

NEW YORK



SATURDAY 2026 MARCH 21

STATE FINALS

NYS FAIRGROUNDS **NEW YORK STATE**
SYRACUSE ODYSSEY OF THE MIND ASSOCIATION®



NEW YORK STATE ODYSSEY OF THE MIND ASSOCIATION®

FOR almost 50 years, New York State Odyssey of the Mind Association has offered this creative problem solving program to students. OM encourages divergent thinking as teams use creativity and teamwork to solve unique problems. Odyssey of the Mind is open to all students from Kindergarten through college level. Guided by coaches, team members work throughout the school year on their solutions to one of six long-term problems. These are then presented at a regional competition at which students hope to advance to State Finals. Successful teams then represent New York at the World Finals, meeting students from across the U.S. as well as from other countries.

Odyssey of the Mind incorporates aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math and the Arts (STEAM). Each year, students work in teams to solve original problems in a variety of areas, from building mechanical devices such as vehicles to designing and building balsa wood structures to hold weight to giving their own theatrical interpretation of literary classics. Students learn lifelong skills such as brainstorming, teamwork, evaluating ideas, making decisions and creating solutions while developing self-confidence. Creativity, communication, time management and divergent thinking are encouraged, all of which help students through their academic years and beyond.

Special Awards

The **Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award** is given to a team or individual for demonstrating outstanding creativity. This award embodies all that the Odyssey of the Mind program represents. It is presented at all levels of competition from regional tournaments to World Finals. Teams who receive this award at the State Tournament will automatically move on to Worlds.

OMER's Award recognizes those individuals, coaches, team members, parents, officials and others who, during a tournament, serve as exemplary examples or role models through their actions or words. This award is also bestowed on team members who exhibit exceptional skill and talents. Each recipient of an OMER's Award receives a special medal.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, March 20		
3PM-7:30PM	Team Registration	Fairgrounds, Arts & Home Lobby
Saturday, March 21		
6:30AM-10:00AM	Team Registration	Center of Progress, Activities Area
8:00AM-4:00PM	Competitions	Various Locations
8:00AM-4:00PM	Souvenirs	Center of Progress
10:00AM-1:00PM	Souvenirs	Solvay HS
9:00AM-3:00PM	Various Activities	Center of Progress
10:00AM-6:00PM	Pin Trading	Center of Progress
4:30PM-6:00PM	Souvenirs & LED items (Pre Dance Party)	Center of Progress
5:00PM to start of Awards	All Party DJ Service – Dance Party & Light Show	Center of Progress
5:00PM-6:00PM	Chance Auction	Center of Progress
Approx. 6:30PM-7:30PM	Awards Ceremony	Center of Progress
Approx. 7:30PM-8:30PM	Champs Meeting	Annex, Center of Progress

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It always amazes me when it is time for me to sit down at my computer to write to you all, to how quickly the year has flown by. Here we are at yet another fantastic tournament with teams hoping they win that 'golden ticket' to advance to the World Finals. The thrill of Odyssey and tournaments never grows old. To witness first-hand how creative and resourceful our NY young people are is a gift that never gets stale. For that I am thankful, to all the coaches for making this happen, to all the parents for supporting their children through their Odyssey journey and of course to each and every team who put in countless hours brainstorming, experimenting, building, practicing and of course... having fun!

My thanks also go out to the people who helped make State Finals happen, especially our Tournament Committee and all the other dedicated officials and volunteers. Without them, we would not have a State Finals.

Good luck to the teams who are picking up art pieces as they travel, getting lost with wonky GPSs, making an epic journey to become the next poet laureates, 'crushing' it and telling the wildest tall tales you can only imagine. We cannot wait to celebrate your creative solutions!

Lynn Lucas, State Director, NYSOMA





NYSOMA OFFICIALS

OFFICERS

State Director	Lynn Lucas
Judges' Coordinator	Jeff Carter
Treasurer	Jeff Guldenshuh
Registrar	Kim Lamparelli
State Finals Sales Coordinator	Christine Durso
Webmaster	Chris Lucas
Recording Secretary	Roseanne Fischer

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Lynn Lucas, Chris Lucas, Jeff Carter, Liz Hall, Kim Lamparelli

