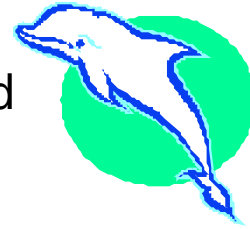




Gulf Coast Region
Florida Odyssey of the Mind
2009-2010



Dear Odyssey of the Mind Membership Coordinator,

Welcome back and thank you for all you do for the children of Gulf Coast Region. On behalf of the entire Regional Board, good luck to all teams! This may be the most important information we give to you this year, so please take the time to read all five pages carefully, make the appropriate copies, and distribute them to EVERYONE who needs to know this information.

Included, please find: (If you're downloading this letter, make sure you download all forms)

- A "Checklist Of Due Dates" - an overview of all due dates and coaching responsibilities
- A "Regional Membership Registration" form, also known as the "Coordinator's Form": As coordinator, your responsibility is to collect ALL fees and forms from ALL teams and USE THE INFORMATION TO REGISTER THE TEAMS, WORKERS, AND JUDGES ONLINE. This form serves as an overview of your TOTAL membership and as proof that ALL ADULTS associated with a team are approved volunteers. This form must be sent to the regional director by December 15, 2009.

ALERT: Every Coach, Assistant Coach, volunteer, and judge for any Pasco County Public School Odyssey of the Mind team must be an approved volunteer who has been screened according to district regulations. Coordinators must insure this requirement is met, and verify the information by signing this form at the bottom.

- A "Team Registration" form: Complete **one per team**. Use the form to complete a team registration online by **December 15**. DO NOT SEND THE FORM TO ANYONE.

Teams may be paid for online with a credit card at www.floridaodysseyofthemind.org. Paying the registration fee locks the team's roster, so that changes can't be made, so be sure you have the roster information entered before generating an invoice or paying with a credit card. **ALL TEAMS MUST BE REGISTERED ONLINE BY THE DEADLINE.**

- A "Judge Registration" form - **Each team** is required to provide one judge for the regional competition. This person agrees to attend judge's training (February 6) and to judge at the regional competition (February 27). This **two-sided** form has several questions necessary to properly place the judge. Use the info to register the judge online by **December 15**. DO NOT SEND THE FORM TO ANYONE.

If a large membership has difficulty securing enough judges, the coordinator may request that ONE judge be a junior or senior in high school, but this must be approved by the regional director prior to registering the judge.

Judges are committed to one area the whole day of competition and can't leave to see their own child compete in another problem, so teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators make good prospects for judges. Judges are the heart of a quality tournament. For us to ensure a successful experience for the participants, ALL judges must commit to and attend the training, or teams will be penalized. Experienced spontaneous judges may be excused from the training, but not until they receive word from the spontaneous problem captain. I will notify a judge by e-mail of his/her assignment.

ALERT: Every judge for any Pasco County Public School Odyssey of the Mind team must be an approved volunteer who has been screened according to district regulations. Coordinators must insure this requirement is met.

•A "Worker" form - **Each team** is required to provide one adult to work a two-hour shift on the day of competition or setup the evening before. Workers monitor doors, keep time, run errands, and otherwise help us make sure the regional tournament is successful. We will make sure a worker is not scheduled at the same time his or her team is competing. Workers less than 18 years of age (16 or 17) must be pre-approved by the regional director **BEFORE** registering the worker online. A maximum of one worker between the ages of 16 and 18 will be approved per membership. Workers must be registered online by December 15, 2009. DO NOT SEND THE FORM TO ANYONE.

ALERT: Every adult worker for any Pasco County Public School Odyssey of the Mind team must be an approved volunteer who has been screened according to district regulations. Coordinators must insure this requirement is met.

•A "Roster" form - Each team is composed of five to seven members in certain age divisions. Check the Odyssey of the Mind rule book for grade level cutoffs to make sure you've registered in the correct division. Remember the oldest member of the team determines the division, not the school. Also a team can't compete up a level unless one team member is in the upper division's age bracket. The roster is part of the team's online registration which must be completed by **December 15**. The names listed online will be compared to the team's "Outside Assistance" form submitted at each level of competition.

PLEASE NOTE: Paying for the team's registration LOCKS the roster, so make sure it is correct before submitting payment.

•An "Ad" form - The regional tournament requires funds for custodial services, printing costs, the program, T-shirts for judges, and other miscellaneous expenses. To pay for this, we are requiring **each team** to sell \$75.00 worth of ads for our regional tournament program. The ad prices are listed on the form. Please copy the form as many times as

needed. The due date for all ads is **December 15, 2009**. This is our region's main source of income. We need every membership to meet this requirement.

PLEASE PUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP NAME ON THE AD FORM BEFORE COPYING IT FOR YOUR COACHES. REMIND YOUR COACHES TO PRINT THE NAME OF THEIR TEAM ON THE FORM BEFORE GIVING IT OUT TO FAMILIES, BUSINESSES, ETC.

Any team that sells \$500 or more in ads will receive recognition at the awards ceremony AND \$20 per team member to spend at the regional tournament sales table!

