

Texas State Odyssey of the Mind Tournament
Competition on March 23,2024
2024 Competition Information
Packet (“TIP”)

This document has all the details you need to help you and your team have a fun and successful experience at the Competition. **Please review all the information carefully.**

FEEL FREE TO PRINT AND BRING ALONG

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WHERE:

Texas Woman’s University

304 Administration Drive

Denton, TX 76204

Feel free to print at home the **Competition site maps** and the **Competition program** (always subject to last minute change) and locate your venue by problem and division. Encourage your team families to do the same as there will not be any hard copies on-site.

Glossary

Terms used in this program:

Odyssey HQ: National website for Odyssey of the Mind: www.odysseyofthemind.com

TXOM: Texas website for our local Association: www.txodyssey.org.

Confirm with Your Judge, Volunteer, (and Tournament Staff where applicable) Representatives.

Thank your team volunteers for their service. Once they are registered, they will receive information directly and be taken care of by our Judge Coordinator, our Problem Captains, and our Volunteer Coordinator respectively.

Check Your Team's Competition Times

Competition schedules are posted on the website!

For competitive teams in problems 1, 2, 3 & 5, your team will be assigned one time for the Long-term competition and another time for the Spontaneous competition – they can be in any order. For competitive teams in problem 4 (balsa wood), your team will be assigned one time for weigh-in, one time for the Long-term Competition and another time for the Spontaneous Competition – they can be in any order.

Parents are encouraged to watch the Long-Term competition. The Spontaneous competition is closed to all but team members.

Share information with family members, they are welcome to attend the team performance. We also encourage teams to go watch other problems during their down time.

Arrange for Your Team's Props and Team Members to be transported.

Whether you rent a U-Haul or bring the props in cars, figure out how your team will transport their props and costumes to the Competition, and how they will get there themselves. Remember, adults can help the team carry their items but only the TEAM may create, connect, or position the items. Please do not unload your props until 90 minutes before your performance and refer to the Unloading Instructions later in this document for important information about parking restrictions. Determine a time and place for all team members to meet up once they arrive.

Make Copies of Paperwork Needed for Competition:

<https://www.txodyssey.org/teamforms-> **LINK TO FORMS**

REMEMBER YOU CANNOT COMPETE WITHOUT MEDICAL FORM OR ADULT SUPERVISION FORMS

Every team must have all the required paperwork. Make all copies prior to arriving at the Competition. The hosting schools will NOT have copy facilities available for teams. See the Program Guide and problem statement for directions on how to complete each required form. If you advance to State or World Finals, you will need ADDITIONAL copies each time. DO NOT TURN IN YOUR ORIGINALS.

Note: It is OK to change your forms if you advance to WORLD FINALS. It is expected that you will update your cost form if you make modifications between Competition levels.

Your team will need the following forms and copies at STATE. All forms can be downloaded from TXOM, under Coaches, Team Forms. For some forms, you must provide your school membership

Preparing for the Competition

<i>Item</i>	<i>Copies</i>	<i>Where to Find It; Notes</i>
Membership Card	0	Not needed for TX Competitions.
Medical Release Forms	1 set per chape- rone	This is a Texas-specific form. Need 1 form for each team member present on-site. Each adult responsible for the children should have a set of copies. (Some schools/districts require that you have a copy of the child's insurance card and/or additional medical release forms. Contact your school for details.)
Adult Supervision Form NEW THIS YEAR	1 Set per adult	This is a Texas-specific form. Need 1 form for each team member that includes all team members present on-site. Each adult responsible for the children should have a set of copies. This form must be shown at check-in to share who is responsible for each minor on campus.
TEAM TSHIRT FORM FREE SHIRTS For advancing teams NEW THIS YEAR	1	This is a Texas-specific form that we will collect from each team at registration. We will use it to complete for teams who advance to WF. Shirts will be available during or directly following the awards ceremony.
Cost Form*	1	Refer to the Program Guide for instructions how to fill out this form. The form <u>must be itemized</u> and have a total per page, and an overall total.
Outside Assistance Form*	1	Refer to the Program Guide for instructions how to fill out this form. All team members who have participated in ANY team meetings must be listed. <u>DO NOT</u> include date of birth (that is for international teams only).
Style Form*	4	Refer to your long-term problem (section F.) for the #1, #2 and #5 categories that are required by your specific problem. Teams MUST list their style elements in the order listed in the problem so that it is consistent for the judges. Where it says "free choice of team", the team needs to fill in that section with their element that they want to be judged on. THESE ELEMENTS MUST NOT BE JUDGED IN THE LONG TERM AREA.
Team Required List Form*	4	Refer to your long-term problem for specifics on this form. It is handed to the judges so that they know what they are about to score.
Any Team-Specific Clarifications received	1	This is required only if your team submitted a problem clarification request and received a team-specific response.
<u>A note about forms and paperwork:</u> Having the Team Required List Form and Style Form helps the judges understand what the kids are doing. Each team will be asked to provide paperwork by the pre-staging judge		

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Competition Day Instructions

PARKING-
You may walk
Props from
parking

- There is plenty of parking for everyone.
- **(See Map)**
- Please heed any restricted and handicap signs. All parking lots have handicap access.
- Download and print site map for interior of Hubbard Hall and the Campus Map that includes parking.



