



Parents are Important

This is for **you**, the ones who are driving the carpools, forking out money for pizza, opening closets for major scavenging, waiting while the team cleans up after a meeting, postponing dinner because one more prop needs finished, and generally watching from the sidelines while the team "gets creative!"

DID YOU KNOW...

- You are the team's secret weapon for success?
- You are the "wind beneath the wings" of the team?
- You are a vital part of Odyssey of the Mind?

Parent or Guardian Responsibilities On Tournament Day

- ✓ Your Odyssey of the Mind State Board also relies on parents and guardians for help. We welcome friends, relative, and office associates, too!
- ✓ Here are the opportunities for parents, friends, and relatives to help make the regional tournament possible. We feel certain you will enjoy helping, and few volunteer opportunities directly benefit so many children in an educational program!

WE NEED YOUR HELP on Tournament Day

- **Be an official** - This involves training, in February in most regions, to learn to be a judge.
- **Be a volunteer** - Volunteers are always needed for the Regional Tournaments. To volunteer contact a coach, your school's Odyssey of the Mind Coordinator, or the Regional Director.

We also ask you to help the team get props in and out of the building, to move your car from loading and unloading areas as quickly as possible, and to bring a sense of humor to the tournament (because Murphy's law is an Odyssey of the Mind condition!)

We on the State Board believe that this program offers something unique for your children. We believe that they will learn teamwork, creative problem solving, divergent thinking, persistence, practical skills, and many other abilities through Odyssey of the Mind. Please remember we are all volunteers working together to make this happen.

THANK YOU for your support, for your child, for his or her coach, and for the regional volunteers!! We wish you creativity in your own life, and fun watching these wonderful problem solvers at work!!

DID YOU HEAR THAT YOU AND OTHERS MAY NOT HELP?

That is absolutely wrong! **That is absolutely right!** **(Well..... which is it???)**

BOTH! You may do many things to help the team, but there are also things you might want to do that would cost the team penalty points. So... how do you know the difference? Here is your own handy, dandy, just-for-parent guidelines!

What Parents SHOULD and SHOULD NOT DO	
What Parents SHOULD DO:	What Parents SHOULD NOT DO:
Transport the team to buy things	Suggest what to buy
Transport the props	Repair props if broken in shipping
Teach the team members a skill IF the team asks, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewing • Woodworking • Calligraphy • Art • Electronics • Engineering • Principals of simple machines • Welding 	<p>Suggest to the team which skills to use to solve a problem</p> <p>Suggest to the team which skills would result in a better-looking or better functioning solution</p> <p>Give the teams any ideas for their problem solution</p> <p>Sew anything, paint anything, do anything to contribute to the team's problem solution</p>
Help provide snacks	Analyze why something failed
Bring spontaneous problem supplies	Expect perfection from a solution not done by adults (or from a solution done by adults, for that matter!)
Help get props into the building for the Tournament, even to the staging area	
Open attics, closets, basements for "garage sale value" materials	Suggest what materials to get from the attic, closet or basement
Provide lots of encouragement	
Provide a place to meet/store props	Fix anything that breaks
Get everyone and everything to the Tournament	Criticize any part of a team's solution
Applaud A LOT and help get props offstage afterwards	Put emphasis on scores instead of fun

As you can tell, parents ARE important, as resources for learning skills, helping get materials, providing moral support, supplementing working brains with nourishment, and generally facilitating the logistics of a working team. Without your encouragement, your child will not develop the self confidence that Odyssey of the Mind promotes.

Source: [VOICES \(Virginia Odyssey Into Creativity ExplorationS\)](#)

Thanks VOICES
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