



North Carolina Odyssey of the Mind

<http://www.ncom.org>

March 25, 2007

Dear Coaches,

The year has gone quickly, and we find ourselves preparing for the NC State Tournament! The NCOM State Board is looking forward to an exciting day watching all of our Odyssey of the Mind winners demonstrate their outstanding creativity.

Attached you will find several important pieces of information. Our state is privileged to have organized and creative volunteers putting together this tournament for our kids. Each year, in an attempt to make the tournament run even smoother, we solicit your suggestions and try to put them into effect.

PLEASE read all the material. Your knowledge and understanding will assist everyone in having a wonderful time at the tournament.

A gentle reminder, as the deadline approaches and pressure mounts, to pay special attention to outside assistance. Students take pride in their own work even if it's not as finished or polished as adults would like it. Help well-meaning adults understand the immense value in granting students the freedom to "do it their own way, by themselves."

We are all looking forward to seeing you soon at a true Odyssey of the Mind!

Sincerely,

The NCOM Board and Tournament Volunteers

Patti Adams, Marj Moe, Patty Carr, Tom Hansen, Zeke Zecca,
State Tournament Organizers and Co-Directors

Carolyn Braly, NC Association Director
Dick Raley, NC Association Vice-Director, Webmaster
Tommy Vassar, Score room
Ann-Marie Grissino, Volunteer Coordinator
Lee Crisp, Treasurer, Souvenir Sales
Jeff Newell, Spontaneous Captain
Randy Burton, Problem 1 Captain

Bart Austin, Problem 2 Captain
Marj Moe, Problem 3 Captain
John and Joyce Bocksnick, Problem 4 Captain
Susan Lawson, Problem 5 Captain
Lynda McGinty, State Historian
Barbara Parris, Doris Barahona-Burton, Allan Ross,
Betsy Adams, Donna Burroughs, Tim and Robbie Cornell,
Elizabeth Newman, Karen Thompson, Dave Asher,
Elaine Berry, Kim and Rob Taylor, Katherine Graham,
Paulette Pearson, Joel Johnson, Anne Clodfelter

NCOM State Tournament!

Leesville Schools Campus

8401 Leesville Rd

Raleigh, NC 27613

March 31, 2007

Special Thanks to Leesville High School, Middle School and Elementary School!

This year's tournament will be held on March 31, 2007 at the Leesville Schools Campus. These three schools and the Wake County Public School System have been very gracious with their hospitality. Please show your gratitude by helping keep the entire Leesville campus clean.

Your Team's Schedule:

Follow the link below to get to the NCOM State Tournament web site and then find your schedule: <http://www.ncom.org/StateTournament/2007StateTournament.htm>.

Note that weigh-in for Problem 4 teams is one hour prior to the long-term competition time.

Tournament Schedule

Team check-in will be in the lobby of Leesville Middle School's main entrance from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Long-Term and Spontaneous judging will take place from 8:00 AM to 4:40 PM. The information desk will remain open all day for information, forms, and lost and found. Souvenir Sales and food concessions will be available throughout the day in the high school cafeteria area. The award ceremony will be in the high school's main gym around 5:00 PM (see details below).

How to Get There

Please use the link at NCOM.ORG or Mapquest.com.

When Should You Arrive?

Teams must check in at the registration desk in the Leesville Middle School lobby prior to competing. Please plan to arrive in plenty of time to check-in, locate sites, and make preparations for competition. We recommend arrival 45 minutes to 1 hour before your scheduled performance or spontaneous time. With the permission of the Head Judge, sites may be available to be briefly previewed before competition begins. If doors are closed at the competition site, the room may not be entered.

Meals and Deals

The Leesville High School Athletic Club will be running the food concessions. They plan a wide variety of edibles available throughout the day at the High School. Please patronize this group as our thank you for hosting our tournament. Odyssey of the Mind products, pins, shirts, and souvenirs will be on sale near the cafeteria area.

Parking

There is plenty of parking on the Leesville campus! Between the faculty and student lots there are 1000 parking spaces. Please use the school maps online and in the program to locate where to go for your team's problem. Once you have dropped off your props at the unloading zone, please move your vehicles immediately to a regular parking lot. Do not leave unattended vehicles in the unloading zone. Parking is permitted on paved areas only!