Graphic Design	Melissa Talma
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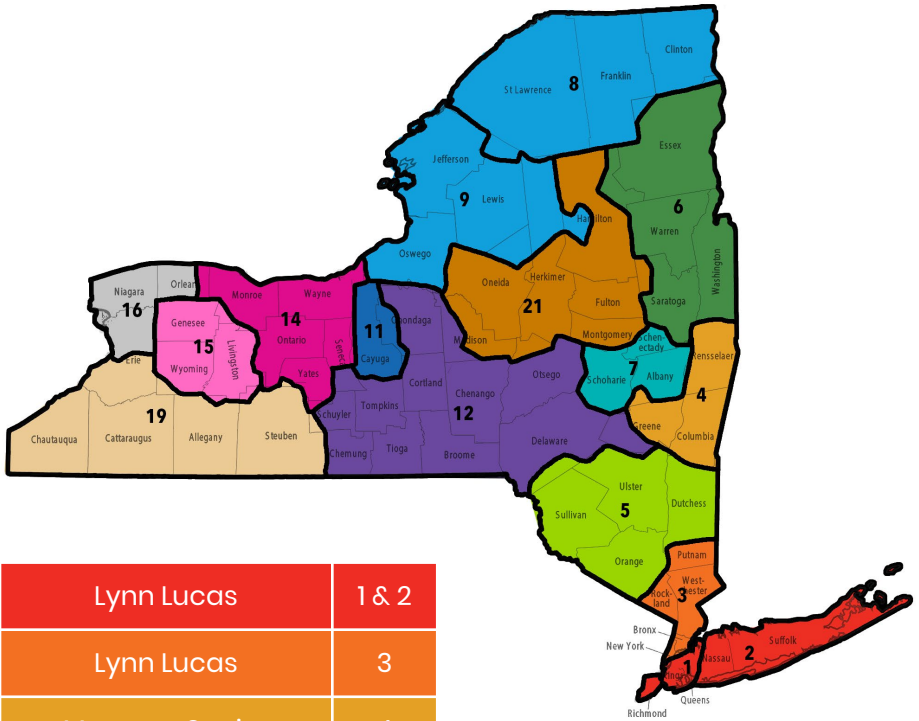
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson	Liz Hall	
Board Members	Jeff Carter	Christine Durso
	Jeff Guldenshuh	Chris Lucas
	Tiffany Smith	Melissa Talma
	Kevin Weidman	

PROBLEM CAPTAINS

Problem 1	Chris Lucas
Problem 2	Jim Hoelscher
Problem 3	Matt Lopez
Problem 4	Joe Lopez
Problem 5	Donna Denny
Spontaneous	Sharon Botsford
Score Room	Jeff Carter
Primary	Mary Beth Sullivan

NYSOMA REGIONS & DIRECTORS



Lynn Lucas	1 & 2
Lynn Lucas	3
Maureen Squier	4
Catherine Sherlock	5
Carrie Van Tassel	6
Annie Gersztoff	7
Tara Newton	8 & 9
Pam Horton	11
Lynette Bryan	12

Jodi Antin & Heather Campo	14
Steven Nole	15
Lynn Lucas	16
Erikka Henretta	19
Kristi Beedon	21

Contact Information for your Regional Director can be found [HERE](#) on NYSOMA's website

DINING OPTIONS

For more details check out the [FOOD](#) page of the NYSOMA website.

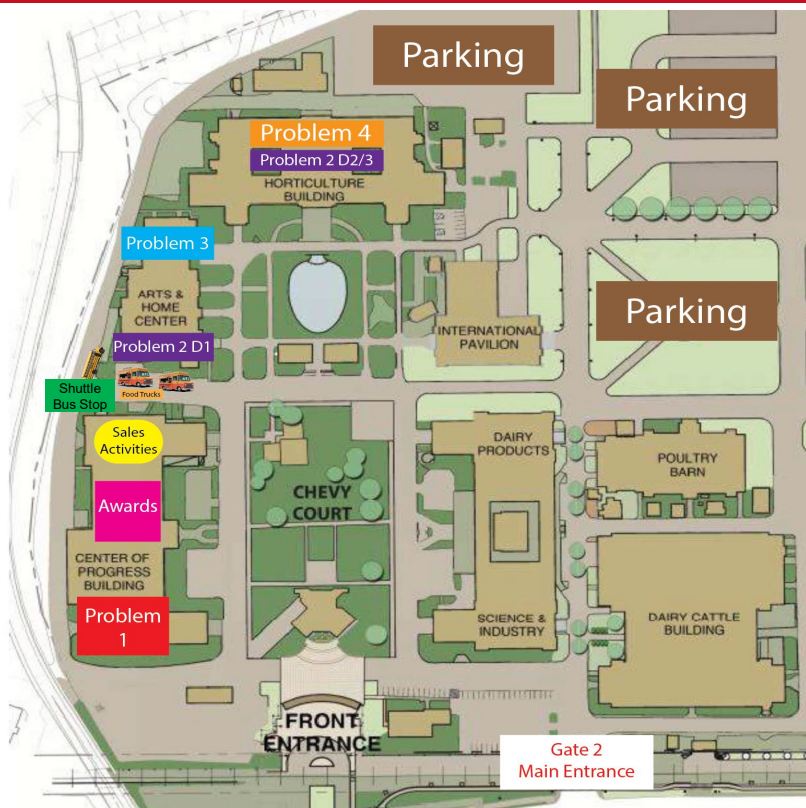
Food Trucks will be located **on the road between the Center of Progress and Arts & Home** buildings (see map on pg. 8).