WAITING
AREA
FOOD

- There are FOUR FAST FOOD restaurants inside of Hubbard and of course you may use Uber eats or like services to deliver food.
- The Dining Hall is on the map. The food is good and varied. It is \$9.63 for adults and \$5.00 for students under 7.



STEP 1
Team Check-In

- Teams can split up on arrival. Coach and 1 member go check-in, the remaining team and adults can unload props, if they are within 90 minutes of long term.
- **WHO:** one coach and ONE team member of **PROBLEMS 1 to 5.**
- **WHERE:** Team Check-in Tables (look for green balloons) inside Hubbard First floor
- **WHEN:** once the entire team is on-site. **DO NOT MISS THIS STEP EVEN IF YOU ARE RUNNING LATE.**
- At the check-in Table, the coach and ONE team member will:
 - ✓ Sign the team in.
 - ✓ Show the Medical Release forms **AND ADULT Supervision** but keep them. Each chaperone should carry a medical release and Adult Supervision form for every team member and MINOR
 - ✓ **TEAM TSHIRT SIZE FORM.**
 - ✓ Verify where the team's long-term venue will be.



STEP 2
Paperwork
Check Station

- **WHO:** At least one team member and adult must present the paperwork; coach and other team members may also come to help with changes.
- **WHERE:** Next to Team Check-in
- **WHEN:** right after team check-in. **DO NOT MISS THIS STEP EVEN IF YOU ARE RUNNING LATE.**
- Prepare to present your forms in this order:
 - ✓ Outside Assistance Form (1 copy)
 - ✓ Cost Form (1 copy)
 - ✓ Style Form (4 copies)
 - ✓ Team Required List Form (4 copies)
 - ✓ Any national Team-Specific Clarifications your team received (3 copies) (only if your team submitted a problem clarification request and received

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a team-specific response). Be sure to include it whether you chose to adapt your solution or not.

- All problem paperwork is reviewed and certified; this helps the Competition run smoothly by ensuring that all required paperwork is filled out properly before team' performance.
- The mission of the Paperwork check station is to assist the teams and offer them the opportunity to correct them in order to secure the highest score possible.
- Do NOT skip the paperwork check station and go straight to pre-staging.
- If any obvious corrections and/or additions are needed, they will be made at this time; a coach can assist Division I teams. For Division II & III, only team members can make changes to forms.
- **NO copying facilities are available** at the school; make copies ahead of time.



STEP 3
Unload Props
ALL PROPS
GOING TO
HUBBARD
HALL MUST
BE
UNLOADED
AND
LOADED at
LOADING
DOCK

- WHO: **ALL teams**
- WHEN: Ninety minutes or less before your performance time. Do NOT bring in your props in any sooner unless **SCHEDULE time indicates earlier time.**
- WHERE: **Problems 1, 2, 3, and 5 USE LOADING DOCK-see map**
- Problem 4- Ramp by ASB- see map.
- We use the term Props loosely to include sets, props etc.
- Adults may help unload and carry items, but **ONLY** the team members can create, connect, repair, or position the props.
- Follow any additional instructions given by our Drop-Off Monitors or Security officers.
- If your props need some pre-assembly and/or repairs, you may do so in the hall marked for your Problem and Division's prop storage.
- **NO GLITTER- ALL GLITTER MUST BE COVERED BY CLEAR TAPE**
- **SEE SEPARATE SCHEDULE AND DIRECTIONS**



STEP 4
Long-Term &
Spontaneous
Competitions

- Your team may have either Long-Term or Spontaneous first.
- LONG-TERM: **Problem 4** (Balsa Wood Teams): In addition to the above, you must report to the weigh-in room to have your structure weighed before your performance. Refer to the weigh-in time listed in the schedule. Your structure will remain at the weigh-in station until you pick-it up 5 minutes before long-term.
- LONG-TERM: **All Teams**. Be physically near the room where you will perform your long-term problem 20 minutes before you are scheduled – costumes on, props ready, team members ready to go. Inform the pre-staging judge at the door that your team has arrived; follow any instructions given to your team.
- Keep all your props tight against the wall to avoid blocking the hallways.
- Adults may help carry props onto the pre-staging and then inside to the staging

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area, but they must then leave the team and join the audience. This includes the coach. Please remember, your team has prepared for this for a long time. *No number of last-minute instructions crammed in can change or even improve it. It is time to let them shine.*

