



Come One, Come All!

36th Annual Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Brookfield, Connecticut – February, 21, 2017

Please join us on Saturday, March 18th for the ***36th Annual Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind (CTOM) State Tournament!*** CTOM's Board of Directors, problem captains, and judging teams invite all our friends, parents, grand-parents, educators, and the public to experience the exciting results our 160 teams present in a thrilling day of competition.

Once again, the Tournament will be held at **Southern Connecticut State University** located at 501 Crescent Street in New Haven Admission and parking are free of charge. SCSU's Cafeteria will be open for refreshments with the fabulous CTOM Market Place offering an array of merchandise for sale.

Doors open at 7:30am. Our Closing Ceremonies, with special entertainment, will begin at 4:30 p.m. Medals will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams beginning at 5:30pm, with the 1st and 2nd place finishers advancing to the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Michigan State University in May.

Odyssey of the Mind (OM) is the largest international creative problem-solving competition in the world. Millions of students from kindergarten through college have participated in the OM since its inception in 1979. The program is **STEAM** focused employing concepts from science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics, in conjunction with critical thinking skills, creativity, and teamwork.

Teams of five to seven students meet weekly for more than six months developing their solution to one of five Long-Term Problems in categories such as constructing a vehicle, creating a new take on a classic, building a balsa wood structure, or solving a mechanical dilemma. Importantly, there's a strict rule that the team accepts *no outside assistance*, which means that they cannot ask for or receive help, even from their coaches, teachers, or parents. The solution is 100% created by the students. Their solution is then presented in the form of an eight-minute performance at the state Tournament. Finally, each team will also face a Spontaneous Challenge that they won't see until it's given to them live at the Tournament!

Additional background may be found at www.odysseyofthemind.com and www.ctom.org

Southern Connecticut State University is vibrant community of more than 10,000 students located less than three miles from downtown New Haven, near the artsy and historic Westville Village section of the city. Founded as a teachers college in 1893, Southern has evolved over the past century into a comprehensive university offering 114 graduate and undergraduate programs. More than 700 faculty members lead students through a wide range of studies and research specialties. Southern is accredited by the Connecticut Board of Governors for Higher Education and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

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