



Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind

March 18, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONNECTICUT ODYSSEY OF THE MIND STATE TOURNAMENT

CTOM announces its 2016 Odyssey of the Mind State Finals Tournament

CTOM is excited to be hosting the 35th annual Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament on Saturday, April 2nd at Bristol Eastern High School and Stafford Elementary School in Bristol CT. Over 150 teams from all over Connecticut will be arriving to participate in this spectacular Creative Problem Solving Competition. The public is invited to come and see all the brilliant ideas the participants have come up with on their own without adult intervention. Children from Kindergarten through high school have been working since September to develop a long term problem solution and practice spontaneous problem solving in order to compete in this event.

Odyssey of the Mind teaches students to learn creative problem-solving methods while learning teamwork and having fun in the process. For thirty five years, this unique program has helped Connecticut teachers, parents and coaches generate excitement in their students and team members. By tapping into creativity, and through encouraging imaginative paths to problem-solving, students learn skills that will provide them with the ability to solve problems -- great and small -- for a lifetime. Odyssey of the Mind teaches students how to think divergently by providing open-ended problems that appeal to a wide range of interests. Students learn how to identify challenges and to think creatively to solve those problems. They are free to express their ideas and suggestions without fear of criticism. The creative problem-solving process rewards thinking "outside of the box."

This year the problems the teams are solving include making a vehicle a team member must ride on in which the propulsion may not use pedaling! Other teams will be designing a technical solution that simulates multiple types of fishing. Some teams will be performing their version of Aesop's fables that have "gone Viral" or presenting humorous performances about animals. One of the most exciting performances to watch is the balsa problem in which teams build a small balsa wood structure that must hold as much weight as possible -- see the teams that can balance over 1,000 pounds on a few ounces of balsa wood!

The tournament opens at 7:30 am and continues until 4:30 pm. Closing ceremonies in which winners are announced begins at 4:30 with special entertainment for all ages. First and second place teams are invited to attend World Finals at Iowa State University on May 25-28, 2016.

Everyone is invited to stop in at any time during the day to view the excitement. There is no admission charge. This is a fantastic event for families with children of any age.

For more information call 203-228-0465 or visit our Website at www.ctom.org.

For additional information about the Odyssey of the Mind International program please visit odysseyofthemind.com

If you would like more information about this press release, please contact:

Betsy Wellington

203-228-0465 (cell) or email at bwellington@ctom.org

Attached Pictures: Available on request

Photographers and Reporters are invited to attend the Tournament to take pictures and interview participants.