



## Partnering to Foster Creativity and STEAM Skills ... From Anywhere

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Brookfield and Stamford, Conn - Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind (CTOM) is pleased to announce a partnership with Kids Helping Kids (KHK), a fellow 501(c)(3) organization focused on developing leadership skills through youth-led service projects. The new partnership enables interested students from across Connecticut to participate in the 2020-2021 Odyssey of the Mind program as members of teams representing KHK.

Odyssey of the Mind is the oldest and longest running creative problem-solving competition in the world, challenging and entertaining students across Connecticut for the past 40 years! Faced with the unfortunate reality that many school districts across the state will not be offering in-person enrichment programming like Odyssey, and an increase in the number of families opting to home-school, CTOM has adjusted its 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills enrichment program to ensure interested students can participate, whether they are attending classes in school or learning from home.

“As CTOM moves into our fifth decade of fostering creativity and a love of all things STEAM, we are thrilled to partner with KHK. Our organizations share a common belief in the value of student empowerment and leadership. KHK will sponsor interested teams in those areas where Odyssey is not currently offered,” explained Mimi Owen, CTOM Board President.

Coaches in districts where Odyssey is not already offered through the school or an existing community organization will now be able to register as a team sponsored by KHK. This year, CTOM is introducing a new virtual team support and training platform both to enrich the experience of its participants and to enhance this new partnership.

“Odyssey of the Mind fosters many of the skills that are directly tied to our organization’s mission,” explained KHK Program Director, Jennifer Bentley. “Odyssey teaches key leadership skills, including collaboration, communication and brainstorming, public speaking, project planning and problem solving.”

The CTOM program is available to all interested students in grades K-12 in Connecticut, regardless of location or circumstance. Odyssey of the Mind aligns with Common Core state standards and the Connecticut Next Generation Science Standards approach to learning for grades K-12. The program is structured for use within small groups and as independent enrichment.

CTOM will hold the first virtual coach training on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Interested teachers, students and parents can learn more at [www.ctom.org](http://www.ctom.org).

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[Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind](#) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that celebrates the positive power of creativity and fosters the development of teamwork and group problem solving skills for Connecticut youth.

[Kids Helping Kids](#) is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to develop leadership skills through youth-led service projects. KHK empower kids to turn empathy into action by designing and implementing service projects that benefit other children in the community.