Concessions will be available in the **Center of Progress**.

Parents of SADD will be providing drinks and snacks (cash only) at Solvay HS.

FAIRGROUND FOOD TRUCKS	START TIME	MENU ITEMS	
Birdsong Café	7AM	Hot and cold drinks, bubble lemonades, smoothies, Liège Styled Waffles, Crepes, Paninis	
Exhale Café & Bakeshop	7AM	Cookies, cupcakes, coffee, and other drinks	
Toss & Fire Pizza	11AM	10" individual artisan wood-fired pizzas with options for vegan, gluten-free, vegetarian and meat pizza toppings	
The Angry Pig BBQ	11AM	Pulled pork sandwiches, chopped brisket sandwiches, brisket & cheddar sandwiches, brisket & cheddar tots, brisket mac & cheese, fries/tots/coleslaw	
Cue Dogs	11AM	Hot dogs, sausage, burgers, fries, chicken tenders, cheesesteaks and nachos	
Fair Deli	11AM	Breakfast sandwiches, bagels and Danish pastries, Awesome Reuben sandwich, Reuben Empanadas and the Luciano sandwich (vegetarian). Plus, meatball subs, crispy chicken sandwiches, chicken tenders, house salad, french fries and soft drinks	
CONCESSION STANDS	START TIME	LOCATIONS	MENU ITEMS
The Suds Factory Courtside Grill	7AM	Center of Progress	Hot dogs, burgers, chicken wings, tenders, Philly steak, fries, tots, onion rings
Solvay HS Booster Club	7AM	Solvay HS	Drinks and Snacks *CASH ONLY*

VENUE INFORMATION



P1

MICRON CENTER OF PROGRESS BUILDING

Problem 1: Off the Rails

- Activities
- LED Team Shout-Outs (inside)
- Lost & Found
- Souvenirs
- Dance Party @ 5PM
- Awards Ceremony @ approx. 6:30PM

P2 D1

P3

ART & HOME CENTER

Problem 2, D1: Lost in OMERland

Problem 3: Classics... The Epic Quest
Team Registration

P2 D2 & 3

P4

HORTICULTURE BUILDING

Problem 2, D2 & D3: Lost in OMERland
Problem 4: Life's a Ball

BS

P5

BUS STOP: TO/FROM SOLVAY HIGH SCHOOL

Problem 5: Taller Tales of John Jivery
Spontaneous

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Information Flyers

Located at the entrance to each building are flyers indicating the performance areas in the building as well as maps allowing you to find your way around the Fairgrounds to find each of the other venues.

Shuttle Bus

There is limited parking at Solvay HS. Teams are encouraged to take the shuttle bus between the Fairgrounds (Science & Industry Building) and Spontaneous site (Solvay High School). Three buses will run a continuous loop between the two sites.

- First bus leaves the Fairgrounds at 7:10am
- Last bus leaves Solvay HS at 3:50pm

Shuttle stops are located:

- Along the outside road at the corner of the Arts & Home building, Tram Stop #2
- At Solvay High School, in the front bus loop

P5 supporters should park at the Fairgrounds and take the shuttle to Solvay HS. NOTE: Teams and their chaperone adult heading to Spontaneous have priority.

Facilities

Please assist us in keeping the facilities clean. NO FOOD OR DRINK in the competition sites or prop areas. Please use the designated eating areas at the Fairgrounds and at Solvay HS. New York State Fairgrounds and Solvay Schools are smoke-free campuses.

Prop Disposal

No sets, props, or costumes may be disposed of or left at the Fairgrounds campus. Take home all props and materials. Do not leave any items in the prop areas, do not leave trash.

Lost and Found

Please turn in any found items at Souvenirs in the Center of Progress Building. Items will be taken to the Award Ceremony to be claimed by their owners. Unclaimed items will be handed to Fairgrounds Security at the end of the day. To arrange return contact them at: 315.728.4486.

Security

Please bring all safety and security issues to the attention of NYSOMA personnel, who are actively assisting around both the Fairgrounds and Solvay facilities.

Emergencies

In need of feminine products or a band-aid for small boo-boos? Find Christine at Souvenirs in the Center of Progress. For larger boo-boos and emergencies please dial 911.

Spectators

We encourage you to watch the teams compete. When inside the performance buildings, please put phones, smart watches, and other devices in silent mode so sounds do not disrupt team performances. Please respect the quiet and no congregating zones around performance sites.