- Make sure that the coach knows where to check for score availability. And where to go for score pick-up. This information will be provided by the staging area judge before you leave the team.
- After your long-term performance is over, judges will interview the team to learn their problem-solving process for a chance to give maximum score. *Please do not crowd the team or take a video, until judges give you the OK to approach.*
- Adults can help clear the stage and transport the props out of the venue. **Please re-load all props and other materials into your vehicle(s) following long-term to help keep the hallways clear. USE THE LOADING DOCK.**

- SPONTANEOUS: Spontaneous is on the second floor of the ASB. ENTER CAMPUS SIDE- see map. Access is restricted until it is time to compete. **Only the team** and 1 coach can go to the Spontaneous check-in table. No visitors allowed. Please check-in 5 minutes before your scheduled time. The team will wait in a holding area until it is time to be escorted to their spontaneous venues by a judge. No cameras, pagers, phones, or props are allowed in the Spontaneous area. The entire team goes in.

COACH will be in the hallway.

- As it was implemented last year, all team members (up to seven) should compete in Spontaneous. For Verbal and Verbal/Hands-On problems, team members may respond in any order, and individual team members may give as many or as few responses as they wish.
- The team will come back downstairs when they are done. Coach will escort the team back to Hubbard to meet supporters. Remember to keep the Spontaneous problem SECRET until after World Finals in May. Violation of this rule will result in team penalties. Other Competitions around the state, country, and world may be using the same problems.



Certificates

- Templates for Team Member Certificates will be available on our website for coaches or delegates to print personalized certificates.



STEP 6 Pick Up & Review Long- Term Scores

- WHERE: At your long-term performance venue
- WHO: One coach per team.
- WHEN: check the list by your venue door to see if your team scores are ready; it generally takes about 45-60 min, but scores for the first teams of the day may not be ready until after 11 am.
- If your scores are marked as ready, the coach should go stand under the sign that says, "Score pick-up" and just wait there. The Head Judge will come meet you at the first opportunity. You may send a parent delegate if you are coaching multiple teams.
- You will receive detailed score sheets for Long-term and Style only – Spontaneous scores are not given out at this time. In addition, these score sheets

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- include post-it's with feedback from the judges (to the extent allowed).
- The Head judge will go over scores and any penalty deductions with the coach. The coach has 30 minutes to report back any corrections or grievances. The Head Judge will only discuss **objective** scores. **Subjective** scores are final and cannot be discussed. NO DISSCUSSION will last longer than 10 minutes. Additional time will be allowed after ALL coaches have received their scores.
- Video is not accepted as evidence against the decision of judges.
- The scores themselves are important feedback to the team, whether they advance to the WORLD FINALS or not. So are the hand-written post-it's from the judges.
- Score sheets not picked up at the venue by 4 pm will no longer be available for pick-up.



STEP 7
Attend the
Awards
Ceremony

- WHO: Family and visitors welcome.
- WHEN: 6:00D
- WHERE: SOUTHWEST Ball Room
- Team members and coaches sit on the floor. Leave space as indicated for passage. Family members sit on the chairs.
- Your team does not need to be present to win or advance.
- Any Special Awards are announced:
 - ✓ OMER's Award is named for the Odyssey of the Mind raccoon mascot, OMER, in recognition of individuals or teams who demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship, exemplary behavior, or exceptional talent.
 - ✓ The Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award represents the essence of the Odyssey of the Mind. It is presented to teams or individuals who exhibit exceptional creativity, either through some aspect of their problem solution, or an extraordinary idea beyond the problem solution.
- The top 2 ranking teams (and ties) from each problem and each division advance to the State competition (Note: certain severe penalties may prevent advancement).
PINS will be available for sale at the awards ceremony.



STEP 8
Review Scores/
Rankings On-
Line

- After the Awards Ceremony, all scores (total and normalized Long-term, Style, Spontaneous, and Penalties) are posted on the state website. Go to TXOM website. Again, only the total scores will be published. Do not miss your opportunity during the Competition to pick-up your detailed scores.
- Note: Scores will be listed by venue, like the schedule.



STEP 9
Advancing
Teams

- Advancing teams: if your team advances to WORLD FINALS, please plan on attending a short meeting after the awards ceremonies.
- You may pick your t-shirts and other goodies up as soon as your team is

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announced at the sales table.



Don't Forget...

About the MIXER, Friday from 6:30-8:30 in the Lawn outside of Hubbard Hall
RAIN INFO: CFO second floor-FOLLOW SIGNS from HUBBARD
The team and 2 coaches eat for free. Family members may buy food tickets for \$10.00 at the door.
There are games, Karaoke, Face painting and MORE! All are encouraged to attend.

