



Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind

# Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind

An International Creative Problem Solving Program

## 2026 State Tournament

March 28, 2026

Bethel Middle School, Bethel, Connecticut



### Board of Directors

Jake Williams, President • Debra Crotty, Vice President  
Edina Field, Treasurer •

#### Board Members

Sam Heck • Sherri Martin • Dave Schaller •  
Sonia Schott • Josh Young • Andrea Maestas



Visit us at the 2026 State Tournament

## CTOM MARKET PLACE

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



### SHOP 2026 CTOM Tournament Merchandise

## Price List

Item	Description	Price
	2026 5-piece Problems Pin Set "Goats"	\$15
	2026 "Peacock" 45 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary State Pin	\$7.50
	2026 "Peacock" Quarter Millennial State Pin	\$7.50
	2026 3-piece LONG-TERM+SPON+STYLE Pin Set "Seahorses"	\$12
	2026 CTOM 45 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary State T-shirt	\$20
	Tote Bag	\$3
	Lanyard	\$3

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

# VIEW the CTOM Historic Pin Collection on display!

Exhibiting 45 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!)**



**DROP OFF or LOOK for  
Misplaced Items!**

CTOM "Lost and Found" will be  
located at the merchandise table.  
Ask a volunteer for assistance.



Market Place inquiries to Edina Field at [efield@ctom.org](mailto:efield@ctom.org)

# Welcome to CTOM's 45th Annual State Finals Tournament!

## Today's Events

- **Information Desk** - *Main lobby of Bethel Middle School*
- **Long-Term Problem Competition Sites** *See performance schedule*
- **Spontaneous Competition Site** *(No audiences, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm)*
- **CTOM Marketplace** *BMS Cafeteria, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm*
- **Food** *Food is available for delivery from FatTonys Deli. The school cafeteria will be open for seating*
- **CTOM is turning 45!!!** - *BMS Cafeteria, 1:45 pm - please join us for a fun birthday mixer for a chance to win one of 3 stem sets. Birthday treats from Sugar Blooms available for purchase*
- **Entertainment - Jon Cap Magic** *2:15 - 3:00, BMS Auditorium*
- **Awards Ceremony** *BMS Auditorium, 3:00 pm*



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Daily Bread Food Pantry!



## Problem Captains

We are grateful for our dedicated problem captains:

Problem	Problem Captain	Asst. Problem Captain
1	Josh Young	Sharon Huynh
2	Carley Heck	Rudy Chiti
3	Sam Heck	Katie Pelkey
4	Amy Zinser	Sherri Martin
5	Caitlan Williams	Ashley Mrdelja
Primary	John Ehlinger	Gretchen Briggs
Spontaneous	Dave Schaller	Kyra Briggs
Odyssey Inclusive	Maureen O'Farrell	Michelle Hadlock

# Long-Term Performance Schedule

## Problem 1 – Off the Rails

*All aboard! OMers become conductors and engineers as they design, build, and operate a train vehicle. As the train travels the course it will have a new car attached at each stop. Along the route it will encounter challenges that make the train travel in different ways. After all of its cargo is picked up, the items will be unloaded and assembled into a work of art.*

LONG TERM	MEMBERSHIP NAME	NUMBER	SPONT
<b>DIVISION I</b>			
9:30 AM	North Stratfield Elementary School TM A	4910	11:50 AM
9:50 AM	Guilford Lakes Elementary School TM A	5513	12:07 PM
10:10 AM	Charter Oak Academy TM A	6324	12:24 PM
10:50 AM	Guilford Lakes Elementary School TM B	6602	12:41 PM
11:10 AM	North Mianus School TM A	6980	12:58 PM
11:30 AM	Tashua Elementary School TM A	7174	1:15 PM
<b>DIVISION II</b>			
12:35 PM	Fairfield PTAC TMA	4961	10:32 AM
12:55 PM	Weston Middle School TM A	5162	10:15 AM
1:15 PM	Bethel Middle School TM A	7332	10:49 AM

## Problem 2 – Lost in OMERland

*Getting lost often leads to unexpected opportunities! In this problem OM teams will design, build, and operate a Technical Trip Assistant only to find their voice activated-device has a few malfunctions that result in hilarity. While they set out to explore a new place, the device gives a humorous answer to a question, wrong directions that take them to an unexpected location, and a silly translation. All props and backdrops must fit inside two suitcases.*

