

# Odyssey of the Mind Texas State Tournament

## Coaches Information 2011

### **Make Copies of Paperwork Needed for Competition Before You Arrive.**

Make all copies prior to arriving at the competition. Spring Woods HS does not have copy facilities available for teams. Forms can be found in the membership packet and online. See the Program Guide and problem statement for directions on how to complete each required form. If you advance to World Finals some forms will remain the same some will change. DON'T TURN IN YOUR ORIGINALS. Your team will need the following copies:

1. One (1) copy of your school's membership card.  
**New: You can obtain a copy of your membership card online.** Go to [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com) Go to Members Area. You will need your membership number and zip code. Once in the Members Area, select the option on the left "Membership Card" Print that and use it as your membership card.
2. One (1) copy of the single page Media Release form.
3. Medical Release forms – one for each child. These are not turned in, but are kept with the adults that are responsible for the children on your team. One copy should be given to each person responsible for the children. Needed only for children attending the tournament.
4. Long Term problem paperwork (see Step 2 below)

### ***The Mixer on Friday Night, April 15, 2011***

What to expect? A free, fun time for all team members. You will get to meet other teams from around Texas. Free pizza and drinks for teams and coaches. Parents and visitors are welcomed to have dinner with a \$3 donation. We will have a DJ Dance Party and lots more to entertain the teams. You can pick up and pay for your State Pre-Order and/or buy Texas Odyssey Pins and State Finalist T-shirts (while supplies last). Come prepared to have fun and start your new collection of Odyssey Pins by swapping with other teams from all across Texas.

Location: Spring Woods High School (at the corner of Gessner and Hammerly)  
2045 Gessner, Houston TX 77080  
Lunchroom and Court Yard  
Time: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

### ***Check-In Procedure on Competition Day, Saturday, April 16, 2011***

**Step 1: Team Check-In Table.** Coaches check-in at the Main Team Check-In Table at least 2 hours before the scheduled Long-Term performance time or ½ hour before the Spontaneous time, whichever is earlier.

**Exception:** If you are the first team in the morning, check in 1 hour before your time. If payment has not been made for the tournament fee, it is due at that time. Teams not registering judges and/or volunteers will be required to clear up this situation if they have not already done so.

Do NOT unload until you know where your problem's props can be temporarily stored. Do NOT unload props prior to 1 hour before your teams scheduled competition time!

#### **Forms needed for the Check-In Table:**

1. One (1) copy of your school's membership card (Keep)
2. One (1) copy of the single page Media Release form. (Turn in)
3. Medical Release forms – one for each child. (Keep) These are not turned in, but are kept with the adults that are responsible for the children on your team. Any parent, teacher, or coach who is in charge of the children should have a copy of these forms at all times.

#### **At the Check-In Table the coach will:**

1. Sign in the team
2. Turn in the Media Release form
3. Show the membership card and Medical Release forms
4. Learn where the team's competition sites will be.
5. Receive instructions on where to bring in and stash the team's props.
6. Pick up the team's participation certificates.

The locations of your team's competition sites will be displayed on posters through out the building.

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Go to [www.txodyssey.org/forms](http://www.txodyssey.org/forms) for blank forms. Go to [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com) Members Area for a copy of your membership card.

**Step 2: Paperwork Check Station.** All the *problem paperwork* is reviewed and certified at the Paperwork Check Station. **NEW** - All Divisions must have at least one team member that presents the paperwork - the coach and other team members may also be present. The idea is that any corrections and/or additions that are needed will be made at this time by those presenting the paperwork. A coach can assist in making changes for Division I teams. Only team members can make changes for Division II and III teams. Make sure that those who will make any required changes are present at the paperwork check in station. Priority will be given to team's competition order. Please report to paper work check at least one hour before your long term competition time.

### Forms needed for the Paperwork Check Station:

(Paperwork should be in this order:)

- One (1) copy of the Material Value form.
- One (1) copy of the Outside Assistance form.
- Four (4) copies of the Style form.
- Four (4) copies of any required problem specific paperwork. To see if your team needs these forms you must see your Long Term Problem Statement, Section H. The Team Must Provide.
- One (1) copy of all national Problem SPECIFIC Clarifications if your team received any. (This is needed only if your team submitted a problem clarification.)

Go to [www.txodyssey.org/forms](http://www.txodyssey.org/forms) for blank forms.

**Step 3: Unload Props.** Please do not unload your props any earlier than one hour before your performance. Please temporarily store your props where told at the Team Check-In table. Please keep them against the walls and out of the way of the moving human traffic. Adults can help unload the props from the parking area, but make sure they do not assist the team in setting up the props. Only the TEAM may create, connect, or position the props.

**Step 4A: Long Term.** (Your team could have long term first or spontaneous first. Check your team's competition time.) Be physically near the room where you will perform your long term problem 30 minutes before you are scheduled. You should have costumes on, props ready, the team members ready to go, and the coach fairly conscious (optional). Inform the judge who is manning the door that your team has arrived. Follow any instructions given to your team by that judge. When called to go in, do so.

