

# Asheville Homeschoolers Odyssey of the Mind Information Sheet

## What is OM?

OM is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students. Kids apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level.

OM meetings will consist of training and practice in spontaneous, creative problem-solving, and teamwork; skills workshops on topics appropriate to the long-term problem the team is solving; and cooperative group time spent on inventing and creating the solution to the team's long-term problem.

## What a commitment to OM means

For the kids:

- Attending meetings once a week through the end of February. (We know that people may have to miss the occasional meeting, but teams can be crippled by too many members missing meetings, particularly once rehearsals start.)
- Attending tournament(s) and scheduled extra meetings - see Important Dates below
- Sticking with it! Once we start working on long-term problems, if you drop out we can't replace you; your team will just have to be short a member.

For the parents:

- Taking turns with other parents on your child's team to be a clean-up assistant. This means staying 15 minutes late to help with clean up several times during the OM season.
- Recruiting volunteers and judges for the regional tournament. Each team needs one of each.
- Contributing to general fundraisers, such as yard sales and bake sales.

As we approach competition, it is very likely that teams will feel they need extra time to meet to practice and/or finish up props, etc. Each team of 5-7 students will be able to decide this for themselves and to schedule extra meetings as needed. But be prepared for the last few weeks to be more full of OM than usual!

## Important Dates

- Commitment Day for Asheville Homeschool OM - October 20:
  - At our October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, you and your child will decide if you want to commit to being on a team.
- Meetings:
  - Mondays through November 10: 2:30-3:30 at Oak Hill UM Church
  - Mondays from November 17 through February 23: 10:00 – 2:00 at Calvary Baptist Church on Haywood Road in West Asheville
  - February 1 – February 29: extra meetings as needed, determined by each team
  - Friday, February 20 from 2:00 – 8:00: Pizza and props party. Calvary (tentative)
- Spontaneous Fair
  - Saturday in January. Date not yet announced.
- Western Regional Competition:
  - Saturday February 28 (tentative; date not yet announced, but usually last Saturday in Feb.)
- If teams place 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> at regionals, they would move on to the State competition on April 11 at Appalachian State University.

## Estimated Costs

Costs per member:

- \$60 upon decision to join the competitive team
- \$65 OR equivalent fundraising by January 1

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