LONG TERM	MEMBERSHIP NAME	NUMBER	SPONT
<b>DIVISION I</b>			
9:40 AM	Saxe Middle School TM A	7501	10:55 AM
10:10 AM	North Mianus School TM A	6981	1:10 PM
10:40 AM	Weston Intermediate School TM A	5163	12:40 PM
11:25 AM	Tashua Elementary School TM A	7172	12:25 PM
<b>DIVISION II</b>			
11:55 AM	Fairfield PTAC TMA	4250	12:55 PM

### Problem 3 — The Epic Quest

OMers, are you ready to get EPIC? Quests from history have been passed from generation to generation through many art forms, including poetry. OMers will create an epic poem that details a team-created quest that is acted out in the performance. During the quest, the characters encounter an original beast, will rescue someone, and will overcome an epic challenge. The performance will use colors to help depict different settings.

LONG TERM	MEMBERSHIP NAME	NUMBER	SPONT
<b>DIVISION I</b>			
8:40 AM	Hamilton Avenue School TM A	5230	10:30 AM
9:00 AM	Guilford Lakes Elementary School TM A	5514	10:45 AM
9:20 AM	Middlebrook Elementary School TM A	6346	11:00 AM
9:55 AM	Fairfield PTAC TM B	7171	11:15 AM
10:15 AM	Saxe Middle School TM A	7494	11:30 AM
<b>DIVISION II</b>			
10:40 AM	Strawberry Hill an Extension of Rogers International School TM A	4181	9:25 AM
11:00 AM	Ridgefield Library TM A	5504	9:59 AM
11:20 AM	Fairfield PTAC TM A	4960	9:42 AM
11:40 AM	Saxe Middle School TM A	7495	10:33 AM
<b>DIVISION III</b>			
12:45 PM	New Canaan High School TM A	7192	11:07 AM

### Problem 4 — Life's a Ball!

Party Time! In this problem, teams will create a performance about throwing a party or a ball. Teams must design and construct a balsa wood structure engineered to balance and support maximum weight. During intervals, various balls will be rolled to collide with the structure. A creative "ball" character must be featured, and a party guest character explains the collision impacts using team-created terminology.

LONG TERM	WEIGH IN	MEMBERSHIP NAME	NUMBER	SPONT
<b>DIVISION I</b>				
9:00 AM	8:00 AM	Weston Intermediate School TM A	5164	11:55 AM
9:20 AM	8:10 AM	Fairfield PTAC TM A	5302	12:10 PM
9:40 AM	8:20 AM	Guilford Lakes Elementary School TM A	6601	11:10 AM
10:20 AM	8:30 AM	Riverfield Elementary School TM A	7443	11:25 AM
10:40 AM	8:40 AM	Saxe Middle School TM A	7498	11:40 AM
<b>DIVISION II</b>				
11:30 AM	11:00 AM	Saxe Middle School TM A	7504	10:16 AM
<b>DIVISION III</b>				
11:50 AM	11:10 AM	Dataexpanded, LLC TM A	7380	10:50 AM

## Problem 5 — Taller Tales of John Jivery

No one can tell a story like an OMER! In this problem, teams will create and present a humorous performance about an original tall tale. The performance must include a team-created hero or heroine that performs an incredible feat, a unique explanation of how something began or came to be, and a surprise element for the audience. Each event will be accompanied by a visual weather effect that represents an emotion.

LONG TERM	MEMBERSHIP NAME	NUMBER	SPONT
<b>DIVISION I</b>			
9:00 AM	Guilford Lakes Elementary School TM A	5515	11:45 AM
9:30 AM	Hamilton Avenue School TM A	5229	12:15 PM
10:00 AM	North Mianus School TM A	6982	12:00 PM
10:45 AM	Redding Park and Recreation Center TM A	7397	12:30 PM
<b>DIVISION II</b>			
11:15 AM	Fairfield PTAC TM A	4178	12:45 PM
11:45 AM	Madison Arts Barn TM A	5735	1:00 PM
12:15 PM	Saxe Middle School TM A	7503	1:15 PM

## Primary — Clowning Around With Science

OM teams will create an original performance about a group of comedy performers that teach lessons about natural science. The lessons will also include a visual effect, a sound effect, and jokes.

