter one team per problem per division in competition.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Home-schooled students: Must include at least four home-schooled students. May also include up to three members from other schools. May enter one team per problem per division in competition.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community Group: May enter one team per problem per division in competition. May not be an organization established solely for the purpose of participating in Odyssey of the Mind. Please submit by-laws if this is a new membership.

### Division IV:

- \_\_\_\_\_ All teams must have a majority of members who are high school graduates and registered for at least one class at a college, university, accredited technical school, or member of the military. Other team members must be enrolled in one of the above. They do not have to attend the same institution. May enter one team per problem. May proceed directly to World Finals.

Membership name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership number (for renewal, if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Grades covered by membership \_\_\_\_\_ School district \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person (may be a coach) \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing address (for correspondence) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Each individual membership costs \$135, but you will receive discounts if you purchase more than one membership. For all memberships purchased, you get access to five competitive long-term problems, one primary problem, the Program Guide, and more! Membership packets are download-only. Once processed, log in to the Member Area to access the problems.*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Standard Odyssey of the Mind Membership @ \$135** .....

\_\_\_\_\_ **Additional membership(s) for the same school or community group @ \$100** .....

\_\_\_\_\_ **6-10 memberships for the same school district (must register at the same time) @ \$120** .....

\_\_\_\_\_ **11 or more memberships from the same school district (registered at the same time) @ \$100** .....

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

**FIND OM SUPPORT MATERIALS & SOUVENIRS AT [WWW.ODYSSEYOFTHEMIND.COM](http://WWW.ODYSSEYOFTHEMIND.COM)**

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Methods (Sorry we do not accept phone orders.)

- U.S. Mail: Send completed form along with a check or Purchase Order, payable to Creative Competitions, Inc.: CCI: 406 Ganttown Road Sewell, NJ 08080
- FAX: Send completed form along with a copy of your Purchase Order and fax to (856) 256.2798.
- Online: Pay by credit card or upload a Purchase Order at [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com).

[Click here for a digital copy of the Membership Application](#)