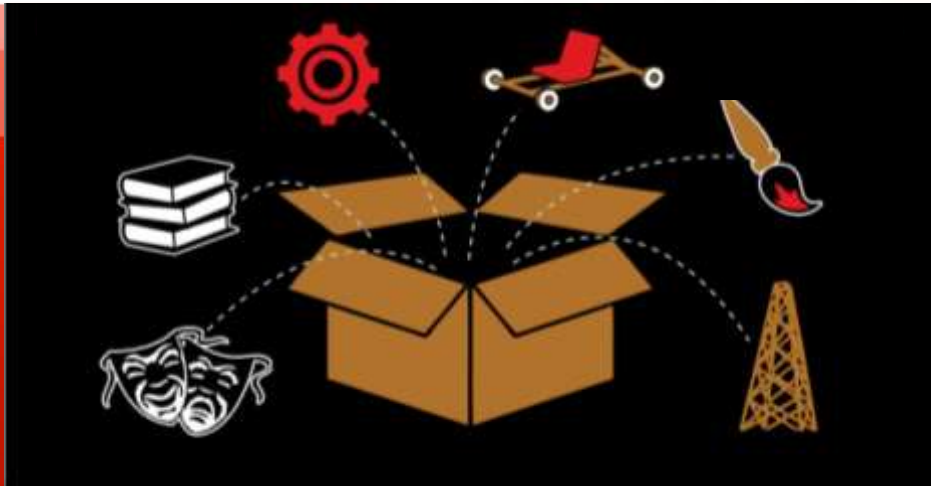


UPPER ST. CLAIR

Odyssey of the Mind



KICKOFF! 2023-2024

Welcome! And welcome back!

Welcome to the 2023-2024 season of Odyssey of the Mind in Upper St. Clair! We're so glad to have you here! These slides contain the basics to get you started on this year's odyssey.

We'll review what your child will do on an Odyssey team, share time commitments, dates & fees, and tell you what your child's team will need from YOU! If you want more information about Odyssey in general, have a look at our [What is OM](http://www.uscootm.com) pack on www.uscootm.com. Now let's get started!



Odyssey Teams this Year

Primary
grades K-2

7 teams

Division 1
grades 3-5

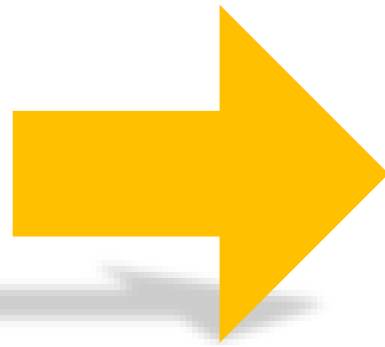
11 teams

Division 2
grades 6-8

7 teams

Division 3
grades 9-12

1 team



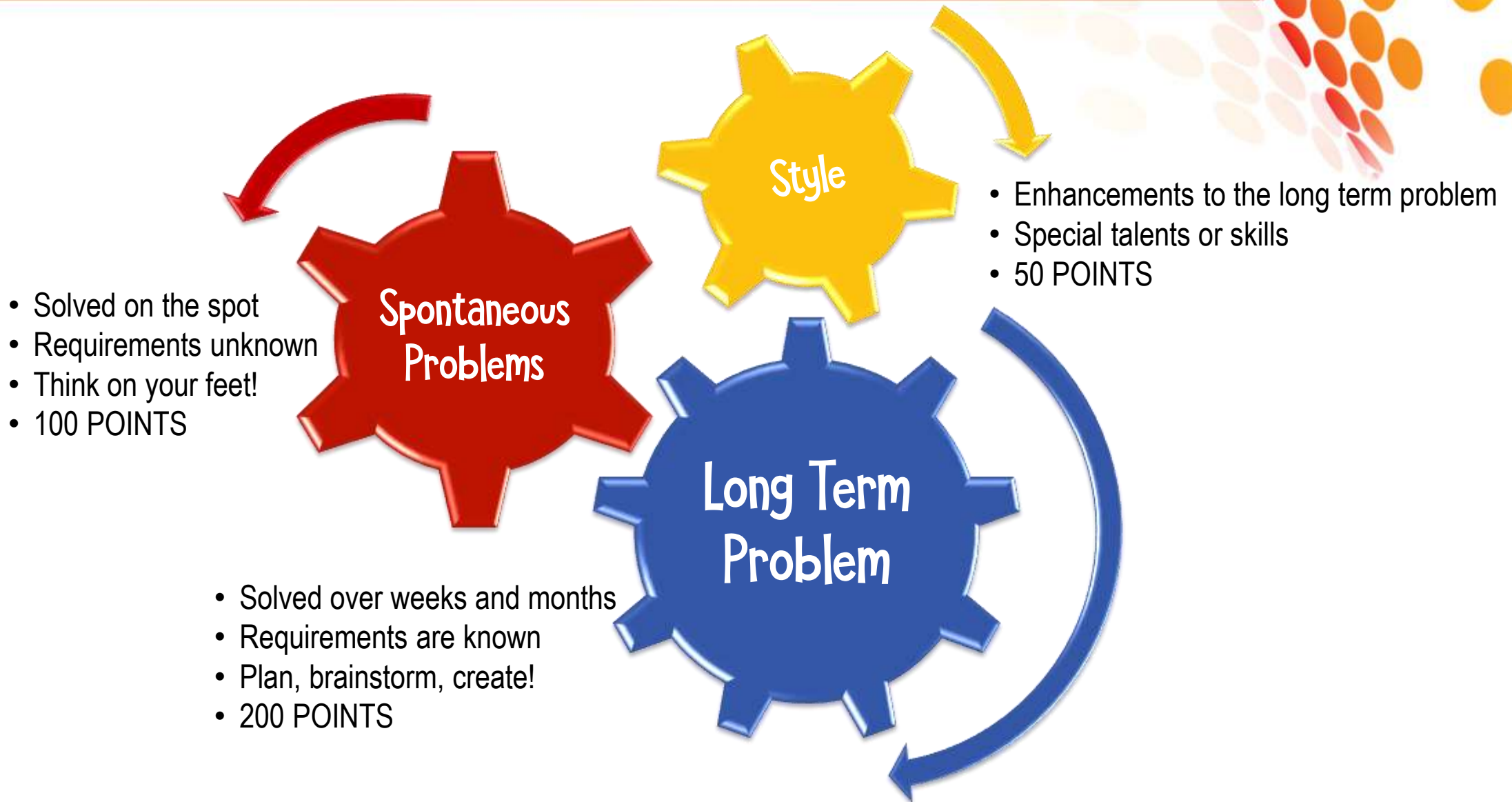
26 USC Teams
(That's record-breaking!)

