

# Odyssey of the Mind Team (not a club)!

## What is this?

Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem solving competition.

Team members work together at length to solve a predefined problem (the **Long Term** problem); and present their solution to the problem at a competition. They must also generate spontaneous answers to a problem they have not seen before; this is the **spontaneous** competition.

Odyssey of the Mind teams are divided into five divisions. Our students will be competing in Division I for students in **grades 3-5**.

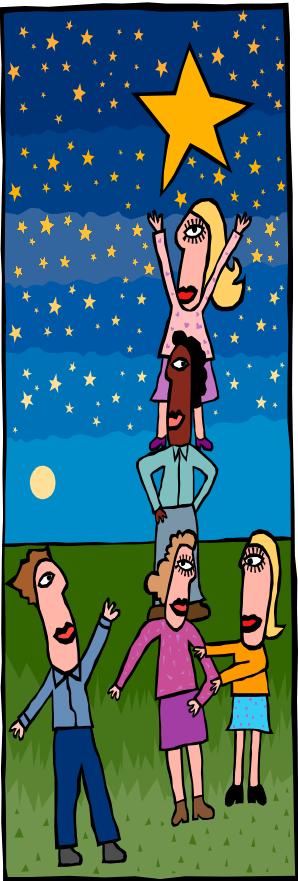


## Just how will this work at SJGS?

The team will be selected through an audition process. We will have 7 spaces to fill. We will meet on Thursday afternoons and some weekends as we get closer to regional competition in late Feb. or early March.

Since this is a **team, attendance** for every team meeting is **VERY IMPORTANT!**

- There will be a brief overview of the program for parents and students on Thurs. August 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:45.
- Auditions will be held on September 2, from 3:30 – 4:30 pm. Auditions are closed to all adults except the coaches and judges.
- Our first team meeting will be September 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 4:30.
- Cost: \$210.00 for Sept. – February or 35.15 per month (the same as clubs) Additional charges will apply if we win regional competition.
- This fee will cover International, State, and Regional membership fees; materials for solutions; snacks; t-shirts; rental fee for SJGS; and workshop fees.
- Additionally, parents will need to provide transportation to and from tournaments and workshops, act as experts in special areas, volunteer at competitions, and most importantly - act as our greatest cheerleaders!



**Just who is eligible to compete on our SJGS team?** Any student who is 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade - SJGS students and non-SJGS students. So, if you know of someone who may be interested please invite them to attend the informational meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup>!





## More about Odyssey of the Mind

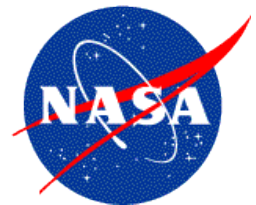
The Odyssey of the Mind program was co-founded by Dr. Theodore Gourley and Dr. C. Samuel Micklus in 1978 at Glassboro State College (now Rowan Uniiv.) in Glassboro, New Jersey.

That first competition, known as "Olympics of the Mind", involved teams from 28 New Jersey schools. The program is now international, with teams from Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Siberia, Singapore, Slovakia, the United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, and West Africa regularly competing in addition to teams from the United States.

In the United States, each participating state has its own Odyssey association. Most states are further broken down into regions. We are in the Manatee Region for the state of Florida.

Teams compete at the regional level first and then, if they win, progress to the state level ( usually held in Orlando). In the U.S., there is no national level. **State-winning teams go directly to the World Finals**, which have always been held in the U.S., usually at the end of May.

NASA is a long time sponsor of this program.



To learn more about how this program operates please go to ([www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com) ).