ODYSSEY OF THE MIND
What is OotM?

Odyssey of the Mind is a non-profit, international association. It was developed by Dr. Sam Micklus during an Industrial Design class at Rowan University in New Jersey to challenge his students & encourage creative problem-solving. Odyssey of the Mind believes that creativity can be taught, and that it must be nurtured in order for us to reach our full potential. Arizona Odyssey of the Mind provides opportunities for students to develop creative problem solving skills. By working in a team, participants learn teamwork, self-respect, the appreciation and understanding of others, and that a group is a more powerful thinking force than an individual. All students from grades kindergarten through college are invited to participate in the Arizona Odyssey of the Mind program. Competitive settings are available to allow teams to demonstrate their critical thinking and problem solving skills.

To learn more, visit Odyssey of the Mind on their state & international web sites @ www.azodyssey.org &www.odysseyofthemind.com.

2011-2012 LONG-TERM PROBLEM SYNOPSES

Problem 1: Ooh-Motional Vehicle

Divisions I, II, & III

The problem requires teams to design, build, and drive a vehicle that will travel a course where it will encounter three different situations. The vehicle will display a different human emotion for each encounter and one will cause it to travel in reverse. The team will create a theme for the presentation that incorporates the vehicle and the different emotions. The emphases will be on the technical risk-taking and creativity of the vehicle's engineering for travel and change of emotional appearance.

Project Cost limit: $145 USD.

Problem 2: Weird Science

Divisions I, II, III, & IV

The team will create and present a performance about a team of scientists on an expedition to uncover the cause of mysterious events. The team will select the location of the expedition from NASA Earth Observatory Photographs. The scientists will collect two samples and will report on their findings. The performance will also include a technical representation of the mysterious events, a moving backdrop that helps portray traveling, and a team-created device that the scientists use on the expedition.

Project Cost limit: $145 USD.

Problem 3: To Be or Not To Be

Divisions I, II, III, & IV

In this Classics problem, teams will put a musical theatre spin on one of William Shakespeare's most famous lines: "To Be Or Not To Be". Hamlet, the title character, ponders this question and realizes that the easy way out is not always the correct choice. An original "Hamlet" character will face a team-created dilemma. Unlike Shakespeare's Hamlet, the team's character will take the easy way out only to discover that it was the wrong choice. Teams will also incorporate a character that portrays Hamlet's conscience, a creative scene change, a creative costume change, and use of a "trap door." A portion of the performance will include musical theatre elements.

Project Cost limit: $125 USD.

Problem 4: You Make the Call

Divisions I, II, III & IV

For this problem, teams will design and build a structure made of only balsa wood and glue that will balance and support as much weight as possible. The structure may have a maximum weight of 9 grams and will receive 2 times the weight held, or 12 grams and receive 1 ½ times the weight held, or 15 grams and receive the actual weight held. The testing of the structure will be presented in a performance that includes mathematics in its theme.

Project Cost limit: $145 USD.

Problem 5: Odyssey Angels

Divisions I, II, III & IV

The team will create and present a performance where a group of students travel throughout one or more team-created places where they encounter negative situations. These "Odyssey Angels" change what they find and turn them into positive situations. On their journey, they help two individuals with different problems and help save an entire community from a bad situation. One Odyssey Angel cannot speak, and another has a special team-created power.

Cost limit: $125 USD.

Full details released early September 2011