What will your Odyssey team do?

- Work together to solve problems! (long term and spontaneous)
- Meet once a week for 5 months from October to March. This may increase to 2-3 days in Jan/Feb as the team gets ready for the Regional Tournament.
- Go to the local Regional Tournament to present their 8-minute long term problem solution and answer one unknown spontaneous problem.



What will your Odyssey team do?





Outside Assistance!

Team members must design and create all aspects of their problem solution.
No help from coaches, parents, teachers, siblings,
friends, family members... you get the idea! 😊

How can you help your Team?



Be a **coach!**

2 coaches per team

Coaches are the real heros!

We give lots of support & training.

**Coach Kickstart Call
8pm Monday, Oct. 9**



Be a **judge!**

2 judges per team – one for Spontaneous, one for Long Term

Must attend mandatory judge training on **February 3** at Robert Morris University, the Regional Tournament on **March 2** and State Finals on **April 6** (only if your team advances)



Be a **volunteer!**

1 tournament volunteer per team to work at Regional Tournament on **March 2**

Other essential volunteer jobs: offer your home for meetings, provide team snacks, support coaches or help at summer Ingenuity Camp.

Kickoff Goals

Parents

- ✓ Confirm the team roles:
 - 2 coaches
 - 2 judges
 - 1 tournament volunteer
- ✓ Compare schedules and agree upon a meeting day and time for the team
- ✓ Exchange contact info for team emails or texts
- ✓ Identify a meeting location

Students

- ✓ Meet your teammates!
- ✓ Practice a spontaneous problem!
- ✓ View a long term problem performance!

Team Meetings



When?

- Meet once a week from now through December, and more frequently if needed in in January and February.
- Pick a day & time that works for your team!
- Start meeting by the end of October. The more time you have to solve the problem, the better.

Where?

- Mainly in your homes - basements, garages, Zoom, Google Meets, etc.
- School spaces can be an option for non-messy meetings (library, LGI, etc.)

Important Dates for Parents

OCTOBER

10/31 Deadline to pay registration fee

DECEMBER

12/2 **Round Robin Skills Training**,
Boyce Middle School

FEBRUARY

2/3 **WPA Judge Training**, *Robert Morris Univ*
2/17 **Spontaneous Fun Day**, *Linton MS, Penn Hills*
2/24 **Rehearsal Day**, *Boyce Middle School*

APRIL

4/6 **PA State Finals**,
Pocono Mountain Schools
(advancing teams only)

NOVEMBER

11/15 Last day to drop out with full refund
11/26-12/3 **USC Odyssey Clothing Sale**

JANUARY

MARCH

3/2 **WPA Regional Tournament**,
Keystone Oaks MS/HS
Mandatory for all!

MAY

5/21-5/24 **World Finals**,
Iowa State University
(advancing teams only)

Important Dates for Coaches

OCTOBER

10/9, 8pm [Coach Kickstart Call](#)

DECEMBER

12/2 [Round Robin Skills Training](#),
Boyce Middle School

FEBRUARY

2/5 [WPA Coach Training #2 Call](#)
2/17 [Spontaneous Fun Day](#), *Linton MS, Penn Hills*
2/24 [Rehearsal Day](#), *Boyce Middle School*

APRIL

4/6 [PA State Finals](#),
Pocono Mountain Schools
(advancing teams only)

NOVEMBER

11/5 Team checks due to USCOOTM
11/11 [WPA Coach Training #1](#),
Boyce Middle School

Pick your problem by Thanksgiving!