Supervision

For their safety, students must be chaperoned by an adult at all times at the tournament. Please do not leave props unattended.

Social Media

PLEASE DO NOT share online photos or video of a team's performance that may give away unique solutions until after World Finals.

Scores

After the Awards Ceremony, scores may be viewed on the NYSOMA website [HERE](#).

TEAM SHOUT-OUTS!

Digital shout-outs, expressing support and wishing good luck to teams, will be displayed on a 17x10 foot portable LED screen at the Fairgrounds. They will be playing continuously throughout the day inside the Center of Progress prior to the Awards Ceremony. All shout-outs will also be showcased on the NY Odyssey website.



Three, Two, One and we are LIVE...

YES – We will be LIVE STREAMING the Awards Ceremony! We aim to start at 6:30pm (depending upon performances ending on time and scores being ready).

[VIEW LIVESTREAM HERE](#)

MEDIA NOTICE

MEDIA NOTICE – PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO & AUDIO RECORDING

Please be advised that by entering this event venue, you may be photographed, filmed, and/or recorded.

The New York State Odyssey of the Mind Association (NYSOMA) and its authorized representatives may use these images and records for promotional, educational, advertising, or archival purposes, including publication on websites, social media, printed materials, and other communication channels.

By entering the premises, you consent to such photography, audio and video recording, and the use of your likeness without compensation. You release NYSOMA, its officers, agents, and representatives from any liability related to the taking, use, publication, or distribution of such media.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation. Direct any questions or concerns regarding this Media Notice to: media@nysoma.org

2025–26 PROBLEM SYNOPSES

FULL SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES HERE



Problem 1: Off the Rails

All aboard! OMers become conductors and engineers as they design, build and operate a train vehicle. As the train travels the course it will have a new car attached at each stop. Along the route it will encounter challenges that make the train travel in different ways. After all of its cargo is picked up, the items will be unloaded and assembled into a work of art. The performance will also include the use of ARM & HAMMER™ Baking Soda, a humorous conductor character, and a villain character that tries to prevent the train from getting to its destination. Sponsored by ARM & HAMMER™.



Problem 2: Lost in OMERland

Getting lost often leads to unexpected opportunities! In this problem OM™ teams will design, build, and operate a Technical Trip Assistant only to find their voice-activated-device has a few malfunctions that result in hilarity. While they set out to explore a new place, the device gives a humorous answer to a question, wrong directions that take them to an unexpected location, and a silly translation. All props and backdrops must fit inside two suitcases.



Problem 3: Classics... The Epic Quest

OMers, are you ready to get EPIC? Quests from history have been passed from generation to generation through many art forms, including poetry. OMers will create an epic poem that details a team-created quest that is acted out in the performance. During the quest, the characters encounter an original beast, will rescue someone, and will overcome an epic challenge. The performance will use colors to help depict different settings.

2025–26 PROBLEM SYNOPSES

FULL SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES HERE



Problem 4: Life's a Ball

Party Time! In this problem, teams will create a performance about throwing a party or a ball. The team will design and build a balsa wood structure that is tested by balancing and supporting as much weight as possible. At intervals various balls will be rolled to collide with the structure. The performance will include a creative “ball” character and a party guest that explains the impact of the collisions using team-created terms.



Problem 5: Taller Tales of John Jivery

No one can tell a story like an OMer! In this problem, teams will create and present a humorous performance about an original tall tale. The tale will include a team-created hero or heroine that performs an incredible feat, a unique explanation of how something began or came to be, and a surprise for the audience. Each event will be accompanied by a visual weather effect that represents an emotion.



Primary: Clowning Around with Science

What kind of hair do oceans have? Wavy! In this problem, OM teams will create an original performance about a group of comedy performers that teach lessons about natural science. The lessons will also include a visual effect, a sound effect, and jokes.

Primary teams do not attend NY State Finals. This season there were 33 Primary teams who performed at their Regional tournaments throughout the state, all worthy of mention! Great job OMer!

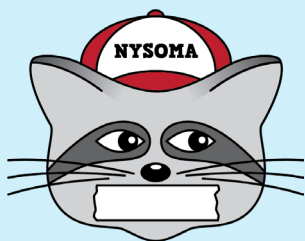
SPONTANEOUS COMPETITION

All Problems/All Divisions: Solvay High School

Spontaneous times for each team are posted under their Long-Term category in the far right column on the schedule, found [HERE](#).

Each team must solve a secret spontaneous problem presented on the day of competition. Some problems require verbal responses, while others require hands-on responses. Teams competing in the same long-term problem and division are given the same spontaneous problem.

