



# PENNSYLVANIA ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Dear Prospective PA Odyssey of the Mind Team,

We are so excited to welcome you with open arms to **Odyssey of the Mind**, Pennsylvania's premier K-12 creative problem-solving STEAM program!

We are even more excited to be offering donor-funded Jumpstart Grants to help your team get started this year. The average grant is worth over \$400! Enclosed you will find more information about the grants and the application you will need to submit for consideration.

If you ever have any questions about the Jumpstart Grant program, please feel free to contact our public relations director Ryan Balton at [pr@paodyssey.com](mailto:pr@paodyssey.com) or (570) 828-3069. For questions about getting started in your neck of the woods, you can find your local regional director's contact information at [www.paodyssey.com](http://www.paodyssey.com) by clicking on **Regions**.

We can't wait to see you, your students, and their creations at a tournament in the coming season. Welcome to the Pennsylvania Odyssey of the Mind family!

Sincerely yours,

The Creativity Unlimited in Pennsylvania all-volunteer board of directors

## **What are educators saying?**

*"The World Economic Forum chose complex problem solving, critical thinking and creativity as the top three job skills for 2020. I can't think of anything that develops those skills more than Odyssey of the Mind does. Being on an Odyssey of the Mind team has literally changed the lives of students in our district and created memories that will last a lifetime."*

– Dr. John Bell, Superintendent, Delaware Valley School District

*"Odyssey of the Mind provides an outlet in an environment where almost every type of student will thrive. Odyssey of the Mind is not a college bowl or a competition about knowledge. It's about creativity, an often overlooked element in the growth and development of many students. Students are rewarded more for how they apply their knowledge, skills, and talents, and not for coming up with the correct answer."*

*In Odyssey of the Mind, students learn at a young age skills that will last a lifetime. They work in teams so they learn cooperation and respect for the ideas of others. They evaluate ideas and make decisions on their own, gaining a greater self-confidence and increased self-esteem along the way. They work within a budget, so they learn to manage their money. They see that there is often more than one way to solve a problem, and that sometimes the process is more important than the end result."*

– Dr. Catherine Sweeney, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction,  
Pocono Mountain School District

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## JUMPSTART GRANT PROGRAM

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Who is eligible?

- New memberships
- Memberships that have not had a team compete at a regional tournament the past five years.  
*If your membership had a team compete in 2014 and have not competed since, you are eligible!*

#### What is the deadline?

The deadline to submit an application is December 1. Grant recipients will be announced on a rolling basis as applications are received. The grants will be awarded at the discretion of Creativity Unlimited in Pennsylvania, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that administers Odyssey of the Mind in Pennsylvania.

#### What is covered by the grants?

1. Membership registration with Creative Competitions Inc. (starting at \$135)
2. Regional fees (vary depending on region, usually around \$100)
3. State tournament fees (if the team advances to State Finals, usually about \$100)
4. Cost limit of the problem(s) solved (ranges from \$125 to \$145 depending on the problem)
5. A one-time \$50 stipend for tools and additional supplies

The final amount will vary depending on the number of teams, the problem(s) solved by the team(s), and if the team(s) advance to State Finals.

#### What is not covered by the grants?

Because the goal is to increase participation, the grants will only cover teams with unique team members, meaning an individual student cannot compete on multiple teams covered by a grant. Any additional expenses not listed above will not be covered by the grants. This includes transportation costs and other accommodations to attend a regional tournament or State Finals. Finally, World Finals costs will not be covered by our grants if your team advances to that level.

#### What other resources are provided to help a new team?

Each of our regions offers a free coaches' training in the fall, and we encourage you to attend! You will also be paired with one of our long-time volunteers. Your OMer buddy will answer any questions you may have as a coach about how the Odyssey of the Mind program works and what to expect on tournament day.

#### How are the grants funded?

The grants are all donor-funded by generous members of the PA Odyssey of the Mind community who want to provide access to our creative problem-solving program to as many children as possible. Thank you to our donors for your support!

#### Any other questions?

Please contact Ryan Balton at [pr@paodyssey.com](mailto:pr@paodyssey.com) or (570) 828-3069.

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## GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Coach/applicant name:

Email address:

Phone number:

Mailing address:

Applicant's past Odyssey of the Mind experience (if any):

Membership name (school or organization name):

Membership address:

Is this a  new membership  returning membership

Last year competed at a regional tournament:

Good luck!

Please save this PDF or print and scan it. Email your application to Ryan Balton at [pr@paodyssey.com](mailto:pr@paodyssey.com).

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