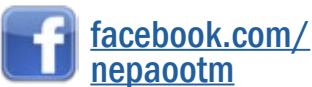




# 2021 NEPA ODYSSEY OF THE MIND VIRTUAL REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

*Submissions due March 6  
Virtual Awards Ceremony March 17*



[@nepaootm](https://twitter.com/nepaootm)  
[#odysseyofthemind](https://www.instagram.com/odysseyofthemind)





# NEPA ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

## From Your Regional Director...

Welcome to our 2021 NEPA Odyssey of the Mind Virtual Regional Tournament!

Congratulations! You made it through a difficult year, and successfully solved not only the Odyssey challenge, but simultaneously dealt with all the challenges associated with the world we live in now. You should be proud of your accomplishments.

Though we cannot come together to enjoy the excitement and energy that is an Odyssey competition day, I hope your journey was nevertheless rewarding. Hopefully you tried something new, used new tools, took risks, failed spectacularly at something, laughed, figured away around a disaster, learned, made friends, and had fun. Our world is eagerly awaiting the creative problem solvers you are becoming.

This tournament has a different format this year, but it couldn't happen without the time, energy and dedication of the many volunteers. Special thanks to all **coaches** who guide, nurture, and give the students opportunities to reach beyond themselves; to the **judges** whose thoughtful evaluations encourage excellence; and to our **problem captains** and **board members** who work out the logistics to make a competition possible.

We look forward to the days when we can again enjoy hallways crowded with outstanding props and outrageous costumes; where the audience is filled with laughter at all the right times; where we can hug our teammates after our performance and dance wildly with our competitors. Until then, stay safe.

Warmly,  
Mary Beth Adelman  
Regional Director, NEPA Odyssey of the Mind

*Some good news, while you wait for your scores...*  
**ALL teams that solved their problems will advance to the PA Virtual State Finals Tournament!**  
 You can continue to improve your solutions.  
 Our Virtual Awards Ceremony will be on March 17!

## NEPA Regional Board of Directors

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**  
Mary Beth Adelman

**SECRETARY**  
Jackie Bewick

**TREASURER**  
Rick Stine

**MERCHANDISE DIRECTOR**  
Richard Cheng

**PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR**  
Ryan Balton

**IMMEDIATE PAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR**  
Phil Patterson

## Problem Captains

**PROBLEM 1: OMER THE ROMER**  
Tommy Davidson  
Michele DiPillo

**PROBLEM 4: IT'S A TRAP!**  
David Palermo  
Dustin Balton

**PROBLEM 2: VIRTUAL ODYSSEY**  
Linda Platt  
Sam Platt

**PROBLEM 5: SUPERHERO SOCKS:  
A CLIFFHANGER BEGINNING**  
Cliff Blackman  
Cara Knieser

**PROBLEM 3: CLASSICS...  
OMER AND THE BEANSTALK**  
Gina Fontanella  
Stacy Lange

**PRIMARY PROBLEM  
ANIMALS ARE PEOPLE TOO!**  
Julia Wheeler-Dean  
Gloria Rumberger

**SCORING**  
Rick Stine

**SPONTANEOUS**  
Jackie Bewick  
Tony DePhillips



Presented by  
**Creativity Unlimited in Pennsylvania**  
*an entirely volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization*  
**Celebrating 41 years of PA Odyssey of the Mind!**

.....Thank You .....

# Tournament Officials!

It takes a village to run our Odyssey of the Mind tournament. Please join us in thanking all of these volunteers who gave up many hours of their time to ensure a fair and fun experience for all our OMer!

Dustin Balton  
 Ryan Balton  
 Evan Bates  
 Stephen Beckish  
 Teresa Beckish  
 Andrea Benson  
 Jacklyn Bewick  
 Cliff Blackman  
 Theresa Blackman  
 Sharon Campbell  
 Tania Cauchi  
 Christina Cetin  
 Luann Charity  
 Richard Cheng  
 Tricia Cronin  
 Amy Crowley  
 Chris Cunningham  
 Mary Davidson  
 Tom Davidson  
 Tara Deljanovan  
 Anthony DePhillips  
 Raymond Dionne  
 Michele DiPillo  
 Kraig Dunlap  
 Wendy Fenwick  
 Evelyn Fontanella  
 Gina Fontanella  
 William Fontanella

Corey Frankowski  
 Michael Giordano  
 Eileen Giovagnoli  
 Alyssa Goldberg  
 Jamie Hitz  
 Becky Holderith  
 Kellsey Horton  
 Jeanette Kitchen  
 Diana Kudrich  
 Peggy LaCoe  
 Stacy Lange  
 Scott Lenio  
 Katlin Moore  
 Khyla Natter  
 Joe Nurre  
 Meg Nurre

David Palermo  
 Scott Palermo  
 Linda Platt  
 Jennifer Rowehl  
 Gloria Rumberger  
 Susan Rustin  
 Kenneth Ryan  
 Lori Schlenker  
 Pamela Schuster  
 Christine Sell  
 Adam Shedd  
 Julia Steele  
 Rick Stine  
 Richard Tannenbaum  
 Julia Wheeler-Dean



We could use your time, talent, and OMer wisdom!  
 Our regional and state boards are entirely volunteer.  
 If you're interested in joining our leadership,  
 email [northeast@paodyyssey.com](mailto:northeast@paodyyssey.com) and visit [nepaootm.com](http://nepaootm.com).

