



2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

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 \$500. Each year, we aim to award about \$5,000 in grants to schools and community 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 (646) 265-2620. 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 entirely volunteer Creativity Unlimited in Pennsylvania Board of Directors

What are Pennsylvania educational leaders 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, Past 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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