LONG TERM	MEMBERSHIP NAME	NUMBER	SPONT
12:25 PM	Wolfpit Integrated Arts School TM A	7100	9:45 AM
12:48 PM	Fairfield PTAC TM B	7200	10:08 AM
1:11 PM	Tashua Elementary School TM A	7175	10:31 AM
1:34 PM	North Stratfield Elementary School TM A	4909	10:54 AM
1:57 PM	Hamilton Avenue School TM A	5232	11:17 AM







## Long-Term Problem Synopses

All Problems have an 8 minute time limit

### Problem 1: Off the Rails

All aboard! OMers become conductors and engineers as they design, build, and operate a train vehicle. As the train travels the route it will have a new car attached at each stop. Along the route it will encounter challenges that make the train travel in different ways. After all of its cargo is picked up, the items will be unloaded and assembled into a work of art. The performance will also include the use of ARM & HAMMER Baking Soda, a humorous conductor character, and a villain character that tries to prevent the train from getting to its destination. Sponsored by ARM & HAMMER.

### Problem 2: Lost in OMERland

Getting lost often leads to unexpected opportunities! In this problem OM teams will design, build, and operate a Technical Trip Assistant only to find their voice-activated device has a few malfunctions that result in hilarity. While they set out to explore a new place, the device gives a humorous answer to a question, wrong directions that take them to an unexpected location, and a silly translation. All props and backdrops must fit inside two suitcases.

### Problem 3: Classics... The Epic Quest

OMers, are you ready to get EPIC? Quests from history have been passed from generation to generation through many art forms, including poetry. OMers will create an epic poem that details a team-created quest that is acted out in the performance. During the quest, the characters encounter an original beast, will rescue someone, and will overcome an epic challenge. The performance will use colors to help depict different settings.

#### **Problem 4: Life's a Ball!**

Party Time! In this problem, teams will create a performance about throwing a party or a ball. The team will design and build a balsa wood structure that is tested by balancing and supporting as much weight as possible. At intervals, various balls will be rolled to collide with the structure. The performance will include a creative "ball" character and a part guest that explains the impact of the collisions using team-created terms.

#### **Problem 5: Taller Tales of John Jivery**

No one can tell a story like an OMer! In this problem, teams will create and present a humorous performance about an original tall tale. The tale will include a team-created hero or heroine that performs an incredible feat, a unique explanation of how something began or came to be, and a surprise for the audience. Each event will be accompanied by a visual weather effect that represents an emotion.

#### **Primary Problem: Clowning Around with Science**

What kind of hair do oceans have? Wavy! In this problem, OM teams will create an original performance about a group of comedy performers that teach lessons about natural science. The lessons will also include a visual effect, a sound effect, and jokes.

#### **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](http://www.ctom.org) or contact [AssnDir@ctom.org](mailto:AssnDir@ctom.org).

## CTOM HEROES

### Supporters

Thank you for your donations and in-kind contributions.

**Bank of America, Charities Aid Foundation,  
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](mailto:AssnDir@ctom.org). We'd love to include you!

Bethel Middle School      Bethel JRROTC      April Lang

# 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!*

Darlene Angotto	Armando Grijalba	Eileen O'Brian	Scott Saalborn
Catie Angotto	Shivakanth Gutta	Bob O'Brian	Erin Sapia
Diana Bach	Ellen (EJ) Haskell	Terence O'Connell	Todd Saucier
Jennifer Baldwin	Keri Hrats	Maureen O'Farrell	Viral Shah
Kelli Bedner	Matthew Hryniewicz	Margaret O'Callaghan	Walt Sizemore
Jon Bishop	Abhilasha Kelkar	Vijayan Pandalai	Marge Skinger
Nancy Bishop	Jaqueline Larson	Margaret Pastel	Laurie Skornia
Beth Cliff	Em Lebow	Pavithraa Pattabiraman	Daniel Smith
Steven Ezzes	Hannah Leibowitz	Margie Pinto-Leite	Kevin Smith
Amanda Fitzpatrick	Leo Linder	Yolanda Preysner	Vidya Sukhavasi
Claudia Fortunato	Megan Madden	Catherine Preysner	Jamie Sullivan
Ingrid Gelston	David Maduram	Justin Pugh	Ben Tolchin
Dan George	Doug Mayer	Daniella Regalado	Cathy Townsend
Julie Gottlieb	Suzee Mehan	Matthew Roberto	Linda Trudeau
Andrew Graceffa	William Miller	Rob Ruby	Wendy Tyler
Suzanne Graceffa	Megan Mithcell	Alissa Ryan	Robert Zinsser

# 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](mailto:jwilliams@ctom.org) for more information or to nominate yourself.

## OMers-Stay in Touch!

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



## World Finals Coaches Meeting

**Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 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

