

PARENTS.....DID YOU HEAR THAT YOU MAY NOT HELP?

- That is absolutely **wrong!**
- That is absolutely **right!**
- (Well..... which is it???)

BOTH! You may do many things to help the team, but there are also things you might want to do that would cost the team penalty points. So... how do you know the difference? Here is your own handy, dandy, just-for-parent guidelines!

What Parents <i>SHOULD DO:</i>	What Parents <i>SHOULD NOT DO:</i>
Transport the team to buy things	Suggest what to buy
Transport the props	Repair props if broken in shipping
Teach the team members a skill IF the team asks, such as	Suggest to the team which skills to use to solve a problem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewing • Woodworking • Calligraphy • Art • Electronics • Engineering • Principals of simple machines • Welding 	<p>Suggest to the team which skills would result in a better-looking or better functioning solution</p> <p>Give the teams any ideas for their problem solution</p> <p>Sew anything, paint anything, do anything to contribute to the team's problem solution</p>
Help provide snacks	Analyze why something failed
Bring spontaneous problem supplies	Expect perfection from a solution not done by adults (or from a solution done by adults, for that matter!)
Help get props into the building for the Tournament, even to the staging area	
Open attics, closets, basements for "garage sale value" materials	Suggest what materials to get from the attic, closet or basement
Provide lots of encouragement	
Provide a place to meet/store props	Fix anything that breaks
Get everyone and everything to the Tournament	Criticize any part of a team's solution
Applaud A LOT and help get props offstage afterwards	Put emphasis on scores instead of fun

Source: VOICES (Virginia Odyssey Into Creativity ExplorationS) Thanks VOICES

As you can tell, parents ARE important, as resources for learning skills, helping get materials, providing moral support, supplementing working brains with nourishment, and generally facilitating the logistics of a working team. Without your encouragement, your child will not develop the self confidence that Odyssey of the Mind promotes.