Problem 4, the balsa wood structure problem, has a different procedure. Balsa wood teams have a weigh-in time on the schedule. Balsa teams can weigh in BEFORE their scheduled time, as long as it is after the first weigh in of the day. Balsa teams cannot weigh in LATER than their scheduled time. The Long Term performance will follow weigh-in. Follow any instructions given to your team by the judges. When called to go in, do so.

**Step 4B: Spontaneous.** (Your team could have long term first or spontaneous first. Check your team's competition time.) Only the team and coach go to the Spontaneous check in table. No visitors are allowed in the Spontaneous area. Please check-in 5 - 10 minutes before the team is scheduled for Spontaneous competition. After the team checks in, the team and one coach will wait in the holding room (a classroom) for their turn. A judge will escort them to the room where they will perform their spontaneous problem. Only team members are allowed into the competition room. No cameras, pagers, or phones are allowed in the Spontaneous area.

Remember, only five team members perform the spontaneous problem. The other non-performing team members can be in the room with the five performing team members but they do not have to be in the room. It is up to the team to decide who performs and whether or not the others come along. The coach may stay in the holding room while the team is there, but will leave when the team is called to perform the spontaneous problem. The coach and parents should wait at the Spontaneous Exit Location for the team to finish spontaneous.

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Remember to keep the Spontaneous problem a secret until after World Finals in June 2011. Violations of this rule will result in team penalties. Other competitions around the state, country, and world may be using the same problem. Some local competitions may not be complete until the week before World Finals. We don't want others to have an unfair advantage. The spontaneous word of the day is "secret"!!!

## **Step 5: Pick Up Scores.**

**Long Term Scores.** Coaches will be allowed to pick up long term scores one half hour after their team's performance (or as soon as they are ready). Exception: If your team is among the first teams to perform, the scores will be held so the judges can normalize their score scale. These coaches will be told when to pick up the scores. (See sign in performance area for list of teams whose scores are ready.) When the coach picks up the scores, the Head Judge will discuss the scores and penalty deductions (if any) with the coach. The coaches will have one half-hour to check the scores and file a correction or grievance with the Head Judge. PLEASE PICK UP YOUR SCORES. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THEM AFTER THE TOURNAMENT IS OVER.

**Style Scores.** Style scores are also given out at the same time as long term scores. Style scores are subjective and are not subject to change or grievance.

**Spontaneous Scores.** Spontaneous scores are not given out. Only the total score is posted online (see below).

**Scores Online.** At a later date, a summary of all scores will be available online at the Texas State web page, [www.txodyssey.org](http://www.txodyssey.org). This procedure changes from year to year, so please verify this information at the main check-in table.

**Step 6: Reload Your Props.** Take a deep breath. It is all over for now. Be very careful reloading those props. You may be going to World Finals!

**Step 7: Awards Ceremony.** Everyone is invited to the Awards Ceremony that is held later in the evening at Don Coleman Coliseum, 1050 S. Dairy Ashford, Houston, 77079. There is a map on the website. Your team does not have to be present to win, but it sure is fun to run up on stage and receive the attention. No gum, balloons, confetti, silly string or anything that will cause extra janitorial fees will be allowed in the stadium. Doors open at 6:30 pm. You will not be allowed in earlier. Pins and t-shirts are for sale before and after the ceremony. The ceremony is scheduled to start at 7:00 pm. NEW THIS YEAR. Everyone must sit in seats in the stadium. Kids cannot be on the floor.

Please stay for the entire awards ceremony to show respect for the teams presenting solutions in all the problems. Everyone has worked hard and deserves their moment for applause and recognition, whether problem one or problem five.

**Step 8: Advancing Teams.** First and second place teams as well as individual or team Ranatra Fusca award winners advance to World Finals being held at the University of Maryland. There will be a brief, MANDATORY meeting for all advancing teams immediately after the Awards Ceremony. The meeting to be held in designated seats at the South end of the coliseum. The whole team and coach must attend; parents are encouraged to attend also. During this meeting you will be given a packet and specific instructions.

**Safety & School Etiquette.** Safety considerations always come first at a tournament. Please make sure your kids are safe at all times. Keep props pushed to the side walls so a pathway way is left. Make the tournament a positive experience for everyone.

Load props in your vehicles after your competition to make room for others.

No one may use site electricity, except the team during their actual competition. Electricity usage increases the schools hosting cost; this includes no cell phone, computers and tools.

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Please help us keep the site as clean as or cleaner than when we arrived. Check your area when leaving for any trash or personal items.

Any negative conduct or poor sportsmanship can result in a Spirit of the Problem deduction for the team, even if it is by the team's parents or friends.

