



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**, the world's biggest K-12 creative problem-solving STEAM program!

We are even more excited to be offering donor-funded Jumpstart Grants to help your teams get started. The average grant is worth \$400. Last year, we awarded over \$6,000 in grants to 13 schools and organizations across the state.

If you ever have any questions about the Jumpstart Grant program, please feel free to contact Ryan Balton at grants@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 paodyssey.com/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 Pennsylvania 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, Pike County

"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, Monroe County

"Problem solving is so important in our world, and I am not sure that educators think about its value and relevance when we are planning instruction. Rarely in this world do things go according to plan, and the best and most efficient work team is that team whose members do not shut down when the most obvious solution doesn't work. Instead, these individuals rise to the occasion. They apply their creativity and innovative spirit to move on quickly to plans B, C, D... without missing a beat."

- Dr. Nancy J. Hines, Superintendent, Penn Hills School District, Pittsburgh

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PENNSYLVANIA ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

JUMPSTART GRANT PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I apply?

The online application form is at paodyyssey.com/grants.

Who is eligible?

- New memberships – *Any school or community organization, such as a library, homeschool group, or church.*
- Memberships that have not had a team compete at a regional tournament in the past four years.
If your membership had a team compete in 2016 and have not competed since then, you are eligible!

What is the deadline?

The deadline to submit an application is **December 1, 2020**. 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.

What is covered by the grants?

1. Membership registration with Creative Competitions, Inc. (starting at \$135)

You'll need to register your team at odysseyofthemind.com/join and send us the receipt for reimbursement.

2. Tournament fees (starting at \$100)

*No action is required! We'll automatically waive your regional tournament fees.
If your team advances to State Finals, we'll cover those tournament fees too.*

3. Stipend for supplies and tools (\$175 for each team)

You'll receive this stipend by check along with your Membership Registration.

What is not covered by the grants?

Our goal is to increase the number of students who participate in Odyssey of the Mind. Therefore, the grants only cover teams with unique team members – so one student cannot compete on multiple teams covered by a grant. The grants are only for the 2020-21 season. Any expenses not listed above will not be covered by the grants. This includes accommodations and transportation to attend a tournament. 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! We'll also put you in touch with experienced Odyssey of the Mind volunteers in your area who are here to help.

How are the grants funded?

The grants are funded by generous donors 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!

Any other questions?

Please contact Ryan Balton at grants@paodyyssey.com or (570) 828-3069.

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