**Volunteer with us!**

## Special thanks to our RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS!

Long-time regional and state Spontaneous Problem Captain

**“Mr. Bill” Fontanella**



## OM Regional Director Phil Patterson

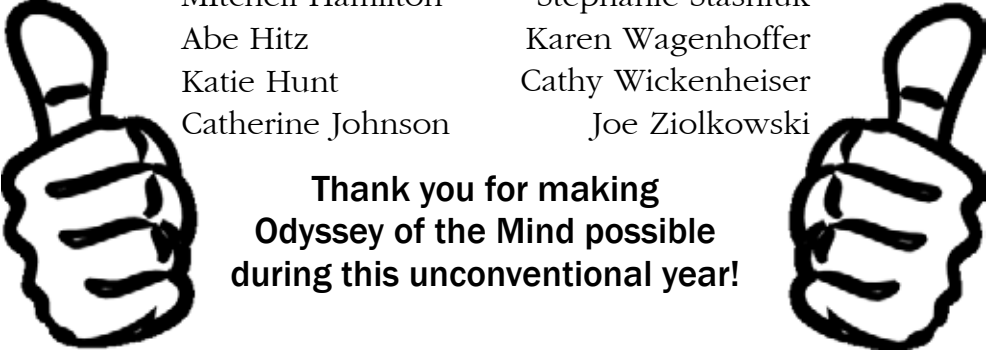


Northampton Area School District  
 Member at Large  
**Melinda McCann**



# Thank you **Coaches!**

Karen Bailor	Virginia Kim
Terry Balton	Alexandria Llaurado
Laurie Barcia	Lauren Lockwood
Victoria Bednar	Annina Mirza
Sarah Casey	Wasique Mirza
Tammy Curtis	Stacy Mosser
Cathy Davidson	Chuck Pike
Vanessa Dunlap	Susan Potenzano
Mary Earl	Kristine Reilly
Edward Griffiths	Steve Rhule
Wendy Griffiths	Jesse Schwartz
Amy Hamilton	Melissa Schwartz
Mitchell Hamilton	Stephanie Stashluk
Abe Hitz	Karen Wagenhoffer
Katie Hunt	Cathy Wickenheiser
Catherine Johnson	Joe Ziolkowski



**Thank you for making  
Odyssey of the Mind possible  
during this unconventional year!**

**Do you know an educator or parent in Pennsylvania who would be interested in starting an Odyssey of the Mind program at their school or community organization?**

**Grants are available for first-year teams.**

**The application will be posted over the summer at [paodyyssey.com](http://paodyyssey.com).**

**Email [pr@paodyyssey.com](mailto:pr@paodyyssey.com) with any questions.**



All teams competing in Odyssey of the Mind tournaments across Pennsylvania and around the world must follow their national, state, and local guidelines to stay safe and healthy during the Covid-19 pandemic, per the [Program Guide](#) and [Virtual Tournament Procedures](#).

