

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND



Odyssey of the Mind
NC Eastern Region

2026 Tournament Preparation

February 14, 2026



Good morning! We'll start in a few minutes...



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Today's Agenda

3 weeks before the Eastern Region Tournament. *What should you focus on?*

- The big picture items...
 - Long Term
 - Style
 - Spontaneous
- OM Program Reminders
- Tournament Day Reminders
- Q&A

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Big picture items...

- Wakefield High School - March 7
- Judges Training: conducted on-line and completed by February 21
- Remember the goals of Odyssey of the Mind....
Creative Problem Solving / Team Work / Collaboration / Persistence
- Keep working ... read your Long Term problem...practice Spontaneous
- Check www.ncome.org for all your tournament information



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Long Term & Style...

- *Long Term (worth 200 points):*

- Keep reading the problem
- Make sure the team's solution maximizes points (check Section D.)
- Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse....
- Clarifications (<https://www.odysseyofthemind.com/clarifications/>)
 - * Check public clarifications often
 - * Submit any team clarifications by **February 15...tomorrow!**
- Remember...8 minutes to present your solution
 - * Penalty for exceeding 8 minutes in **P3: Classics...The Epic Quest** and **P5: Taller Tales of John Jivery** (Reference sections B.3 and E.6 of your Long Term problem)
- Consider creating a repair kit (not included on your Cost Form)



- *Style (worth 50 points):*

- Identify your Style items (Reference section F.)
- 2 Required items
- 2 "Free Choice"
 - * Free Choice can't be scored elsewhere in Section D.
- 1 overall effect of items 1-4
- Review Chapter III of the Program Guide (pgs. 20-22) for information/clarification



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COST FORM

Team members must complete this form and list all items used in the presentation of their problem solution, including those exempt from cost and assigned a value. Adults may help fill it out for Division I team members only. Do not include sales tax.

Long-Term Problem:		Division:	
Membership Name:		Coach Name:	
City:		State/Prov:	
Judge(s):		Country:	

	Name of Item (e.g. wood, fabric, etc.)	Used For (e.g. costumes, props, all areas, etc.)	Value (used value)
1.		1.	1.
2.		2.	2.
3.		3.	3.
4.		4.	4.
5.		5.	5.
6.		6.	6.
7.		7.	7.
8.		8.	8.
9.		9.	9.
10.		10.	10.
11.		11.	11.
12.		12.	12.
13.		13.	13.
14.		14.	14.
15.		15.	15.
16.		16.	16.
17.		17.	17.
18.		18.	18.
19.		19.	19.
20.		20.	20.
TOTAL VALUE OF MATERIALS USED =			\$ -

1 copy

Check pages
43-45 of the
Program
Guide

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Taller Tales Of John Jivery

Team List Form

1. Membership Name: _____
Coach Name: _____ Division: I II III IV (circle one)
2. A brief description of the original tall tale: _____

3. A brief description of the John Jivery character and the incredible feat the character performs, the unique origin story, and the surprise for the audience, all in the order they will occur in the performance: _____

4. A brief description of the visual weather effects, what weather events they represent, and what emotions they represent:

5. The signal our team will use to indicate we have finished our performance is: _____

4 copies

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Outside Assistance Form

Long-Term Problem _____ Division _____
Membership Name _____ Coach Name _____
City _____ State/Prov. _____ Country _____

We understand that it is against the rules for anyone other than the team members to design, build or present the long-term problem solution.

We understand that any team member who was ever on our team must remain on our roster and will count as a team member.

We realize that we may get instruction in various areas of design and construction or in performance techniques, but know that these instructions may not be specific to the long-term problem solution. By signing below, we testify that we have followed all of the rules regarding outside assistance. If there are any exceptions, we have listed those.

WE HAD HELP WITH: (Please describe any assistance with your specific problem solution if you had any. State NONE if no assistance was received. If you used an item(s) from a previous solution, such as taking from an "OoTM Closet" as mentioned in the program guide, please list the item and explain what modifications were made.

