

# PSSST..... ODYSSEY OF THE MIND™



## TEAM PARENTS AND GUARDIANS!

(Yes, **you**, the ones who are driving the carpools, forking out money for pizza, opening closets for major scavenging, waiting while the team cleans up after a meeting, postponing dinner because one more prop needs to be finished, and generally watching from the sidelines while the team “gets creative!”)

### DID YOU KNOW THAT EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT COACHING THE TEAM...

- ...you are the team’s secret weapon for success?
- ...you are the “wind beneath the wings” of the team and the coach?
- ...you are a vital part of Odyssey of the Mind™?

### DID YOUR CHILD TELL YOU THAT YOU MAY NOT HELP?

That is absolutely **wrong!**  
That is absolutely **right!**  
(Well..... which is it???)

**BOTH!** You may do many things to help the team, but there are also things you might want to do that would cost the team penalty points. So... how do you know the difference? Here is your own handy, dandy, just-for-parents guidelines!

## WHAT PARENTS

### CAN DO:

### CAN'T DO:

Transport the team to buy things	Suggest what to buy
Transport the props	Repair props if broken in shipping
Teach the team members a skill	Suggest to the team which skills to use to solve a problem
<b><i>IF</i></b> the team asks, such as	Suggest to the team which skills would result in a better-looking or better functioning solution
Sewing	Give the teams <b><i>any</i></b> ideas for their problem solution
Woodworking	Sew anything, paint anything, do anything to contribute to the team’s problem solution
Carving	Analyze why something failed
Art	Expect perfection from a solution not done by adults (or from a solution done by adults, for that matter!)
Electronics	Suggest what materials to get from the attic, closet or basement
Engineering	Pack props for the team for easier use on stage
Principals of simple machines	Fix anything that breaks
Welding	Criticize any part of a team’s solution
Help find “experts” to teach skills	Ask <b><i>leading</i></b> questions
Help provide snacks	Put emphasis on <b><i>scores</i></b> instead of <b><i>fun</i></b>
Bring spontaneous problem supplies	
Help get props into the building for the Tournament, even to the staging area	
Open attics, closets, basements for “garage sale value” materials	
Provide <b><i>lots</i></b> of encouragement	
Provide a place to meet/store props	
Get everyone and everything to the Tournament	
Applaud <b><i>A LOT</i></b> and help get props offstage afterwards	
Practice spontaneous problems	
Ask questions	
Be a judge or volunteer at a tournament	

As you can tell, parents ARE important, as resources for leaning skills, helping get materials, providing moral support, supplementing working brains with nourishment, and generally facilitating the logistics of a working team. Without your encouragement, your child will not develop the self confidence that Odyssey of the Mind promotes.

## OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

⌚ What parents may not do is provide the dreaded “Outside Assistance”, for which the team will receive penalties at the tournament. Just remember that all ideas for the **long term problem** solution, as well as all of the implementation of those ideas, must come from a team member.

⌚ However, there is NO “Outside Assistance” in Spontaneous Problem Solving, so feel free to assist the coach, practice at home around the dinner table, and have fun with your family doing spontaneous problems with your child and/or other children. (Everyone loves spontaneous!)

## Parent or Guardian RESPONSIBILITIES on the Tournament Day

Your Odyssey of the Mind Regional Board also relies on parents and guardians for help. We welcome friends, relative, and office associates, too!

Here are the opportunities for parents, friends, and relatives to help make the regional tournament possible. We feel certain you will enjoy helping, and few volunteer opportunities directly benefit so many children in an educational program!

### WE NEED YOUR HELP on Tournament Day to:

⌚ Be an **official** (This involves a training in January or February on a Saturday to learn to be a judge). Each team must provide a judge for the tournament.

⌚ Be a **volunteer** (Each team must provide a volunteer to work at registration, concessions or in the spontaneous holding area for approximately two hours on Tournament Day).

We also suggest you fill out an emergency care form for the coach to have on hand, to help the team get props in and out of the building, to move your car from loading and unloading areas as quickly as possible, and to bring a sense of humor to the tournament (because Murphy’s law is an Odyssey of the Mind condition!)

We all believe that this program offers something unique for your children. We believe that they will learn teamwork, creative problem solving, divergent thinking, persistence, practical skills, and many other abilities through Odyssey of the Mind. Please remember we are all volunteers working together to make this happen.

THANK YOU for your support, for your child, for his or her coach, and for all the volunteers!!

**We wish you creativity in your own life, and fun watching these wonderful problem solvers at work!**

SAMPLE

## EMERGENCY CARE FORM

Team Member \_\_\_\_\_

Mother/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Father/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Contact in case of emergency:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_