You must have a Medical form filled out for every team member present. If the coach leaves the campus, the medical form must be left with the chaperone remaining with the children. **If you need First Aid, go to the main check-in table for help.**

## **Concessions in the Cafeteria/Courtyard Outside Cafeteria**

**Pre-Ordered T-Shirts.** Please pick up your pre-ordered State Finalist t-shirts in the cafeteria either the night before the tournament at the Mixer or during the tournament. Your order will be easier to process if you bring the email confirmation with you. All pre-orders are paid for at the time they are picked up. Checks are payable to Odyssey of the Mind - Texas. Cash is also accepted. No credit cards.

**State Finalist T-Shirts.** If you didn't pre-order, there is still a chance to get that beautiful state finalist shirt. Limited sizes and numbers will be sold during the Mixer and Tournament. Cash and checks only, made payable to Odyssey of the Mind - Texas.

**Pins and Souvenirs.** The pins are in and they look great! There are pins for each of the problems, pins for our regions, pins that blink, and pins that sparkle. Some are funny. Some are beautiful. Some are actually educational. Everyone LOVES pins. You can buy one or the whole set. Cash and checks only, made payable to Odyssey of the Mind - Texas. Sales from 9am-3pm in the cafeteria.

Pin and t-shirt sales support our State Odyssey program.

**PLINKO.** The PLINKO board will be back at state this year. Kids of all ages have fun trying to drop the pucks down the board. The top three scores of the day will receive a great pin prize at the awards ceremony. Cost \$1 per game. Get a pin for score of 10,000 points. 9am-3pm.

**Drawing for Pin Sets.** For only \$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5, you can have a chance to win a wonderful pin set or collection. Winners will be drawn at the awards ceremony. 9am-3pm.

**Quilt Silent Auction.** A large quilt made from Odyssey – Texas t-shirts will be available in a silent auction. It is BEAUTIFUL! The auction will be held from 9am-3pm at the tournament and 6:30-7:00 at the Awards ceremony, with bidding closing at 7:00 sharp. The highest bidder will be announced at the awards ceremony.

PLINKO, prize drawing, and silent auction proceeds go to the Odyssey of the Mind – Texas scholarship fund.

**Dr. Sam Book/Poster Signing.** Dr. Sam, the founder of Odyssey of the Mind, will be at the state tournament to sign his book, his lighthouse poster, or other items. Limited signing times will be posted at the tournament.

Proceeds from the lighthouse poster sales go to COU.

**Team Photos.** Get a team photo to commemorate being a Texas State Finalist. One 8x10 or two 5X7's cost \$10. Photos paid for in advance and picked up at Awards Ceremony. 8am-2pm.

**Lunch.** Lunch will be served in the cafeteria this year. The team can have a good lunch without ever having to leave the competition site. The lunch and snack sales support organization(s) at the local school. Cash always works.

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Proceeds from all sales, except food sales and photos, go to Odyssey of the Mind – Texas or COU organizations. This money is used for tournaments and scholarships. Please support our organizations. Our entire staff volunteers their time, but the tournaments still have many hidden costs and proceeds from these sales help to keep our team fees low. Thanks for your continued support.

### **Copy Services**

There are no copy services on campus for the tournament. Bring extra copies of all your forms. Make copies to save for yourself too. You may need them for World Finals!!!!

### **Phone**

If you need to use a land line, go to the check-in or information table. They will know locations.

### **Visitors**

Spectators are welcome to come and see the Long Term performances. In fact, we encourage it. The children have worked hard to get here and deserve all the support they can get. Please turn off all pagers, phones, beepers, and anything else that would distract the team or judges before entering the performance rooms. The performance room doors will be closed while a team is performing. Please do not enter while the doors are closed unless otherwise indicated by signs on the door. Teams may ask that no pictures be taken. We will also take volunteers to work during the day. We always need door guards, check-in and information table helpers, souvenir sales persons, and runners for judge's snacks.

### **Spontaneous Volunteers**

We can always use extra help. If you find yourself with nothing to do or you just get so excited that you want to jump in and help out, please come by the check-in desk and ask if any help is needed.

### **What's A Team To Do?**

The teams do not have to stay at the competition site all day long. That is left to the coach's discretion. Teams can watch other teams perform, although we don't recommend that children watch other teams that they are competing against. Many coaches bring games or practice spontaneous problems during down time. Shopping in the cafeteria is fun. It is fun to go outside, if you have time. Many coaches bring a soft ball or Frisbee so the kids can release pent up energy playing on the grass outside. Food, drinks, and snacks are also available in the cafeteria.

### **A Final Word About Volunteers.**

All the directors, board members, problem captains, and judges are non-paid volunteers. It takes hundreds of volunteers to run the Texas State Tournament. Many people have worked countless hours to make this program a success. We thank them for giving it their all.

If you happen to come across a judge, tournament official, or volunteer, please be sure to thank them for their time and effort. We couldn't do this tournament without volunteers!

A reminder, anyone can nominate an individual or team for an OMER's award. Forms are available at the Main Check-In table. Anyone who would like to volunteer a few hours at the tournament is welcome. Just like the problems, we need long term and spontaneous volunteers, too. Ask at the Main Check-In table if you have some free time and would like to help out.

**Have fun and good luck. Hope you make it to World Finals!!!!**