- "Regional T-Shirt Order" Form – We have a lovely t-shirt design this year and we are priced competitively with the state merchandise. I'll send the artwork when it's available or you can check the regional website periodically. The deadline for ordering a regional shirt is **December 15**. Shirts will be available for pick up at the mandatory coach's meeting on February 6. Checks are made payable to Florida Odyssey of the Mind.

- "Scholarship" Form - Any graduating senior who has participated in the Odyssey of the Mind program for a minimum of two years can apply for this scholarship. The scholarship(s) will be awarded at the regional tournament.

- "Spontaneous Workshop Registration" Form – We're planning two this year: one on the eastside and one on the westside! Bring your teams to ONE of the workshops and let them practice their spontaneous skills in a variety of situations. This event is a ton of creative fun, so be sure to register and attend. The form is due by **November 7**. The workshops are Saturday, November 14, 2009 at New River ES and Saturday, January 23, 2010, at Deer Park ES. The time frame is 8:30 am to noon. You can register your teams as a group or teams can register individually, but all must register.

Well, that's it for now. If you're feeling a bit overwhelmed, please call or email me with any questions or concerns you may have. Please note that I am using the email address, fabercro@pasco.k12.fl.us for all correspondence. Also, feel free to attend the coach's training, even if you're an experienced coach. We will be there to offer support and assistance. I look forward to seeing you at trainings, workshops, meetings, and of course, for the Regional Tournament on February 27, 2010. Until then, good luck!

On behalf of the entire Gulf Coast Regional Board,

Freda Abercrombie

Freda Abercrombie, Regional Director
(813) 924 – 0850 (cell) (813) 794-0200 (TEWMS, school)
E-mail: fabercro@pasco.k12.fl.us

More Very Important Stuff

- **Each team is required to provide one worker and one judge. If you provide more than one judge or worker per team, that's very helpful for the region, BUT PLEASE DON'T register multiple judges and/or workers with the idea that the extra adults are "back up" or "just in case" the required adult doesn't show up. We train, schedule, and rely on the extras the same as the required. Therefore, ALL WORKERS AND JUDGES WHO ARE REGISTERED AND SCHEDULED ARE EXPECTED TO FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATION OR THE TEAM WILL BE PENALIZED.**
- Wondering where the state t-shirt went? You can order state merchandise on the Florida Odyssey of the Mind website at www.floridaodysseyofthemind.org.
- **PLEASE** keep judges informed and reminded of the training and tournament dates. Do **NOT** just sign up people with the intention of finding a "real" person later. It's time consuming and confusing to reorganize dozens of judges two days before training.
- Primary teams have the same obligations as all other teams: one judge, one worker, ads, paperwork, etc. One or more primary teams will represent the Gulf Coast Region at the State Tournament. The team will not compete, but will perform in both long term and spontaneous. The team will be chosen by random drawing from interested teams at the regional tournament awards ceremony.
- Please be sure to supply current e-mail addresses for all judges, coaches, and workers whenever possible. Most notifications will be issued by e-mail. If you give an e-mail address, please be sure to actually read your e-mail regularly. Thanks!
- **FORMS GO WHERE?**
 - a. Coordinators Keep: Team Registration, Worker, Judge, Roster forms
 - b. Send to Joe Musselman: National Membership form (if Pasco Public School)
 - c. Send to National: National Membership form (if NOT Pasco Public School)
 - d. Send to the Regional Director (Freda):
 - Regional Membership Registration form,
 - Ad forms,
 - Spontaneous Workshop forms,
 - Regional T-shirt Order forms, and
 - Scholarship forms
- Check the website often! <http://www.gcodysey.com>

Payment Information

It is imperative that checks be made payable to the correct organization and address.

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP is \$135 and goes to:

Creative Competitions, Inc. (CCI)
1325 Rte 130 S, Suite F
Gloucester City, NJ 08030
www.odysseyofthemind.com

(**SPECIAL NOTE FOR PASCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – the district is paying the national registration IF you send the national registration application to Joe Musselman at the district office by October 16. Send no money, just the form.)

The TEAM REGISTRATION cost is \$75.00 per team (\$20.00 for primary teams). Pay all team registrations at www.floridaodysseyofthemind.org through paypal (convenience fee added) or by generating an invoice and sending a check made payable to "FLOMA" with the invoice to:

Keith Karlberg, Business Administrator
05126 Twin Palms Road
Fruitland Park, FL 34731

ADS, T-SHIRTS FORMS AND MONEY go to:

Florida Odyssey of the Mind
c/o Freda Abercrombie
4846 Darlington Road
Holiday, FL 34690

(Pasco teams can send the forms and money through the courier.)

How a membership raises money to pay the costs associated with participating in the Odyssey of the Mind program is up to the membership's administration. Some memberships hold fundraisers, some secure business sponsors, some charge participants a fee, and some use a combination of these methods. Regardless of how the money is secured, all registration money must be filtered through the membership according to its bookkeeping regulations. Ad money and t-shirt orders may be paid directly to Florida Odyssey of the Mind or filtered through the membership as directed by the administration.