

Illinois Knowledge Quest, Inc. presents Odyssey of the Mind in Illinois
December Newsletter

Dear Illinois Omers,

Welcome to Illinois Odyssey of the Mind 2009! We are ready for an exciting Odyssey of the Mind season. I know most of your teams are hard at work solving the problems for this school year and are anxious to register for and find out the specifics of the 2009 competition.

Coach Training - Everyone is welcome!

Please RSVP to me ASAP! If you have a coach in need of training who cannot attend, please contact me for other arrangements.

North Coach Training – Sunday, January 18, 2009 – 1-5 pm
Trinity Lutheran School, 405 South Rush Street, Roselle, Illinois 60172

South Coach Training – None Requested – E-mail me if you are in need of a coach training in the southern region, and we'll get one set up ASAP!

State Competition Information

March 21, 2009

Belleville West High School, 4063 Frank Scott Parkway, Belleville, Illinois 62223

Nearby Stores: Target, Home Depot, and Office Max

Nearest Hotel: <http://www.snows.org/Hotel>

At the end of this letter, I am including a list of other hotel options for you to check into. I also can't say enough great things about St. Louis and the tourism options there. Let me know if I can help or provide more info.

State Team Registration is Online!

We are ready to begin state registration of teams.

Gather the following information about the teams you are going to register:

- School Membership Name, Membership Number, and Mailing Address
- Coaches Name, Email Address, Mailing Address, & Phone Number
- Assistant Coaches Name, Email Address, Mailing Address, & Phone Number
- Judge's Name, Email Address, Mailing Address, & Phone Number
- Team Member's Names, Ages, & Grade Level in School

When you are ready to begin go to <http://www.odysseyofthemind.com/>, click on the "Member Area", and start filling in the Information

Please note that before sitting down to register, you and your team need find a person to volunteer as a judge for the state competition. Each team is required to supply one judge. The judge 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.

Once you have filled out the information, you will receive an email back giving you all the information and a code to edit any future changes about the teams. This code will also allow you to check the schedule once we post it on the web. Please make sure you fill out all the information, especially the e-mail addresses. We will begin to use the e-mail system extensively this year. E-mails that come back undeliverable make it difficult to communicate.

- Please have team registrations completed online by January 31, 2009.
- Please mail a registration fee of \$35 per team by January 31, 2009 as well.
- We will allow late registration from 2/01/2009-2/15/2009, but they will carry a \$10 late fee.
- No registrations or registration fees can be accepted after 2/15/09.
- Please understand these dates are set so that we can begin scheduling the competition day, contacting officials and volunteers, and training judges in a timely manner.

Judge Training

Coaches: Please make sure that your judges know about the training and are planning to attend!

Northern Judge Training

March 7 - registration begins at 9:30am, training begins at 10am
Horace Mann Middle School - Oak Park, Illinois

Southern Judge Training

March 14 - registration begins at 9:30am, training begins at 10am
Belleville West High School - Belleville, Illinois

Don't Forget to Check the Website!

We will be updating the state website often. If you have information that you think would be appropriate, e-mail it to me, and we'll try to get it up there! www.il.odysseyofthemind.org

New Board Member

Finally, I would like to welcome new Illinois Knowledge Quest board member, Jean Benedetto. Jean has been a coach for many years. We are pleased to have her on the board! Illinois Knowledge Quest is the non-profit organization that runs Odyssey of the Mind in Illinois. We are all volunteers giving our time to ensure Illinois students have access to creative problem solving. We've had an empty spot on the board for several years that had gone unfilled. Jean Benedetto has agreed to fill the empty spot on our board bringing an additional voice for our growing northern teams! Congratulations and thank you for volunteering, Jean! If you are interesting in assisting the board, please let us know.

Best of luck as your teams create and solve over the next few months. If I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail me.

Creatively Yours,

Amber Thurnau

Illinois Odyssey of the Mind State Association Co-Director

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State Competition - Where to Stay and What to Do

Closest Hotel in Belleville – Located 4 miles away in the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. This hotel boasts a great playground and restaurant on site:

Shrine Motel

451 S Demazenod Dr, Belleville, IL - (618) 397-1162

Fairview Heights Hotels – Located about 6 miles away and close to the highway, Fairview Heights offers a wide variety of shopping and food options:

Drury Inn

12 Ludwig Dr, Fairview Heights, IL - (618) 398-8530

Hampton Inn St. Louis/Fairview Heights

50 Ludwig Drive, Fairview Heights, IL - (618) 397-9705

Fairfield Inn by Marriott

140 Ludwig Drive, Fairview Heights, IL - (618) 398-7124

Comfort Suites

137 Ludwig Drive, Fairview Heights, IL - (618) 394-0202

Ramada Inn-Fairview Heights

6900 N Illinois St, Fairview Heights, IL - (314) 241-2634

Super 8 Fairview Hts IL/ St Louis

45 Ludwig Dr, Fairview Heights, IL - (618) 398-8338

Four Points by Sheraton Fairview Heights

319 Fountains Pkwy, Fairview Heights, IL - (618) 622-9500

Best Western Camelot Inn of Fairview Heights

305 Salem Pl, Fairview Heights, IL - (618) 624-3636

Ramada St. Louis - Fairview Heights

6900 N Illinois St, Fairview Heights, IL - (618) 632-4747

O'Fallon – Right off the highway, several shopping and eating options exist here, and these hotels are a straight 7 mile shot to the school.

Drury Inn

1118 Central Park Dr, O Fallon, IL - (618) 624-2211

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Shiloh/O'Fallon

3396 Green Mount Crossing Drive, Shiloh, IL - (877) 863-4780

Further into O'Fallon:

Days Inn O'Fallon

1320 Park Plaza Dr., O Fallon, IL - (618) 628-9700

Candlewood Suites O'Fallon

1332 Park Plaza Dr, O Fallon, IL - (618) 622-9555

Extended Stay America

154 Regency Park, O Fallon, IL - (618) 624-1757

Baymont Inns & Suites O'Fallon

136 Regency Park, O'Fallon, IL - (618) 632-6668

Caseyville Hotels – Located about 6 miles away, these Caseyville hotels are right off the highway. A Cracker Barrel and fast food options are close.

Days Inn Caseyville

8950 Tucker Drive, Caseyville, IL - (618) 397-4200

Motel 6

2431 Old Country Inn Dr, Caseyville, IL - (618) 397-8867

Econo Lodge Inn & Suites
2423 Old Country Inn Drive, Caseyville, IL - (618) 397-3300
Quality Inn & Suites
2180 Patricia Dr., Caseyville, IL - (618) 398-6745

Downtown St. Louis – If you have time to do some sightseeing, downtown St. Louis is only 11 miles away. You can stay in Belleville and take the Metrolink into St. Louis, or stay in downtown. St. Louis offers great tourism opportunities. Go up in the arch. Visit the FREE Zoo and FREE Science Center. Don't miss the very CREATIVE City Museum. Contact Amber Thurnau, state director, and she would be happy to help you plan your trip!

Drury Plaza Hotel-St Louis
2 S 4th St, St Louis, MO - (314) 231-3003
Millennium Hotel St Louis
200 S 4th St, St Louis, MO - (314) 241-9500
Crowne Plaza Hotel St. Louis - Downtown
200 North Fourth St., St. Louis, MO - (888) 444-0401
Mayfair Hotel The
806 Saint Charles St, St Louis, MO - (314) 421-2500
Drury Plaza Hotel-St Louis
2 S 4th St, St Louis, MO - (314) 231-3003
Millennium Hotel St Louis
200 S 4th St, St Louis, MO - (314) 241-9500