Also, please list names of former team members no longer on your team (if the roster exceeds seven) and when they last worked with the team.

1 copy

Coach # 1 _____

Coach # 2 _____

Coach # 3 _____

Team Member _____

Grade (US) _____ Birthday (Int'l) _____

Team Member _____

Grade (US) _____ Birthday (Int'l) _____

Team Member _____

Grade (US) _____ Birthday (Int'l) _____

Team Member _____

Grade (US) _____ Birthday (Int'l) _____

Team Member _____

Grade (US) _____ Birthday (Int'l) _____

Team Member _____

Grade (US) _____ Birthday (Int'l) _____

Team Member _____

Grade (US) _____ Birthday (Int'l) _____

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If applicable, provide 1 copy of any Team specific clarifications.

1 copy

Before going to competition, coaches may export all of their clarifications by logging in, selecting "Clarifications" from the side bar menu, then clicking the "Download" button at the top right. This will combine your questions and answers into a single document for you to save to print, which looks like the following:

A screenshot of the Odyssey of the Mind Clarifications interface. The interface is titled "Clarifications" and features the Odyssey of the Mind logo. It includes a navigation bar with "Problem 1: Off the Rails", "B1 - General Rules", and "D III". The "Asked by:" field is filled with a blue box. The "Org:" field is filled with "High School" and the "Assoc." field is filled with a blue box. The "Region:" field is filled with a blue box. Below the navigation bar, there are two sections: "Clarifications" with a question mark icon and a blue box, and "Answer" with a checkmark icon and a blue box.

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Clarifications

Problem 1: Off the Rails B1 - General Rules D III

Asked by: [Redacted]

Org: [Redacted] High School

Assoc. [Redacted] - Region: [Redacted]

? Clarifications

[Redacted]

✓ Answer

[Redacted]

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Spontaneous...

- Spontaneous (worth 100 points)
 - Keep practicing...
 - * Hands On
 - * Verbal
 - * Hands On Verbal / Combination
 - Review the *Spontaneous Coaching Guide* available at odysseyofthemind.com >
Teams > Member Area > Downloads > *Spontaneous Coaching Guide (PDF)*



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OM Program Reminders...

- Team Forms 
 - Reference section H in the Problem Description
 - Forms are available at odysseyofthemind.com
 - * Teams > Member Area > Forms
 - 4 copies each of Team List and Style
 - 1 copy each of Cost and Outside Assistance
 - 1 copy of any *team specific* clarifications you have received
- We need a membership sign? (Program Guide – Chapter V, pgs. 41 & 47/48)
 - Membership Number no longer needed.
- Communicate with parents (tournament schedule/lunch/snacks)
- Props? Costumes? Where are they? Who is in charge?
- Re-read the Program Guide (focus on Chapters III, IV, V, VI)
- Check with your Judge rep regarding training on February 21



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Tournament Day...It's Show Time!!