- **For teams competing at the Fairgrounds, there will be continuous looping buses to Solvay High School and returning to the Fairgrounds. The bus stop is at the corner of the Arts & Home building on the outside road of the campus.**
- **Only the team and one coach should ride the bus.**
- **Teams not taking the bus should be aware that there is limited parking at Solvay. There is no parking in the bus loop. Police will be in attendance.**
- **To Check-in for Spontaneous, enter the school through the left-side doors. The stairs are located on the left outside the cafeteria. Check-in is on the second floor at the top of the stairs.**
- **Supporters should remain at the Fairgrounds or inside at the Problem 5 competition sites.**
- **Please – be thoughtful of all teams competing! Noise travels and impacts teams in the spontaneous and performance rooms. Do not congregate at entrances or in hallways.**



**Remember,
SHHHHHH!**

Spontaneous problems are kept highly confidential. Since the same problems are used by other competitions, they need to be kept secret until the end of the program in June.

Any team or team member who reveals the nature of a spontaneous problem to any person or in any form before the end of the tournament season is subject to disqualification and/or disciplinary action.

Spontaneous scores are not available to teams until after the awards ceremony when they are posted on the NYSOMA website [HERE](#).

2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Every year NYSOMA awards a number of academic scholarships (\$1,000) to New York OMers, who are graduating High School or are in their freshman year of College.

Odyssey of the Mind participants employ aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) in the design of solutions to Odyssey's unique problems.

This year's challenge for applicants was to make two videos: a 3-5 minute video showing how they and their team have used aspects of STEAM to solve Odyssey problems in unique and creative performances or solution elements, and a 30-second version of the video to be shown at State Finals.

Their video submissions had to be creative, memorable and really do an effective job of showing how Odyssey addresses STEAM.

OMers in the Class of 2027, keep your creative juices flowing – NYSOMA Scholarship applications will be available [HERE](#) early next year.

Sophia Amato

My name is Sophia Amato and I am a Senior from Warwick Valley High School, Warwick, NY. I have been participating in Odyssey of the Mind for ten years. When I was seven years old my sister joined a program called "Odyssey" that I had never heard of before.



The following year I built up enough courage to try out and immediately fell in love with what would become the driving factor of my passion for designing and creating. Odyssey allowed me to view things from a different angle. I realized that this small change in my perspective could alter my entire viewpoint, and with a broader perspective on solving problems, I could understand people, problems, and challenges on a deeper level.

Throughout the years, I have had the opportunity to participate in Problems 1, 2, 3, and 5. My team has supported me endlessly and have become less like a team to me, but more like a family. Odyssey of the Mind has inspired me to intertwine creativity, designing, and building into my future career. I plan on studying Mechanical Engineering in college and will continue to use all I have learned from Odyssey of the Mind.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Ruth Christensen

I am from Fairport, NY. I began Odyssey of the Mind in first grade, competing in Division 1 with my older brother. When my brother graduated to middle school I split off from his team with the one other kid my age from my team and we began our own team. That team has continued with me all the way through high school where I am now a Senior competing in my 12th year of Odyssey of the Mind. I've competed 12 times at Regionals, 10 times at States, and 6 times at Worlds, winning one Ranatra Fusca award at Regionals.

I plan on attending BYU Provo and majoring in Construction Management. The best things I have gained from participating in Odyssey are my team working skills, relationships, building knowledge, confidence, life skills, passion, work ethic, and a direction for my future. Odyssey is the reason I came out of my shell and started talking to people. It is the reason I joined my school's Robotics team and Drama club, and it's the reason I want to major in Construction Management. Everything I do has been inspired by something I've learned how to do in Odyssey.

Noah French

I am from Geneseo, NY, and plan to major in Engineering at RIT. I have participated in Odyssey since kindergarten, concentrating on the vehicle problem. I have learned how to: solder, weld, use power tools, use too much duct tape, replace that duct tape with way too much hot glue, plan projects, troubleshoot issues, write scripts, create complex wiring, engineer vehicles and props, and to think on my feet when something goes wrong during the long term performances.



My teams have gone to World Finals since 2019. We received Ranatra Fusca awards at Regionals in 2022 and 2026. At the 2018 State Finals my team received an OMER award after a wheel fell off our vehicle in the middle of the performance, but we continued for the full eight minutes.

My team has been recognized for 6th place during the 2021 World Finals; we placed 2nd at Worlds in 2023 and 1st at Worlds in 2025. I have made many friendships, and I have created a larger pin collection than I know what to do with. But what I'm most proud of is, if my math is correct, I have gotten 23 stickers from Spontaneous.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Carly Seligman

My name is Carly Seligman, and I am from Goshen, NY (Region 5). I competed in Odyssey of the Mind for seven years, beginning in fifth grade, and I now coach a middle school team.