Name Tags

Teams and coaches will be required to wear name tags during the tournament with the exception of during your long term performance. Tags will be provided in the registration packets that will be distributed at the registration desk. If teams prefer to make their own tags they must include: name, school, problem, division.

What Should Your Team Bring?

3 completed copies of the Style Form
1 completed copy of the Cost Form
1 signed and completed copy of the Outside Assistance Form
Any Problem Clarifications the team has received
Three copies of any list (if required by the team's problem) Four would be appreciated.
Any items listed in the team's problem under the section "Team Must Provide"
All props, costumes, backdrops, and A/V equipment
Money for food, T-shirts, pins, hats, etc.

Change of clothes
Books or quiet games to play
Appropriate footwear, soft soled shoes for the gym floors (tennis or athletic shoes)
Frisbees, balls, etc. for outdoor fun
Two pairs of safety goggles (for structure teams)
Best behavior
Maps
School or Team banner for Parade (optional)

Security

Please encourage your students to leave valuables, props, and problem solutions locked in cars or on buses. We are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged articles. There will be officers on campus.

OMER's Award

Nominations for Omer's Award will be accepted during the tournament at the information desks. Forms will be available there. Read about OMER's award in your program guide.

Parade of Teams

Teams will gather on the sidewalk outside the Middle School at 4:45 PM. You will receive a position number in your tournament packet and will be lined up according to that number. We will then parade into the main gym for the Awards Ceremony. Teams will be announced as they enter the gym. Feel free to bring a banner for your team to carry in the parade. The grand entry of the teams with banners waving is definitely a Kodak moment!

Award Ceremony

The award ceremony will be held in the Leesville High School Main Gym and will begin as close to 5:00 as possible. The gym doors will not be opened until 15 minutes before the ceremony is to begin. Please understand that this allows us to set up for the award ceremony and will help prevent the gym from becoming uncomfortable for us all. Please make parents and supporters aware of this practice, tell them not to crowd around the gym doors, and let them know that there is plenty of seating available in the bleachers.

If we are running late, please be patient and understand that we want to be as fair and thorough in judging the last team as we are with the first team. When the doors open, parents and supporters should enter and sit in the bleachers. Teams and coaches will parade in and sit on the gym floor.

Questions?

Contact Tom Hansen at (919) 523-8463 or email at tom_hansen@ncsu.edu

NC Odyssey of the Mind

2007 State Tournament Competition Rules

1. Teams and coaches must follow the Odyssey of the Mind™ Program Guide. Any rule in a Long-Term problem takes precedence over the Odyssey of the Mind Program Guide. Clarifications take precedence over Long-Term problem rules. All policies of the Wake County Public School System must be followed, including those regarding weapons, percussives, and explosives. If you have any questions concerning the specific policies of the school system, read the policies online or contact the Tournament Directors.
2. Team members must remain at all times with a coach or adult chaperone. The coach or adult chaperone is always responsible for their students.
3. Students, coaches, and guests are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship before, during and after competition day. Compliment and encourage all teams and volunteers! Celebrate and rejoice in everyone's efforts. No coach, team member, parent, or spectator may complain about another team. This type of behavior may result in an “Unsportsmanlike Conduct” score deduction. Officials may assess such a score deduction at any time during or after the tournament.
4. The Score Room, judges' administrative areas, spontaneous judging areas, and officials' hospitality areas are restricted to tournament officials ONLY.
5. Our tournament officials and judges volunteer their time and spend hours doing hard work to provide this competition opportunity. Judges have been certified through a day-long training session and many have experience judging regional, state, and world competitions. Please remember to treat them with respect and THANK them!
6. When your team arrives on campus the head coach, or Div III team captain, must check in at the registration desk in the main lobby of Leesville Middle School.
7. Teams must report to the Check-In area for their long-term 45 minutes before they are scheduled to compete and to the spontaneous check-in desk for spontaneous 15 minutes before they are scheduled to compete. If your long-term site happens to be running behind and will cause you to be late for spontaneous, please do not panic. Complete the long-term problem and report to spontaneous as soon as possible and you will be worked into the schedule.
8. Food and drinks are allowed only in designated areas. Please make sure that you clean up after yourselves and use the appropriate trash containers for your discards.
9. Teams may not use walls, curtains, furnishings etc. at the competition sites in their problem solutions.

