



Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind

An International Creative Problem Solving Program

2025 State Tournament

March 29, 2025

Bethel Middle School, Bethel, Connecticut



Board of Directors

Jake Williams, President • Sherri Martin, Vice President
Edina Field, Treasurer • Andrea Maestas, Secretary

Board Members

Rachel Cunningham • Sam Heck • Mimi Owen • Dave
Schaller • Sonia Schott • Holly Wonneberger • Josh Young

Visit us at the 2025 State Tournament




CTOM MARKET PLACE

Bethel Middle School Cafeteria 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

SHOP 2025 CTOM Tournament Merchandise



2025 CTOM MARKETPLACE PRICE LIST

Item	Description	Price
	2025 6-piece Problems Pin Set "The Ferris Wheel"	\$16
	2025 "Peacock" State Pin	\$6
	2025 3-piece LONG-TERM+SPON+STYLE "Jellyfish" Set	\$10
	2025 CTOM State T-shirt	\$20
	Tote Bag	\$3
	Lanyard	\$3

DONATIONS WELCOME

Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind is a 501c3 nonprofit organization

Forms of accepted payments include contactless credit/debit cards, mobile device, Venmo, or cash.

VIEW the CTOM Historic Pin Collection on display!

35 years of Connecticut OM Pins



ENTER our annual CTOM Pin Towel Raffle

A ready collection, a towel full of OM pins from around the world,
winner takes all!

Drawing after the Tournament Award Ceremony (*Winner must be present!*)



CREATE at the Craft Table

- Pin design contest (2026)
- Friendship bracelets
- Coloring pages



Market Place inquiries to Edina Field at efield@ctom.org

Welcome to CTOM's 44th Annual State Finals Tournament!

Today's Events

- **Long-Term Problem Competition Sites** *See performance schedule*
 - **Spontaneous Competition Site** *(No audiences, 8:15 am – 1:10 pm)*
 - **CTOM Marketplace** *BMS Cafeteria, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm*
 - **Food** *Food truck, 11 am – 3 pm (Or until food runs out)*
 - **Balloon Show** *BMS Auditorium, 2:15 pm – 3 pm*
 - **Awards Ceremony** *BMS Auditorium, 3pm*
 - **Information Desk** *Main lobby of Bethel Middle School*
 - **Lost and Found** *Located at the Merchandise table, ask a volunteer for assistance*
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Problem Captains

We are grateful for our dedicated problem captains:

Problem	Problem Captain	Asst. Problem Captain
1	Josh Young	Andrea Maestas
2	Carley Heck	Rudy Chiti
3	Rachel Cunningham	Katie Pelkey
4	Amy Zinser	Sherri Martin
5	Holly Wonneberger	Katerina Micklus
Primary	John Ehlinger	Debi Crotty
Spontaneous	Dave Schaller	Sam Heck
Odyssey Inclusive	Maureen O'Farrell	TBD

Long-Term Performance Schedule

Problem 1: The OM-Mazing Race GYMNASIUM					
City	Membership	Div	Coch	Long	Spon
Ridgefield	Ridgefield Library	I	Stacey Gifford	10:00 AM	11:50 AM
Fairfield	Riverfield Elementary	I	Lindsey Vayneris	10:20 AM	12:50 PM
Greenwich	North Mianus School	I	Julie Cofone	10:40 AM	1:10 PM
Bethel	RMT Johnson Ele Sch	I	Ravi Kalluri	11:20 AM	9:30 AM
Trumbull	Middlebrook Ele Sch	I	Dan Baxter	11:40 AM	9:50 AM
New Canaan	SAXE MS (Wild Cats)	I	Julia Troy	12:00 PM	10:10 AM
Fairfield	Fairfield PTAC	I	Laura Veneman	1:00 PM	10:50 AM
Weston	Weston Intermediate Sch	I	Jill Zafar	1:20 PM	11:10 AM
New Canaan	SAXE MS	I	Jeremy Maco	1:40 PM	11:30 AM

Problem 2: Mech-Animal Sidekick ROOM 179					
City	Membership	Div	Coach	Long	Spon
Greenwich	North Mianus School	I	Megan Collins	11:00 AM	8:15 AM
Weston	Weston Intermediate Sch	I	Megan Burns	11:20 AM	9:15 AM
New Canaan	SAXE MS	I	Susan Morse	11:40 AM	8:55 AM
Trumbull	Middlebrook Ele Sch	I	Katrina Gehrman	1:00 PM	8:35 AM
Fairfield	Fairfield PTAC	I	Julie Seo	1:20 PM	9:35 AM

