

Odyssey of the Mind – Parent Commitment Form --- PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS FORM!!

Student's Name: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Mother's Phone #: _____ Mother's Email: _____

Father's Phone #: _____ Father's Email: _____

Odyssey of the Mind (OotM) is an amazing program. It's been around for 35 years and is in over 20 countries. By signing your child up for the program, you are joining a large group of people around the world who see the importance of creative problem-solving, team work, and the combination of science and technology with art and drama.

Like all great programs, OotM is only as great as the commitment made by the participants AND the parents. This is a volunteer run program and should not be viewed as just another after school program to keep your child(ren) busy.

Therefore, we are asking you, as parents, to commit to the following by initialing each commitment:

- 1) Practice will be every week at a time set by the coach(es). Practices will run anywhere from 1-2 hours (maybe more as tournament approaches). As tournament approaches, the coach may add additional practices and lengthen the time of practice. I agree to make every attempt to have my child at practice, on time and ready to contribute to the team. _____
- 2) Homework may be assigned. This is often critical to ensure that all parts of the problem get completed in time. Coaches will communicate with you as far as what you can and cannot assist with. However, your main role in assistance is making sure your child completes the assignments by the due date. I agree to make sure my child is completing all assignments the coach gives. _____
- 3) State tournament is Saturday, **March 29, 2014** at Park City High School. This is an all-day event. I agree to make sure my child is available the entire day of the tournament. If something arises and participation is not possible, I will make sure the coach knows as soon as possible to make adjustments as needed. _____
- 4) Kids will be kids, and this is a program that encourages creativity. However, OotM coaches are volunteers – more often than not, they are parents, not teachers. Each coach will be encouraged to create a team code of conduct. When behavior (including disrespect to coach and or other team members) becomes an issue, the coach will follow these steps to ensure that the program remains a positive experience for all students:
 - a. First offense: Warning from coach, removal from part of practice
 - b. Second offense: Coach will meet with parent and child
 - c. Third offense: Coach, child, and parent will meet with school principal
 - d. Fourth offense: Child will be removed from the team.

I agree to support the coach in their management of the team and will work with my child should any behavior issues occur. _____

- 5) OotM is a program for the kids, done by the kids. Parents and coaches cannot solve the problems. HOWEVER, there are plenty of opportunities for parent involvement. Since the coaches are volunteers they rely on parent support to make the team successful. Therefore, **please circle the ways in which you will support the team** (select all that are applicable, and individual coaches will give you your "role" once the team is established):
 - a. Attend 3 practices at the coaches' request to assist with anything needed by the coach
 - b. Provide snacks to the team throughout the season (at the coach's discretion)
 - c. Recruit the team's required tournament volunteers and judges (2 people)
 - d. Pay the team's \$100 state registration fee (would waive your child's \$40 registration fee)
 - e. Host the team at your house for prep building, extra practices, field trips to get supplies
 - f. Teach specific skills to the team. List those skills you can teach (such as power tools, sewing, acting, ect.) _____

- 6) World Finals: Just participating at the Utah State Tournament is a big deal for these kids. It is estimated that over 400 students from around Utah will participate this year. With their coaches, parents, and volunteers, attendance will be close to 800 people! **Those teams that place in 1st or 2nd place in their problem/division (NOT primary) will then be invited to join over 800 teams from over 15 countries at World Finals in Iowa May 28 – May 31, 2014. The approximate cost is \$550 per person (room, board, all activities), plus airfare. Teams generally fundraise for at least 50% of the cost, but can often raise more.**

It is **NEVER** a requirement to agree to participate in World Finals. It does put teams at a disadvantage when some team members do not go to World Finals as they cannot be replaced. Therefore, we hope to place teams together based on whether or not the families are interested in the potential of going to World Finals (remember, it's not guaranteed...teams have to earn it!) **No child will be turned away due to the answer to this question. The purpose is simply to help us place teams based on interest in World Finals should it become an option for the teams. Please initial your selection below.**

_____ Our child is only going to be on a primary team, so this is not an issue for us.

_____ Yes, we would be supportive of our child(ren) attending World Finals. We understand that they need to earn it, and there will be significant fundraising involved. In addition, we understand this means additional practices, throughout April and May to prepare for World Finals.

_____ No, we would not want our child(ren) going to World Finals. We understand that this does not inhibit our child from participating in the program at the state level.

As the parent(s) of, _____, I agree to keep this commitment to make the OotM program a success. I understand that the coaches are volunteers who put in many hours of their spare time to give my child(ren) this great opportunity. As such, I will support the coach in ways possible and will ensure that my child(ren) get the most out of the program by being fully committed to the program. Should any behavior or discipline issues arise, I will work with the coach(es) to solve the issue as best possible and understand that the school principal may become involved should the issue rise to that level.

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE ONE PARENT COMMITMENT FORM PER FAMILY (INCLUDE ALL CHILDREN). FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN BY SEPTEMBER 20, 2013. HOWEVER, TEAM PLACEMENT WILL BEGIN AS SOON AS APPLICATIONS START COMING IN. TEAM PLACEMENT PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO 1) COACHES' CHILDREN, 2) RETURNING PARTICIPANTS, 3) ORDER IN WHICH APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED.

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