



JUDGING AT A STATE TOURNAMENT

What is Odyssey of the Mind?

Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem-solving competition that has encouraged teamwork and out-of-the-box thinking in Connecticut youth since 1981. See www.ctom.org to learn more about Odyssey of the Mind in Connecticut.

What is an Odyssey of the Mind judge?

An Odyssey of the Mind judge is a trained volunteer who judges in either the long-term problem or spontaneous problem portion of the tournament. Long-term judge roles include problem judges, style judges, timekeepers, staging judges, scoring judges, and weigh in judges (balsa wood problem). Spontaneous judges evaluate teams in verbal, hands on, or verbal-hands on problem solving. Judges serve in teams under the guidance of the problem captain and a head judge. Judges select the role they are most comfortable with and every effort is made to place them in their preferred position.

Who can judge?

Anyone over the age of 18 at the time of our state tournament can serve as a CTOM judge. Prior Odyssey of the Mind experience is not required. All judges are trained annually.

When does the judge commitment occur?

A judge must attend a half day of training, usually on a Saturday morning in March, to learn the job duties. Training is conducted by the state problem captains.

The judge must serve for a full day at tournament on a Saturday in March. **A judge cannot leave his or her duties to watch other teams perform during the day, so parents who wish to see their child's team perform should not commit to being a judge.** A boxed lunch, snacks, water, coffee, and soft drinks are provided to all judges on tournament day. Judges also receive an official's tee shirt and a commemorative CTOM pin.

Where does the judge serve?

Both judge training and the state tournament will take place on the campus of a school or university in Connecticut. The exact location is generally communicated in January. Various locations such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, and large classrooms on campus serve as Odyssey tournament sites. Free parking is provided.

Why should I judge?

Each team competing at our CTOM state tournament must provide a volunteer judge. Without judges, we cannot run a vibrant and fair competition. You will earn the lasting gratitude of the team and coach you volunteer for and will play a rewarding role in inspiring creativity and teamwork in Connecticut youth. It is fun and fulfilling. Beware-- it can be addicting-- many judges return year after year!

How do I sign up?

It's easy-- visit our website www.ctom.org, click on the Register tab and select "as a judge." Follow the instructions to complete registration. If you are representing a team, you will need your team's membership number, problem number and division to register successfully. It is important to include that information so the coach and team get credit for providing a judge. If you are an independent judge you will register as not representing a team.