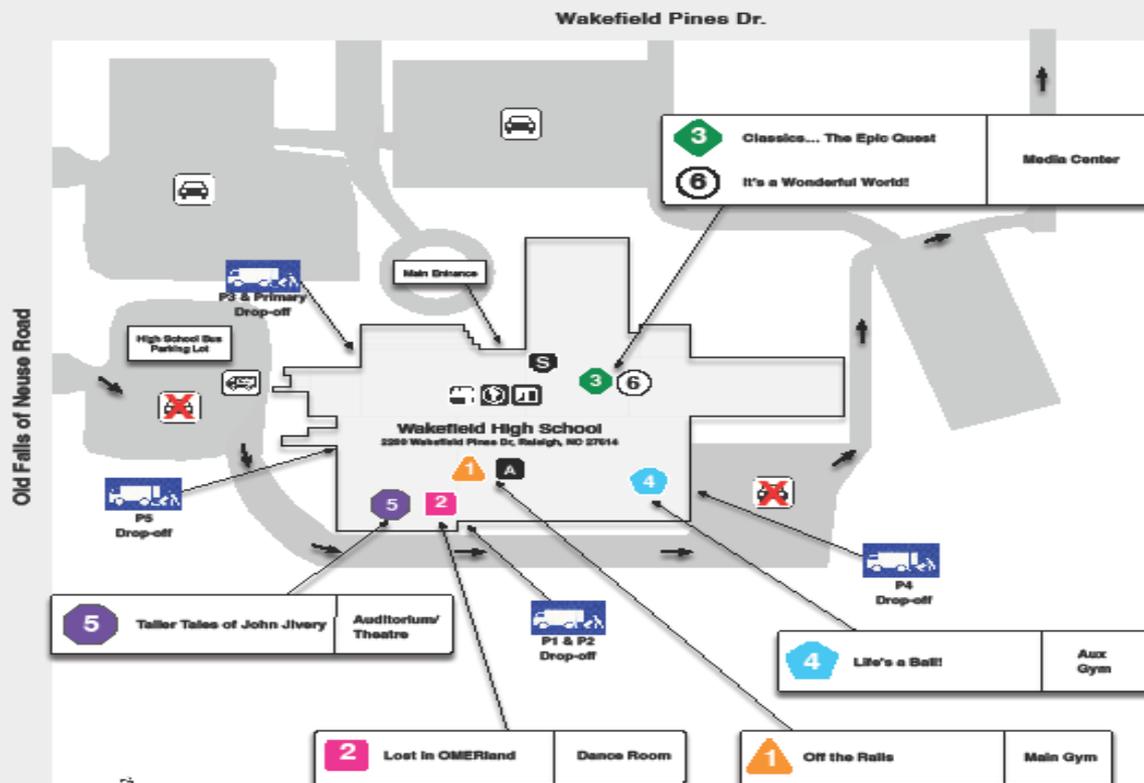
- Expect lots of energy!!
- Manage team and parent expectations
- A few Long Term competition logistics...
 - P4 teams: Don't forget your weigh-in
 - All teams: Unload props, backdrops, vehicle, etc. off 30-45 minutes ahead of time
 - Be careful and be mindful of surroundings and other teams!
 - Arrive at check-in 20 minutes before your competition time
 - Parents/family/friends can help transport all the way into the Staging area
 - Check-in/Staging ➡ Competition Area
 - "Judges are you ready? Team are you ready? Team begin!"



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2026 North Carolina Odyssey of the Mind Eastern Region Tournament Site Map



- Team Registration
- Information
- Souvenir Sales
- Awards
- Parking
- Food Trucks
- Prop Drop-off Location
- Prop Drop-off Directions
- 1 Off the Rails
- 2 Lost in OMERland
- 3 Classics... The Epic Quest
- 4 Life's a Ball!
- 5 Taller Tales of John Jivery
- 6 It's a Wonderful World!
- S Spontaneous

The Awards Ceremony will be held in the Main Gym at 4:00PM

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Tournament Day...It's Show Time!!

- Long Term Competition logistics (continued)
 - Team members only communicate with judges *after* the presentation
 - After the judges finish...move that stuff out
 - Celebrate your team's performance!
 - Long Term & Style scores available in ~ 45 minutes from the Head Judge



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Tournament Day...It's Show Time!!

- A few Spontaneous Competition logistics...
 - Arrive at check-in 10 minutes before your scheduled time
 - Have warm-up activities available
 - Check-in → Holding Room → Competition
 - (team + 1coach)* *(team only)*
 - “What type of problem did you have??” Nope...
 - Score available at the end of the tournament



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Tournament Day... Final Word

- Watch other teams and problems
- Attend the award ceremony in the Wakefield HS gym
 - ** Approximate start time of 4:00pm
- Have fun and celebrate your efforts!
- This year...Top 2 teams in each Problem/Division advance to the March 28 State Tournament at Appalachian State University / Boone



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QUESTIONS?



Don't forget

Emails from Lexie Groner (Tournament Director), Randy Burton (Region Director), and Problem Captains



www.ncome.org



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