Helpful Information:

1. AR website – [www.ciarkansas.org](http://www.ciarkansas.org); OM website – [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com) Go to Member’s Area; type in school number and zip code. All problems, forms, and clarifications are there. GT#864-5018
2. OM Teams consist of 5 – 7 team members in 4 divisions: I: 3 – 5 grades; II: 6 – 8 grades; III: 9 – 12 grades; IV – College
3. There are 5 problems – 1: Vehicle; 2: Technical; 3: Classics; 4: Structure; 5: Performance…Every problem has a skit. Figure out how many points are for the item to figure out how much thought and work needs to go into that part of the solution.
4. Every school must have a sign. At competition the “School Sign” must be present during competition and must have the school name, number, division #, and problem #.
5. Each problem has 3 parts: 200 pts. Long-Term (skit with solvable problem); 100 pts. Spontaneous (quick thinking problem behind closed doors); 50 pts. Style (items made or produced creatively)
6. The regional and state registration fees for your team are paid for by the GT Funds. Please register teams online, but send a copy to me at [bsullivan@esd-15.org](mailto:bsullivan@esd-15.org). We cannot pay the fees until we get those.
7. Each team has a cost limit and your team is responsible for provided that cost.
8. Practice times are up to you and your team. Most schools will provide a place for practice, but some teams practice at their homes.
9. Make sure all parents of children on your team are aware that they are responsible for transporting their child to and from practices and competition sites.) It is much like if their child were on an athletic team.) Some coaches make team members and parents sign commitment contracts. =)
10. Make sure parents know that OM is not a practice only “sport”. It is important for team members to complete necessary assignments at home. Often times, costumes are sent home to be designed and/or finished.
11. At regional and state competition they sell t-shirts and pins. (T-shirt orders are due in Jan.) It is not a requirement to purchase these items, but if your child’s team does advance to World Competition, they will need a regional and state shirt.
12. When competing at Regionals the top 4 teams in your division will advance to state. At state, the top 2 teams in your division advance to World.
13. All teams are expected to help with fundraisers. Fundraising monies go to the teams advancing to World.
14. If your team does advance to world, many fundraisers are held to pay the cost of all team members and two coaches. Team members and parents are expected to participate in fundraisers.
15. Every effort is made to raise all the money necessary to cover the expenses of dorms and meal tickets, transportation, and prop transportation to the competition. Coaches & team members stay in dorms.
16. If you decide you would like to go to the world competition with your child, the dorm fees for you are due immediately after state. The fees are normally $532.00 and include lodging in a dorm and a meal ticket. Transportation and any extra fees are the parent/guardian’s sole responsibility.
17. Pins are a big deal at world, but they are not the main reason we attend competition. Please do not feel pressured to purchase many. Whatever you decide is fine. However, we do not raise money for pins and pin trading.
18. We hold a Spontaneous Fair after school before state competition. It is important teams participate in this because it helps them get ready for competition. Spontaneous can make or break a team.
19. We will host a Performance Night before we go to Regionals. All team members will need to bring 2 items for the silent auction and a batch of cookies.
20. Every team needs 2 judges who would be willing to go to judges’ training, regional competition, and state competition.

Important Dates:

\*January 9, 2014 – Deadline to register for OM

\*Sat., 2/1 –Judges’ Training–Sylvan Hills, AR OR

\*Sat., 2/8 – Judges’ Training – Retta Brown in El Dorado

\*Thursday, Feb. 28 or Tuesday, Mar. 4 – OM Performance Night – All team members need 2 silent auction items and a batch of cookies.

\*Saturday, March 8 – Regional Competition in Sylvan Hills

\*Tuesday, Mar. 1 or 3 – Spontaneous Fair after school

\*Saturday, April 5 – State Competition at ASU – Beebe

\*Monday, April 7 – El Dorado’s OM World Meeting

\*World Competition – May 28 – 31 at Iowa State University