

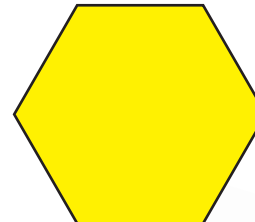
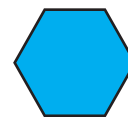


# Odyssey of the Mind of the Mind

[www.vacavilleodyssey.com](http://www.vacavilleodyssey.com)



TEAMWORK



Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving competition for students of all ages.

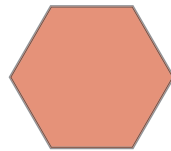
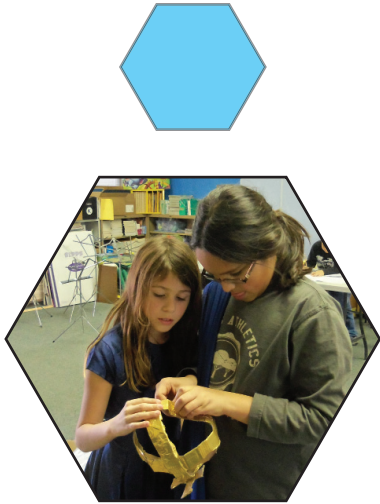
# CREATIVITY



# ENGINEERING

## Who participates in OotM?

Teams of children from kindergarten through college-age participate. All receive the same problems; however, their solutions vary – not simply because of age grouping but mostly due to the innovation and imagination of the creators.



## What is Odyssey of the Mind?

Odyssey of the Mind (OotM) is the largest worldwide creative problem-solving competition for children. The program begins anew with each school year, when five “problems” are delivered to the mailboxes of anxiously waiting, creatively juiced kids.

Odyssey of the Mind year culminates with World Finals, where the best of the best match wits, imaginations and personalities to become world champions.



## Parents and Outside Assistance

It's important for parents to understand the value in letting teams solve the problem on their own. Offering ideas or providing solutions does not teach the team to be able to do this on their own. Asking facilitating questions does. Parents will take greater joy in watching their son or daughter grow in their problem solving skills rather than providing them the answer. When adults tell the kids the solution, it is sending a subtle message that they cannot figure it out for themselves. Remember, one of the goals of Odyssey of the Mind is to teach kids creativity and problem solving skills. As adults you will be amazed at the end of the season at what the kids will be able to do on their own.

## Creative Problem Solving Skills

Odyssey of the Mind teaches students how to think divergently by providing open-ended problems that appeal to a wide range of interests. Students learn how to identify challenges and to think creatively to solve those problems. They are free to express their ideas and suggestions without fear of criticism. The creative problem-solving process rewards thinking “outside of the box.” While conventional thinking has an important place in a well-rounded education, students need to learn how to think creatively and productively.

## How Parents Can Help

Yes, they are the ones who are driving the carpools, forking out money for pizza, drinks, snacks, opening closets for major scavenging, waiting while the team cleans up after a practice, postponing dinner because one more prop needed to be finished so it could dry and generally watching from the sidelines while the team gets creative. Parents can be a team's secret weapon, the “wind beneath the wings” of the team and coach, and are a vital part to the Odyssey of the Mind program.

# ART

## Interested?

Submit your info at:

[vacavilleodyssey.com](http://vacavilleodyssey.com)

We will help to put you together with other interested students in your school or organization.

# BUILDING