10. Teams should be prepared to perform on any floor surface. Floors must not be damaged. Judges will stop any activity they believe to be dangerous or will cause damage to the floor. Score deductions ranging from -15 to -200 points will be assessed depending on the severity of the damage. In addition, please note that teams are liable for damage and have financial responsibility for damage repair.
11. Team rankings will remain confidential until the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony. Results will be posted after the awards ceremony. Please have only one coach get the results for your team. Officials will be on hand at this time to help coaches with any questions.
12. The Leesville campuses must be left in the condition we found them. Furniture must be returned to its original position. Writing surfaces must be cleaned. Trash must be in the intended receptacles, and **ALL PROPS, COSTUMES, AND PROBLEM SOLUTIONS MUST BE TAKEN HOME**. The schools do not have the resources to dispose of materials no longer wanted by the teams.

Long-Term Problem

1. Doors at competition sites will be closed during the performance. No one can be admitted once a team has begun to perform. Please wait quietly outside in this circumstance.
2. Teams may bring props to the prop storage area, if one is so designated, no earlier than 45 minutes prior to their scheduled performance time.
3. Video cameras may be used during the long-term competition only with the permission of the Head Judge and the team. If permitted, they must be used without extra lights and without disturbing the competition in any way. Videotapes WILL NOT be used to make judging decisions. Flash cameras may not be used during performances. Spectator cameras must always remain outside the physical competition boundaries. Videotaping or taking pictures of any judging materials is prohibited and may result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.
4. We will judge using clarifications through March 31, 2007. Clarifications after March 31, 2007 will not affect at the 2007 NCOM State Tournament. If your team has a specific clarification, it must be presented to the staging area judge PRIOR to your team's long-term performance.
5. After a performance, the judging team will want to talk with all team members. The judges may wish to examine the team's problem solution and props. This would be a good time to thank the judges! Coaches, parents, and spectators should not approach the team until the Head Judge indicates that props and scenery may be removed.

6. At the conclusion of a team's long-term performance, the head judge will notify the coach when and where he/she may return to receive the team's long-term score. Style and spontaneous scores will not be released until after the tournament. The judge will explain any score deductions the team received and note the time the score sheet is given to the coach. After receiving the team's score, the coach has 30 minutes to question or protest the score. Only coaches or Division III team captains may discuss rulings with the head judge. Parents, Division I or II team members or spectators are not to approach any official concerning competition rulings.
7. If the coach does not return at the appointed time to receive the score, the head judge will release the score. The score will then go to the score room and become official. In that case, the long-term score and scoresheet will only be available to the coach after the tournament award ceremony.
8. A coach may question a scoring element on the team's score sheet and discuss it with the Head Judge and, if necessary, the Problem Captain. If the question involves an interpretation of the rules, and, if the coach is not satisfied with the explanation given, the coach may request a Tribunal to be convened by completing and submitting the necessary paperwork. PLEASE NOTE: Subjective decisions of judges cannot be challenged. A Tribunal will consist of three persons who have a thorough knowledge of the rules. The Tribunal will review the rule in question and, if necessary, talk with the coach, team members and/or judges involved. Once the Tribunal makes a decision, its decision is final.

Spontaneous Competition

1. When teams report to spontaneous, only one coach may accompany the team to the holding room. Coaches are not permitted in cool-down areas.
2. Keep the spontaneous problem a secret! Team members may NOT talk about their problem to anyone (including family and coaches) after they leave the cool-down room until after the awards ceremony. Following the tournament, they may talk to their coach and family at home, but they should not talk about it publicly, especially over the Internet. The same spontaneous problems may be used at Odyssey of the Mind competitions all over the world as much as a month following our competition.

Questions?

Contact Tom Hansen, 2007 State Tournament Co-Director
Tom_hansen@ncsu.edu
(919) 523-8463