JANUARY

1/15 Deadline to register team, judges and
volunteer for Regional Tournament
Date TBD – [USC Coach Forum](#)

MARCH

3/2 [WPA Regional Tournament](#),
Keystone Oaks MS/HS
3/7 [WPA Coach Training #3 Call](#)
(advancing teams only)

MAY

5/21-5/24 [World Finals](#),
Iowa State University
(advancing teams only)

Odyssey Registration Fees

**\$100 goes to
USC Odyssey**
for registration &
tournament fees,
memberships and programs

\$175

**\$75 goes to
the team funds**
for supplies that the team
needs to solve their problem

**Pay this fee directly
to your coach by Oct. 31**

Coaches give \$100 to USC Odyssey and keep the remaining \$75 for the team

Keeping You Up-to-Date

Coaches are your *main contact* throughout the season, but you will occasionally hear from us, too. Add uscotm@gmail.com as a safe sender in your email account!

Also visit our website for updates and other info: www.uscotm.com and follow us on social media (Facebook and Instagram).

Other useful Odyssey sites: Western PA Odyssey of the Mind – www.wpaodyssey.org
PA Odyssey of the Mind – www.paodyssey.com
National Odyssey of the Mind – www.odysseyofthemind.com



New teams
only!

See you at Odyssey Kickoff on October 2!

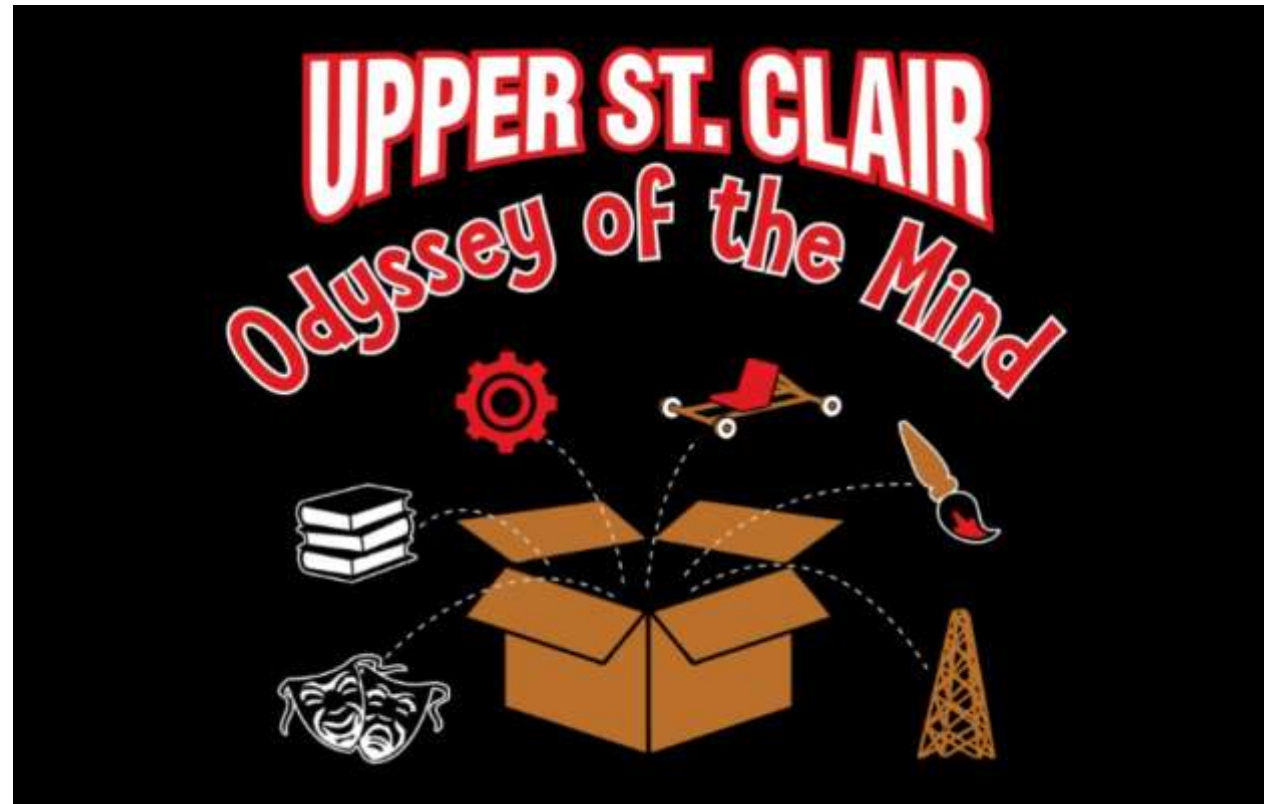
USC High School Cafeteria (enter arts/theater entrance)

6:15-7:15pm: Primary and Division 2 teams

7:30-8:30pm Division 1 teams

Refer to your welcome email for your time slot

Get ready for a year full of CREATIVITY!



www.uscootm.com