Problem 3: Cooking with Books **ROOM 186**

City	Membership	Div	Coach	Long	Spon
Fairfield	Holland Hill Ele Sch (HH Cooks)	1	Pamela Pascarella	10:00 AM	11:10 AM
West Hartford	Charter Oak	1	Michele Hadlock	10:20 AM	9:30 AM
Greenwich	Hamilton Avenue Sch	1	Cathy Byrne	10:40 AM	11:30 AM
Greenwich	North Mianus School	1	Andrea Wragg	11:20 AM	10:10 AM
Trumbull	Middlebrook Ele Sch	1	Henry Lang	11:40 AM	9:50 AM
Stamford	Westover Magnet Ele Sch	1	Nethrah Ayyaswami	12:00 PM	10:30 AM
Ridgefield	Ridgefield Library	2	Abhilasha Kelkar	1:00 PM	12:10 PM
Stamford	Strawberry Hill Ext	2	Cecilia Hagelsieb	1:20 PM	11:50 AM
New Canaan	New Canaan HS	3	Krista Colthup	1:40 PM	11:50 AM

Problem 4: Save Me Structure **ROOM 197**

City	Membership	Div	Coach	Long	Weigh-In	Spon
Fairfield	Holland Hill Ele Sch (Pineapples)	1	Angi Haen	11:10 AM	9:15am	10:15 AM
Fairfield	Fairfield PTAC	1	Elly Fatehi	11:30 AM	9:25am	10:35 AM
Ridgefield	Ridgefield Library	2	Therese Marbury	12:30 PM	9:35am	10:55 AM
Fairfield	Fairfield PTAC	2	Sonya Abdel-Razeq	12:50 PM	9:45am	11:15 AM
Stamford	Dataexpanded	2	Subha Pandalai	1:10 PM	9:55am	11:35 AM

Problem 5: AstronOMical Odyssey! AUDITORIUM

City	Membership	Div	Coach	Long	Spon
West Hartford	Charter Oak	1	Michele Hadlock	11:00 AM	9:30 AM
Greenwich	North Mianus School	1	Monica Ware	11:20 AM	10:10 AM
Redding	Redding Ele Sch PTA	1	Christina Parrinello	11:40 AM	9:50 AM
Weston	Weston Middle Sch	2	Cian O'Suilleabhain	1:00 PM	10:50 AM
New Canaan	SAXE MS	2	Erika Kelly	1:20 PM	11:10 AM
Fairfield	Fairfield PTAC	2	Jennifer Abbott-Walker	1:40 PM	11:30 AM

Primary: It's a WONDERful World! ROOM 132

City	Membership	Div	Coach	Long	Spon
Trumbull	Middlebrook Ele Sch	1	Katrina Gehrmann	10:45 AM	9:30 AM
Fairfield	Holland Hill Ele Sch	1	Ali Alzabidi	11:08 AM	9:53 AM

Directions & Parking

Parking is free. **Park only in designated parking lots and spaces.**

Do not park in any reserved spaces, or on any grassy areas.

Do not drive on campus paths.

Primary **P** / Problem 1 **1**

Your prop drop is to the side of the building, you will then drive around the rear of the building.

Do not exit the way you entered.





Long-Term Problem Synopses

All Problems have an 8 minute time limit

Problem 1: The OM-Mazing Race

Ready, set, go! In this problem, teams will design, build, and operate an all-terrain vehicle that transports riders on a race for a prize. The performance will include a race to three original, team-created destinations, and each leg of the race will include an obstacle that the rider and vehicle must overcome. The performance will include a host that narrates the action, and it will conclude with the realization that the prize for finishing the race was not as exciting as the Odyssey they took along the way.

Problem 2: Mech-Animal Sidekick

The saying goes, "dog is man's best friend," but this year OMer's get the chance to invent their own bestie! In this problem, teams will design, build, and operate an original robotic animal that has the ability to make people happy. In the performance, the Mech-Animal will perform various tricks that cheer people up. When it suddenly goes missing, the people search for it and find the Mech-Animal in a very unusual place. The performance will also include live music, a toy for the Mech-Animal, and a trainer character that explains the tricks.

Problem 3: Classics... Cooking with Books

Classic cooking takes on a new meaning as teams create a performance about an original chef character inspired by fictional literary characters and events. Teams will choose from selected classic literature and create a gourmet meal based on their chosen book. The performance will include a setting from the book that inspired the meal, a team-created cooking gadget, and a dinner party featuring the meal that includes a character from the book.

Problem 4: Save Me Structure

OMers to the rescue! In this problem, teams will create a performance about an unusual animal rescue character that needs to find homes for balsa wood and glue animals. Two animals will represent actual living animal species, and another will be team-created. The animal rescue character will test if a home is safe by balancing and holding as much weight as possible. The performance will also include one animal getting a check-up, a humorous veterinarian character, and the creative use of Arm & Hammer Baking Soda.

Problem 5: AstronOMical Odyssey!

OMers always shoot for the stars, and this problem is no different! Many civilizations have used stories, myths, and legends to explain the stars in the sky and their patterns. In this problem, teams will create a humorous performance set in a team-created "historical" civilization that presents constellations and original stories explaining each one. The performance will also include a humorous astronomer character with a "stellar" costume, a lighting effect, and a shooting star!

Primary Problem: It's A Wonderful World!

Travel back in time as OMers explore the Wonders of the World. In this problem, teams will create a performance about the Seven Wonders and create an original wonder that celebrates an achievement in our modern time. A time traveler character will take an architect on a trip to the past to find inspiration for this new creation. The performance will include an ancient setting, original artwork depicting a Wonder, and a creative time machine.