Growing up, I battled Selective Mutism, a social anxiety disorder that caused me to freeze up in social situations. In my first few years of competing, I composed music and used my flute as my voice during our performances. Creative problem-solving with my team pushed me to communicate with others, helping me gradually step out of my shell.

Odyssey revealed my hidden talents. I was skilled at mosaicking with intricate materials and enjoyed working on the cost and style. I have a love for Problem 3. My team and I placed 1st at World Finals four times and 2nd once.

I developed valuable skills in teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking, which will help me as I pursue college through a Nurse Scholars Program at DeSales University.

Inaaya Sethi

I've participated in Odyssey of the Mind in Vestal, NY since Kindergarten. Through the years, I've competed in all divisions and problems 2 to 5. Through Odyssey, I've dived to the deepest parts of the ocean, climbed to the top of Mount Everest, explored Buckingham Palace, shattered the glass ceiling in our "moosical," and gotten lost in the Twilight Zone.

Qualifying for World Finals four times, my favorite memories include pin trading, getting sprayed with silly string after Spontaneous, and, of course, going on stage to share a very large trophy with my team. I'm also an Odyssey Emerging Alumni and volunteer judge for Primary at the Region 12 tournament.

Through Odyssey of the Mind, I've gained more than practical skills and indelible memories. I've forged lifelong friendships and developed a love of tinkering. I've also spent quality time with my family, with my siblings as teammates and my mother as coach. With my Odyssey experience, I see limitless creative possibilities in the world, and I look forward to bringing my ideas to life.





ODYSSEY ANGELS

Kindness Abounds in NY State!

The **Odyssey Angels** program challenges OMers to use their unique creative problem-solving abilities to help some aspect of their community that would otherwise be overlooked.



Continuing on their Odyssey Angel journey from last year but this time as a **Division 1 team, the 3rd grade students from East Main Elementary School in Port Jervis** switched their focus to helping local animal shelters.

"The kids absolutely had an amazing time making the cat and dog toys for our local shelter. They also felt great collecting donations for the shelter and sorting and packing them all up to deliver to them. Finally, they loved every second of getting to interact with the cats and dogs at the shelter!

We even have some families considering a future adoption from the shelter and some team members expressed interest in visiting the shelter again and volunteering their time! I am so proud of them!"

-Coach Niosi

Well done Team and thank you for caring for our animal friends!





Creative Opportunities Unlimited (COU) is a non-profit organization supporting Odyssey of the Mind teams and team members. As well as coordinating the Odyssey Alumni network, each year COU award several scholarships.

To support COU, please consider entering their annual sweepstakes [HERE](#) for the opportunity to win a collection of pins from US and international OM associations.

Join the Odyssey Alumni!



Alumni Database

Any individuals who have participated in OM, whether it be as a team member, judge, coach, or volunteer, can join the OM Alumni to keep in touch with a growing network of OMerS. Find the Alumni table in the Center of Progress, Activities area.

NY Odyssey Alumni Corner

“Odyssey of the Mind has prepared me for every job I’ve ever had: you’re handed an impossible problem, and through teamwork and creativity, you iterate relentlessly until you create what once seemed unimaginable.”

-Jenny Hamson,
Manager of Creative Services,
University of Rochester,
Laboratory for Laser Energetics



Odyssey of the Mind Alumni
Team member: 1989-1995,
Coach: 2018-2021, Judge: 2014-Present

Artist Melissa Talma will be featured in the May/June 2026 issue of ***Life in the Finger Lakes*** magazine. Melissa is a fine artist, art instructor, and graphic designer.

“My Odyssey experiences have shown me that there is no boundary on creativity. Like so many other skills, you can definitely become more creative with practice!”



Odyssey of the Mind Alumni
Team member: 1984-85, Coach: 2016-2024,
Judge & NYSOMA Board member: 2025-Present



2026 SERVICE AWARDS

35 Years

Bill Everett
Pat Everett

30 Years

Adele Hoelscher
Chuck Kabrehl
Bill Walsh

25 Years

Sharon Botsford
Robert Eggleston

Sandy Liston
John Liston

20 Years

Connie Barnes
Carrie Bowman (Gates)
Diane Hoffman
Matthew Lopez

Christopher Lucas
Denise Schweers
Cindy Sealing (Drew)

15 Years

Lanny Barsale
Graham Brewer
Joisie Cancilla
Marisa Cheramie (Westley)
Lisa Cuff
Betsy Donald
Michael Farrell

Nicole Galbraith
Linda Hall
Alicia Hargrave
Stephanie Morris
Jenni Raymond
David Todd
June Venton