*Above all, CELEBRATE your team's success!
Whatever score and ranking they achieved,
remind them how much they have learned and enjoyed the process.*

General Information

Odyssey of the Mind merchandise

Pre-Ordered Region T-Shirts. Please pick up your pre-ordered state t-shirts in the merchandise booth on the bottom floor of Hubbard AND AT THE MIXER.

Please have the person picking up the t-shirts bring a copy of the order confirmation email, if available, to speed things up. You must provide the full name of the person who placed the order.

Pins. Pins are a big hit with the kids (with coaches and officials, too!). There are pins for each of the problems, pins for our region, pins that blink, and pins that sparkle. Some are funny. Some are beautiful. Some are educational. Everyone LOVES pins. You can buy one or the whole set. Check-out our merchandise booth in the cafeteria. Payment by cash or check. Make checks payable to *Odyssey of the Mind - Texas*. When Wi-Fi is available, we also accept payment by credit card.

All proceeds from merchandise sales go to Odyssey of the Mind – Texas organization. This money is used for Competitions and scholarships. The Competitions have many hidden costs and the proceeds from these sales help to keep our Competition fees low. Please support our organization. We are a 501© organization, all donations for the general fund or the scholarship fund are tax-deductible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Food & Drink

Four fast food venues are available as well as the dining hall.

What Else Can Teams Do?

Students must be supervised at all times.

We strongly encourage teams to spend the day watching other performances, we remind teams that the performing team family has right of way in seating, where you see that the audience space is more limited.

Many coaches bring games or practice spontaneous problems during down time or bring a soft ball or Frisbee so the kids can release pent up energy playing on the grass outside. Shopping merchandise is also fun.

Thank You Booth/ World Finals Banner

Please stop by these booths in the bottom level of Hubbard Hall where team members are invited to write a personal Thank You card for Judges and Officials and/or contribute to our banner for WF.

Safety & Campus Etiquette

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

Please help us keep the site as clean as or cleaner than when we arrived. Check your area when leaving

Teams are also asked to bring their own supplies to remove makeup, instead of using the paper towels or toilet paper from the hosting school. Please only use the restrooms for their intended use, so that everyone can take a turn. LEAVE RESTROOMS CLEAN- you may be asked to clean a mess you leave. Check after your team uses; someone always leaves makeup/feathers/paint in sinks!

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

You must have a Medical Form and Adult Supervision Forms filled out for every team member

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present. ALL ADULTS NEED COPIES. If you need First Aid, go to the Volunteer check-in table for help. A First Aid Kit is available there. Please inform the Volunteer desk or a Senior Staff member in purple shirt, if you must call 911 for any reason.

Visitors

Spectators are welcome to come and see the Long-term performances. There are no restriction on bringing visitors or other teams to watch the performances as long **as minors are accompanied by adults at all times**. The kids have worked hard to get here and deserve all the support they can get. There are 2-3 venues that may have smaller audience space (2 teams max) so we will ask to give the performance team right of way on audience seating.

In some of the problem venues, performance room doors are closed while a team is performing. Please do not enter while the doors are closed!

Please turn off all pagers, phones, beepers (does anyone still have these?), and anything else that would distract the team or judges before entering the performance rooms.

Teams may ask that no pictures or video recording be taken. You must follow the team's wishes.

A reminder, anyone can nominate an individual or team for an OMER's award. Forms are available at the Team Check-In and Volunteer table.

Copy Services

There are no copy services on campus for the Competition. Bring extra copies of all your forms. Make copies to save for yourself too.

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 Competition. Many people have worked countless hours to make this program a success. We thank them for giving it their all. And we ask you to consider becoming one of those volunteers.

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

We often need volunteers to help during the day. We always need door guards, hallway safety, check-in and helpers, souvenir salespersons, and runners for judges' snacks. If you want to help, check your planned down time during the day and ask at the volunteer desk!

We also will have more volunteer jobs available for teams advancing to World Finals.

If you would like to help after this Competition or help plan next year's Competition, contact the Tournament Director, Sandy Sook at 817-937-4386. We have so many small jobs!

Parking

Please observe the specific drop-off and parking restrictions. Please heed directions from our Security Officers and Staff to facilitate the traffic. If you arrive by school bus, please communicate with us independently for specific instructions.

Park in the MAROON LOT it is closest to the LOADING dock where you will bring your props in and out of Hubbard. **Please do not unload props at more than 90 Minutes before your long-term Competition** UNLESS SPECIFIED by the schedule. Reload props in your vehicles after your

performance to make room for others.

Team Mixer

Fri. 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Hubbard Lawn (in case of Rain CFO-Classroom Faculty Office Building- 2nd Floor – behind Arts & Sciences Building)

Feel free to bring blankets for picnics- we will be outside.

If it is raining- feel free to use the officials parking lot for MIXER parking only.

Register for venue tours at check-in. Times: 6:30pm, 7 pm, 7:30 pm.