Spontaneous

Creative opportunities often present themselves unexpectedly, so the ability to think on your feet is one of the most important skills a person can acquire. Our Spontaneous problems offer a way to hone that skill. At competition, every team solves a Spontaneous problem. Teams are presented with a problem that is verbal, hands-on, or a combination of both. On average, they have 10 minutes to read the problem and solve it.

Can I be a Coach?

Yes, you can! Volunteer coaches are the foundation of our program. They are often parents, teachers, grandparents, or community members. Coaching is rewarding and fun, and best of all, it gives more kids the opportunity to be involved in all of the wonderful, productive creativity on display today.

For more information, visit www.ctom.org or contact AssnDir@ctom.org.

CTOM HEROS

Supporters

Thank you for your donations and in-kind contributions.

**Bank of America, Arm and Hammer,
Bethel Middle School**

CTOM Network

We thank our "CTOM Network" members for generously sharing their time and talents by helping with the many tasks involved in running our program: coach training, merchandise committee service, Odyssey Day workshops, spontaneous scrimmages, tournament preparation work, and volunteer work at events. To learn more or join the network, email AssnDir@ctom.org. We'd love to include you!

Bethel Middle School
April Lang
Mel Jackson

Yolanda Preysner
Jill Kurtz
Bethel JRROTC

WTNH
Sarah Cody

Judging Teams

We could not run a high-quality, fair competition without our dedicated judges.

Thank you for attending training and serving as announcers, as timers, or as problem, scoring, style, staging, spontaneous, or head judges. *See you next year!*

Jordan Almeida	Robin Fitzgerald	Em Lebow	Catherine Preysner
Sara Almeida	Amanda Fitzpatrick	David Maduram	Bhargavi Ramamurthy
Catherine Angotto	Claudia Fortunato	John Maier	Lisa Rousseau
Darlene Angotto	Patsy Fox	Archana Mamidi	Robert Ruby
Gauri Bahadur	Jennifer Freeda	Isabel Marturano	Michael Sapia
Kelli Bedner	Sean Geary	Michael Moi	Todd Saucier
Becky Brady	Lisa Geist	Bill Mollica	Kira Schott
Stacey Brazier	Nathaniel Geist	Cindy Moschitta	Carol Shuman
Gretchen Briggs	Julie Gottlieb	Jeff Moscowitz	Walt Sizemore
Sarah Carey	Suzanne Graceffa	Ashley Mrdelja	Kevin Smith
Sheri Cronk	Andrew Gracella	Angela Njo	Sridar Subramanian
Christopher De Marchis	Shivakanth Gutta	Patricia Nugent	Jamie Sullivan
Santhosh Devasani	Mary Hogue	Bob O'Brien	Karen Tatarka
Amy D'Orio	Keri Hracs	Terence O'Connell	Alex Watson
Wayne D'Orio	Matthew Hryniewicz	Maureen O'Farrell	Michelle Weissler
Megan Doyon	Sharon Huynh	John Owen	Caitlan Williams
Leon G Doyon	Pamela Jackson	Margie Pinto-Leite	Jackson Williams
Lisa Fancher	Swati Janu	Frank Posca	Laura Wonneberger
Brian Fetzer	Sherri Jaster	Yolanda Preysner	Sarah Woolzley
Quinn Fitzgerald	Jill Kurtz	John P Preysner	Robert Zinser

Stay Involved

CTOM Board of Directors Openings

Do you have teaching skills, legal or accounting expertise, fundraising or publicity experience, or just love what Odyssey provides for children? We are looking for individuals willing to work actively and collaboratively to build our program.



Consider applying to become a member of the CTOM, Inc. Board of Directors. Email our president, Jake Williams, at jwilliams@ctom.org for more information or to nominate yourself.

OMers—Stay in Touch!

Join the national Odyssey alumni network (www.odysseyalumni.org) to stay in touch, network, and volunteer! Be sure to join CTOM on Facebook!



World Finals Coaches Meeting

Monday, March 31st at 7:00 pm

Virtual (via Microsoft Teams)

Meeting link will be emailed



ODYSSEY INCLUSIVE™

Performing Arts Program



<https://odysseyofthemind.com/odyssey-inclusive/>

CREATIVITY & PERFORMING ARTS!

Odyssey Inclusive™ is a new program affiliated with the world-renowned Odyssey of the Mind®! It provides a unique opportunity for neurodiverse students and students with disabilities to participate in a creativity, teamwork, and performing arts experience. Students in Kindergarten through age 22 can participate!

ALIGNS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Elements of the program develop content area skills, social skills, and performing arts skills! Students have unique opportunities to work together to showcase their creativity, teamwork, content knowledge, and talents in the arts.

INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Students with and without disabilities can work together and perform together on an Odyssey Inclusive team!

COACH TRAINING AND SUPPORT

All coaches are provided with free training and support as they work with their teams.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

Maureen O'Farrell, Odyssey Inclusive Program Coordinator

Mofarrell@ctom.org