10 Years

Darcy Baumbach
Mark Cartisano
Marilyn Case
Melissa Freeman
Gerry Matthews
Debby Mulford

John Nelting
Jean Oliverio
Debby Pelkey
Roberta Peterson
Scott Schaefer
John Schreiner

Maura Schreiner
Nancy Schultz
Tiffany Smith
Mark Wilson
Wendee Wilson

5 Years

Abigail Baumbach
Andrew Burdick
Joshua Bush
Anne Campbell
Jennifer Chagoya
Deb Daloia
Donald Davis
Michelle DeGraff
Karen Dwyer
Carolyn Edwards
Amanda Ferraro

Jean Genovese
Marta Gomez
Stephen Hall
David Howell
Rebecca Jones
Elisa Keating
Laura Kieliszak
Patrick Kinney
Patrick Lenzi
Kathleen Miller

Elizabeth Petrie
Linda Riggs
Ralph Riggs
Molly Shave
Raymond Spahn
Jennifer Sprague
Francis Toriaga
Rene Wazowicz
MaryAnn Wilson
April Zwack

New this year in Activities!

The New York State Falconry Association

The mission of the New York State Falconry Association is simple; to improve, aid, and foster competency in the art and practice of falconry amongst interested persons. The single handed best way to get involved in falconry is reach out to your local falconers.

Come see the falconers in the Center of Progress from 9:00AM-3:00PM!



**WELCOME BACK TO SYRACUSE,
ODYSSEY OF THE MIND**

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR TIME IN CENTRAL NEW YORK



Guiding Eyes for the Blind – Syracuse Guide Dogs

Guiding Eyes for the Blind provides guide dogs to people who are blind or have a significant vision loss. They are passionate about connecting exceptional dogs with individuals with vision loss to access greater independence. **Come by and meet some of the dogs in training in the Center of Progress, 9:00AM-3:00PM.**

RAISE A PUPPY, CHANGE A LIFE!

Guiding Eyes for the Blind, a 501(c)3 non-profit, is looking for volunteer puppy raisers.

Raise a Guiding Eyes puppy for 12-18 months, providing the pup with the love, socialization, house manners, & basic obedience it will need to succeed in guide dog training.

No prior dog experience is required! Raisers receive support through group classes and 1-on-1 training with Guiding Eyes staff.

Raisers are organized into localized Puppy Raising Regions, and most raisers live within an hour of region class locations. Puppy Raising Regions are located along the Eastern Seaboard, stretching from Maine to North Carolina, and west to Ohio.

Learn more
& apply



[GuidingEyes.org](https://www.GuidingEyes.org)

Scan with your phone camera



SPONSORS 2025–2026

Be a friend to NYSOMA today [HERE](#)

General Fund Donors: Supporting the ongoing operation of the NY Odyssey Program

Jim & Adele Hoelscher

Lynn & Chris Lucas

Jackie Otte Memorial Scholarship: In memory of the life and legacy of our former AD, Jackie Otte

Deb Daloia

Kim Lamparelli

Joanne & Mike Fitch

Lynn & Chris Lucas

Patricia Gill

Linda Schiess

Suzan Hopkins

Volunteer Hour Donations

If your company donates in return for your volunteer hours, please consider NYSOMA as a recipient!

Would you like to sponsor New York Odyssey?

In thanks for your support, there are many recognition opportunities available:

- Sponsor's logo may appear on any number of places: on signs and banners throughout the tournament site, on officials' and volunteers' shirts, trophies, featured at select or all problem locations, posted on the NYSOMA website
- Special recognition at Awards Ceremony
- Media packages that include a sponsor's business information
- Sponsor's logo/video played on video screen prior to Awards Ceremony
- Problem sponsor included as part of the timer/announcer's script
- NYSOMA Sponsorship Plaques (to display at your business premises)
- Ads in Tournament Program Guide

NYSOMA will also offer sponsor's employees opportunities to volunteer at the State Tournament. Volunteer jobs range from officiating, building coordinators, information booth hosts, and souvenir sales.

If your company is interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact Liz Hall at ehall@nysoma.org.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

NYSOMA thanks the following for their support:

NY State Fairgrounds Staff:
John Hammerstedt, Kristine Olsen, and all the ground staff

Solvay High School:
Russ Stanton, Principal • Parents of SADD
Owners, Rich & Maria Aupperle and Building Manager,
Dan Fredrizzi of The Third Apartments at St. Cecelia's

Mark Gummer and crew, Studio 4 East, Allegany
The Bluebird Society of New York • "Dr. Bug" of Livonia
Syracuse Visitors Center • New York Falconry Association

DJ Fletch at All Party DJ Services
Syracuse Guiding Eyes for the Blind

Wegmans

for their generous donation to help feed our Officials

HELP NEEDED!

