

Coaches' Corner December 2024

2025 CTOM STATE TOURNAMENT REGISTRATIONS

**TEAMS
REGISTER
HERE**

**Judges
Register
HERE**

**Volunteers
Register
HERE**

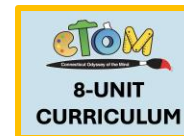
RESOURCES



Any questions? Come to
CTOM Office Hours
MONDAYS 7-7:30PM

[Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Closed Dec 30



Use the Holiday Break to Your Advantage

It can be difficult to have Odyssey enthusiasm amid the chaos of holiday schedules and stress. Remember to breathe (it will all get done). Take advantage of the school break and encourage team members to do independent and small group work. Not limited to, but some ideas to work out during this time may be:

Developing Characters

“Assign” a member or two to brainstorm characters, create a list of puns that support the theme or work on the script. Ask if one of the team families who are not traveling will host a costume ‘work session’ during school break.

Adapting a Screenplay

To make the story into an OM solution, break it into scenes. Visually describe the setting, characters, and actions of each. Develop dialogue. Create transitions between scenes: a set change, the entry of a new character, a song. Each scene progresses the story toward the resolution. Encourage your team to use technology and collaborate to keep the story developing while traveling or at home.

Words AND Actions

To bring it to life the team uses words, music, movement and more to tell the story. A character can communicate emotion through a facial expression. A prop can make someone laugh. The team solution is an interaction between the team and the audience. When a team tells a good story the audience will relate, smile, laugh or cry along with the team on stage. Encourage your team to practice their acting skills with various family members during the break.



CTOM is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to Odyssey of the Mind in CT

www.ctom.org



SUBMIT CLARIFICATIONS

Clarifications may be submitted until mid-February!

Long-Term Problems provide just enough guidance for teams to solve the problem without limiting creativity. Occasionally additional guidance is required from Odyssey of the Mind HQ or teams may have questions regarding their interpretations of the Long-Term Problem limitations and the rules, as stated in the [Program Guide](#). Clarifications are submitted by logging into the [Team Area](#).

There are three types of clarifications: General, Team-Specific and Judges Only.

General Clarifications amend or further explain a Long-Term problem's limitations. They take precedence over the limitations listed in the problem and the rules in the Program Guide. Teams should check in and stay current on general clarifications issued throughout the year.

Team-Specific Clarifications allow teams to submit a clarification request that asks if its ideas for a solution are allowed or if they meet the problem's requirements. These clarifications are kept confidential.

Where DID you get THAT?

Always remind your team that OM rewards creativity with points. Encourage team members to look for unique materials that can be used in creative ways to enhance a costume, set or prop.

Encourage them to bring something new to every meeting. How can we use this? How can it be altered? What could we do with 100 of these?

ASK for Permission

CTOM encourages students to 'think outside the box' and creatively upcycle found items. Please teach the team to be respectful and ALWAYS ask permission before taking anything...even from a dumpster!

Use Materials Creatively

Encourage your team to look at every found item in a new or creative way. Almost every Odyssey team uses at least one roll of Duct Tape.

Challenge your team to find a "NEW" use for Duct Tape. Once they've found one... challenge them to find another material that could work even better!



RETURNING CTOM COACHES

Sign in [HERE](#) for a fun treat at the CTOM State Tournament.





Go Broad, Go Narrow

OM teams can take a page from the corporate world. Encourage your team to apply the Design Thinking method to develop innovative and creative solutions. To generate lots of ideas (Go Broad), use spontaneous challenges to generate multiple options to solve a specific problem. Next narrow your options through detailed planning, experiments and prototypes (Go Narrow).

Design Thinking encourages your team to try new things, reflect on their success and make the adjustments necessary for the next attempt.

What is Outside Assistance?

And, how to avoid it.

Students learn best when they complete tasks on their own, and they develop a sense of ownership, pride, and self-esteem.

Teaching not Assisting

Although no one may assist the team members in solving the problem, it is not Outside Assistance to teach the team to DO something. Coaches, parents and other supporters may act as tutors or instructors, but they must not make specific suggestions. For example, an adult may teach the members how to sew but cannot sew and/or design a costume for the team's solution. An art teacher can illustrate painting techniques and teach a team how to use different tools and materials but cannot tell them how to use them in their solution.

Use Common Sense

To avoid Outside Assistance, be sure that all team members, as well as *their families, have a clear* understanding of what members can (and cannot) do.

What is allowed?

It is not Outside Assistance to use something that was created by someone who is not on the team as long as it was not created to help solve the problem in any way or is being considered for score. Items created by others will be judged as commercially produced and should be included on the cost form accordingly. If the materials were created by the members of the current team, they will be considered team-created.





KEY DATES

JANUARY 11
Coach Training B

JANUARY 31
Tournament Registration deadline
Reg Fee: \$225
After this date, late fee of \$50 applies

JANUARY 31
Tournament Registration CLOSSES
AND
Judge/Volunteer Registration CLOSSES
After this date, a automatic waiver fees apply:
\$250 no judge, \$100 no volunteer

date TBD (usually February)
Trumbull Spon Scrimmage

MARCH 15
Judge Training

MARCH 29
CTOM STATE TOURNAMENT

2024-25 CTOM events hosted by
BETHEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

The CTOM problem captains and team are here to support. Email to: assndir@ctom.org