



Join us virtually for  
**Coach Training A**  
 October 18, 2025  
 9AM-11AM

[Register here](#)

Designed for new coaches (but open to all!), this session will cover **Odyssey 101** and include time for Q&A and networking.

**CTOM**  
 Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind  
**Coaches' Corner**  
 October 2025



**RESOURCES**

**CTOM**

[8-UNIT CURRICULUM](#)

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**ODYSSEY ACADEMY**

Odyssey Academy! Dr. Jim Mourey— OM alum, long-time volunteer, and professor at DePaul University— offers a FREE 15-episode step-by-step [VIDEO TUTORIAL](#)





## What is Odyssey of the Mind (OM)?

### THREE COMPONENTS OF COMPETITION

Odyssey of the Mind reinforces Mastery-Based Learning and aligns with CT State Department of Education guidelines, including:

- Next Generation Science Standards (K-12)
- College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards (K-12) in speaking and learning
- Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English Language Arts and Mathematics

Through participation, students learn to:

- Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information from multiple sources
- Define problems, develop models, and evaluate solutions
- Analyze, compute, and interpret data

Odyssey of the Mind has been successfully used in Connecticut school districts to create interactive, hands-on learning experiences that complement classroom instruction.

<p><b>LONG-TERM PROBLEM SOLUTION:</b>  <i>200 Points</i>  <i>Specific rules</i>  <i>Open ended question</i>  <i>8-minute presentation</i></p>	<p><b>STYLE:</b>            Creativity            Team Selected Elements  <i>50 Points</i>  <i>Enhancement/Elaboration of long-term problem</i>  <i>Pizzazz</i></p>	<p><b>SPONTANEOUS:</b>            5-10 minutes            On-the-spot challenge  <i>100 Points</i>  <i>Three categories:</i>  <i>Verbal</i>  <i>Hands-On</i>  <i>Verbal/Hands-On</i></p>
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Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving program for kids K-12. Registration is simple—one registration can cover up to 15 teams (grades 3-12) plus unlimited K-2 teams. Ask your school if they participate or can start a team. If not, PTOs, libraries, churches, or other community groups can sponsor teams too!



## 1. START OR JOIN A MEMBERSHIP

Every Odyssey of the Mind team must be part of a national membership. This can be set up by a school, PTO, library, community group, or even a private organization if no local program exists. One membership can cover multiple teams—up to 15 in grades 3–12, plus unlimited K–2 teams. If more teams are needed, additional memberships can be purchased. Ask your child’s school if they already have a membership or explore starting one in your community.



Sign up for a membership at:  
[ODYSSEYOFTHEMIND.COM](http://ODYSSEYOFTHEMIND.COM)



## 2. FORM TEAMS

Teams are made up of up to 7 students, guided by 1–2 coaches (often parents). Together, they work on solving a long-term creative problem. Teams set their own meeting times and locations, making the schedule flexible for families.

Teams compete in the division based on the oldest member of the team:

- Primary** – K – 2nd Grade
- Division I** – 3rd – 5th Grade
- Division II** – 6th – 8th Grade
- Division III** – 9th – 12th Grade



**Team-Only Solutions**  
All solutions must come entirely from the team. Outside assistance is not allowed—parents and coaches may guide with questions, but they cannot provide answers or create solutions for the team.

## 3. INDIVIDUAL TEAMS REGISTER FOR STATE TOURNAMENT

Follow instructions at [CTOM.org](http://CTOM.org)

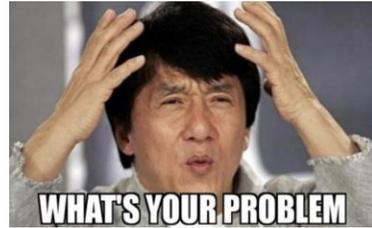
Questions about memberships, forming teams, or program details, email **CTOM** at [AssnDir@ctom.org](mailto:AssnDir@ctom.org)





# LONG-TERM PROBLEMS

Are you builders? Tinkerers? Writers? Performers?  
Teams pick a problem and find their passion!



Find 2025-26 Long-Term Problem Synopses [HERE](#)

## 2025-26 CTOM Problem Captains/Asst. Problem Captains



**PRIMARY**  
[John Ehlinger](#)  
[Gretchen Briggs](#)

**PROBLEM 1**  
[Josh Young](#)  
[Sharon Huynh](#)

**PROBLEM 2**  
[Carley Heck](#)  
[Rudy Chiti](#)

**PROBLEM 3**  
[Sam Heck](#)  
[Katie Pelkey](#)

**PROBLEM 4**  
[Amy Zinser](#)  
[Sherri Martin](#)

**PROBLEM 5**  
Open  
[Ashley Mrdelja](#)



**ODYSSEY INCLUSIVE**  
[Maureen O'Farrell](#)  
[Michele Hadlock](#)

**SPONTANEOUS**  
[Dave Schaller](#)  
Open





# KEY DATES 2025-2026



**October 18th – Coach Training A**  
(virtual)

**January 10th – Coach Training B / CTOM Odyssey Day**  
(in person)

**March 14th– Judge Training**  
(in person)

**MARCH 28th**  
**CTOM**  
**STATE TOURNAMENT**

**Bethel Middle School**  
*welcomes Odyssey of the Mind back  
to Bethel, CT!*