

February 2009 Newsletter

Hello, hello, Illinois OotM lovers! We're busy preparing for a GREAT Illinois State Competition! It's only one month away...

We currently have 22 memberships across the state of Illinois. Of those, 38 teams registered to compete at the competition on March 21st! A great competition is in the making!

A competition, however, is only as great as the officials who run it. As we prepare for the judge training on March 7 & 14, we currently only have judges registered from 15 teams:

Belleville West High School - 1
Countryside School - 3
Fulton JHS - 1
Horace Mann - 2
Longfellow - 1
Montessori - 2
Parkland - 2
Pontiac - 1
St. John Lutheran - 1
St. Peter Lutheran - 1

Please remember that each team is required to submit one judge; it takes around 70 volunteers to run an Odyssey of the Mind competition. A few things to remember about finding a judge:

Make sure you inform your judge that he or she must attend the judge training session of their choice and be present during the entire competition day. Remember that judges will not be allowed to leave their competition sites on the day of competition to watch teams present, so parents may not make the best judges. Who would? Other teachers in the building, neighbors with volunteer spirit, more distant relatives, or friends all make good Odyssey of the Mind judges. Have the kids brainstorm people who could help. Maybe a great spontaneous problem would be thinking of ways to persuade folks to be a judge! Often they have so much fun, that they come back year after year. What a great volunteer opportunity! Donate 1 and 1/2 Saturdays...only short 12 hours...and get the benefit of helping creative kids all over the state of Illinois...PRICELESS!

Perhaps your judge has registered, but didn't list your team? No problem, just let Jim Mourey, Jr., our state judge coordinator, know and he'll fix the registration record. If your judge still needs to register, please have them do so ASAP via this link:

http://www.odysseyofthemind.com/reg/registration_step.php?g=ootm&s=judge&c=7330

Let me know if you have questions or concerns. Thanks so much for your assistance in creating a great Illinois State Odyssey of the Mind competition for the creative kids of Illinois!

Think your team might be interested in having a wonderful international experience by hosting a OotM team from another country? Wondering when your team will compete on March 21st? Want to know what the pin and t-shirt design will look like? Want to pre-order your state shirts? Well....check the website later this week for all of this information!

Keep creatin'! One month to go!

Amber

--Amber Thurnau
Association Co-Director
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