

Please visit il.odyesseyofthemind.org and click *Join Today!* to learn how you can be a part of the Odyssey!

illinois ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Bringing Creative Problem Solving Education to Illinois for 35 years!

What is Odyssey of the Mind?

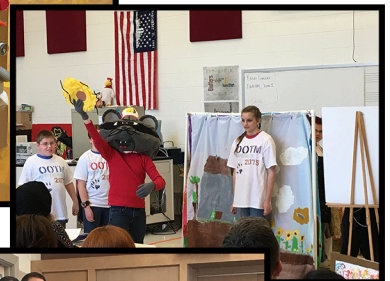
Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem solving educational program that challenges students (K-12 and university level) to think outside the box and to hone their divergent thinking skills to solve interesting problems! Each academic year, five new “problems” are released (Vehicular, Technical, Classical, Structural, and Theatrical), and teams select one problem to “solve” for that year. Solving a problem consists of writing an 8-minute skit, building backdrops, props, and costumes, and sometimes building a car, constructing a balsa wood structure, or writing and performing a song and dance depending on a specific problem’s requirements. Teams are encouraged to think creatively, to take risks, and to work together to create a unique solution with their own style or flair! Going beyond the traditional classroom experience, Odyssey of the Mind prepares students for real world problems and societal challenges in a fun, engaging way while incorporating STEAM education principles. For 40 years, teams around the world, in all 50 states and over 30 countries, have participated in the world’s original and best creative problem solving program. With sponsors and partners ranging from NASA to The Second City and thousands of volunteers around the world, Odyssey of the Mind works to build a better tomorrow by augmenting traditional classroom education with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that also happens to be a lot of fun! In Odyssey, we make new friends, embrace creativity, and focus on solutions instead of on problems - that’s the Odyssey of the Mind spirit!

How does Odyssey of the Mind work?

Odyssey of the Mind is a school or community program. Each school district or community organization (e.g., the local library, Girl Scouts, etc.) purchases a single membership for \$135, the cost of which has not changed in over 20 years to promote Odyssey of the Mind’s goal of providing affordable creative education to as many students as possible. With this membership, a school district or organization can enter up to one team per “problem” and “division.” Divisions are age divisions (Div. I: elementary, Div. II: middle school, Div. III: high school, Div. IV: university) so that teams only compete against students their age. There is also a primary problem for students K-2 for which there is no limit in the number of teams. Teams consist of anywhere from 2-7 students and are typically coached by a teacher, parent, or combination of teachers/parents. The team members are required to do *all* the work when it comes to solving their selected problem and must do so within a tight budget, which enhances the creativity of the solution and keeps the playing field fair for all schools regardless of resources. The new problems are released at the start of each school year, students work on their solutions through fall and winter, and the Illinois State Tournament is held each spring. First and second place winning teams in each problem and division earn the opportunity to represent Illinois at the annual World Finals competition held each May where teams from around the world share their solutions in an unforgettable week of fun!

Wow! How do we get started?

Getting started with Odyssey of the Mind in Illinois is easy! To help, we created a step-by-step process under the *Join Today!* page at il.odyesseyofthemind.org. The best way to learn Odyssey of the Mind is to do Odyssey of the Mind, and our team of volunteers is here to help you. We can’t wait to welcome you to our Odyssey family - your life, the lives of the students involved, and the lives of family and friends will be changed for the better!



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