NYSOMA is a community of volunteers that work together to promote, run and grow the Odyssey of the Mind program in New York. We are looking for a Registrar and Asst. State Director.

We would also love help from dedicated individuals skilled in marketing and fundraising for our Committees and Board!



For more information: clucas@nysoma.org
Chris Lucas, Chair of the Nominating Committee

NY STATE FINALS ACTIVITIES



THE BLUEBIRD SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

10AM – 2PM
Center of Progress

DO YOU LOVE
ARCADE GAMES?

Come play
WHIRL-BALL
(aka Skee-Ball)!



Get 10 attempts to earn a high score - and WIN a prize! Plus, WIN a special prize if you get over the set number of points! \$5.00 for 10 BALLS.

9AM – 3PM Center of Progress

GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND - SYRACUSE GUIDE DOGS

Guiding Eyes for the Blind provides guide dogs to people who are blind or have a significant vision loss. They are passionate about connecting exceptional dogs with individuals with vision loss to access greater independence.

Come by and meet some of the dogs in training!

9AM – 3PM Center of Progress



NY STATE PIN DESIGN STATION

9AM – 3PM
Center of Progress



SELFIE STATION

9AM – 3PM
Center of Progress



VISITOR BUREAU

9AM – 3PM
Center of Progress



ODYSSEY ANGELS TEAM & INFO

9:30AM – 11:30AM
Center of Progress

NY STATE FINALS ACTIVITIES



DR. RICHARD HALL, "DR. BUG"
is back this year with a dazzling array of exotic insects. Come and see if you can identify some of the insects or learn something new!

9AM – 12PM Center of Progress



NEW YORK STATE FALCONRY ASSOCIATION

9AM – 3PM
Center of Progress

PIN TRADING!

Back by popular demand – NY State Finals has an official pin trading area! Grab your regional pin(s), NY and other Odyssey pins, and experience the joy of pin trading.

Display your pins on a towel or a pin bag so others can see what you have for trade. Pins, pin towels and pin bags are also available for purchase at Sales/Souvenirs.

9AM until AWARDS Center of Progress



SPIN-THE-WHEEL

is back this year! Try your hand at this fun game and you can win NYSOMA merchandise or other fun prizes. \$1 per spin!

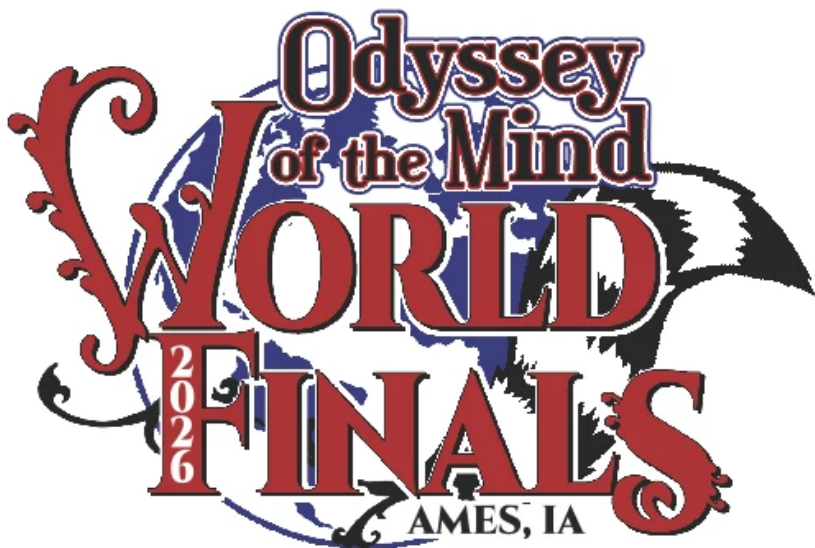
9AM – 3PM
Center of Progress



NYSOMA FISHING BOOTH

9AM – 3PM
Center of Progress

**DANCE PARTY &
LIGHT SHOW
TEE SHIRT TOSS
PIN & TEE RAFFLE
5PM – Awards
Center of Progress**



Wed., May 27 – Sat., May 30, 2026
Iowa State University

World Finals – New York Teams

Once again NYS will advance:

- **1st Place Champs**
- **2nd and 3rd place teams**
- **Ties and Ranatra Fusca winners**

Teams not advancing should **NOT** immediately destroy props! There is a possibility additional NYS teams will be invited to World Finals. If the opportunity arises, coaches will be contacted and offered the place that has opened up!

OMWORLDFINALS.COM



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

**Odyssey of the Mind
New York State Finals
March 20, 2027
at the NYS Fairgrounds**



Find us online
www.nyodyssey.org