**Thank you for doing your part  
to solve this spontaneous problem together, separately.**

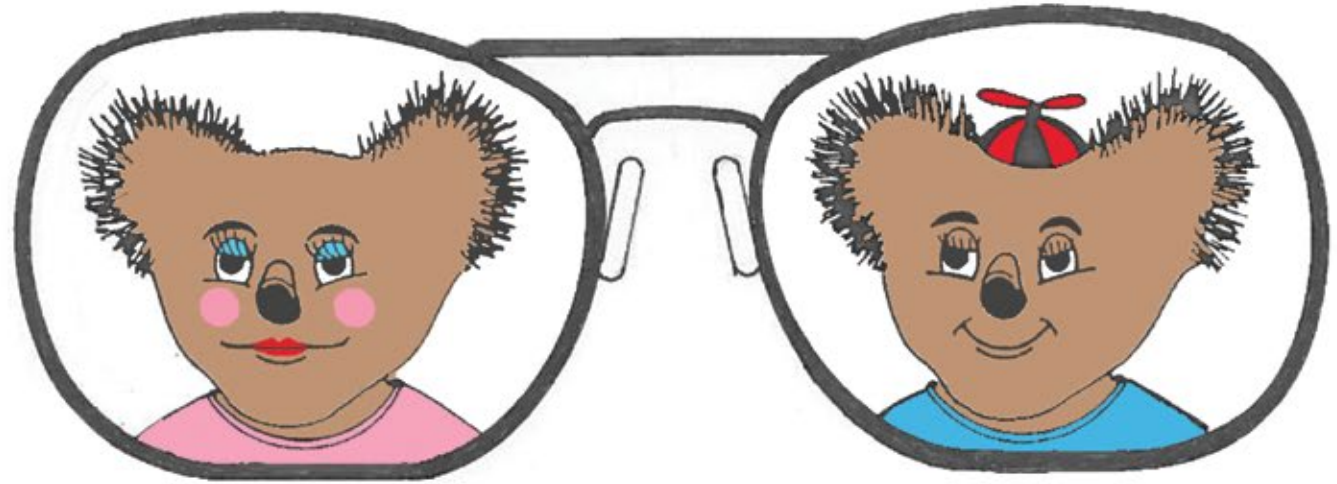
- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others.
- Stay 6 feet apart from others who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds.
- Avoid poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.

## PRIMARY PROBLEM

# Animals are People Too

GRADES K-2  
PROBLEM CAPTAINS:  
JULIA WHEELER-DEAN  
GLORIA RUMBERGER

People see the world in different ways. Imagine looking at one thing and seeing something else. In this problem, teams will create and present a humorous performance about a magical pair of glasses that when looked through, make people look like animals. Teams will design a costume that transforms a character's appearance from human to an animal, and another costume that transforms an animal to a different animal. A character will attempt to duplicate the glasses, but the copycat version doesn't work the same way. What is seen through the copycat glasses will be represented by an artistic representation.



Cost limit: \$125

### Primary teams

1	DELAWARE VALLEY ELE SCH #1436
2	DINGMAN-DELAWARE ELE SCH #19690
3	SHOHOLA ELE SCH #11416

The primary problem is designed to introduce young students to Odyssey of the Mind. While the problem is written as it would be if it were a scored, competitive problem, it is not scored.

Teams receive feedback and information about their solutions that they can use in their future Odyssey of the Mind problem-solving experiences.

We can't **wait** to see what these up-and-coming OMers create over the next several years!

## PROBLEM 1: VEHICLE

# OMer the ROMER

OMers are always looking for new fun – and funny – experiences! Teams will design and build a ride-on vehicle that takes an OMer character on an adventure in search of humor. The vehicle will use stored energy as it is propelled forward and in reverse. At each stop, the vehicle and the OMer will react to something humorous before traveling to the next destination. The humorous performance will also include an unplanned stop where the OMer character takes a selfie, a creative physical representation of the selfie, and a vehicle-produced special effect.

Cost limit: \$145



DIV. I, II, III  
PROBLEM CAPTAINS:  
TOMMY DAVIDSON  
MICHELE DIPILLO

### Problem 1 – Div I – Traditional

1	SHOHOLA ELE SCH #11416
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### Problem 1 – Div III – Traditional

1	CRESTWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL #3331
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2	DELAWARE VALLEY H S #3887
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thinking



### The Odyssey of the Mind Pledge

*Odyssey of the Mind is in the air,  
in my heart and everywhere.*

*My team and I will reach together,  
to find solutions now and forever.*

*We are the Odyssey of the Mind.*

Good Luck

## ABINGTON HEIGHTS OMers!

### OMER and the Beanstalk D1

Lila Frankowski  
Will Frankowski  
Querida Gonzalez  
Prayush Mallaiah  
Eliana Mirza  
Yusuf Nayeem

### Superhero Socks D2

Christopher Begley  
Finn Goldberg  
Zachary Magnotta  
Molly Rooney  
Julia Schuster  
Jack Wickenheiser

### OMER and the Beanstalk D3

Alyssa Auriemma  
Amelia Campbell  
Brynn Carey  
Alea Dorunda  
Maisy Earl  
Caroline Pease

and thanks to all our  
coaches and judges  
for their dedication!

### Special recognition to our seniors!

### OMER and the Beanstalk D3

Jordin Giovagnoli  
Lauren Heine  
Rahique Mirza  
Emily Mott  
Joseph Rama  
Quinn Sullivan  
Lily Whetsell

### Virtual Odyssey D3

Kylie Augis  
Jules Colombo  
Ashley Hamilton  
Mark Nzasi  
Colin Rooney  
Eric Schuster  
Ryan Tinkleman



# Good luck Warriors!

## Delaware Valley Elementary School

Primary • Structure • Performance

## Delaware Valley Middle School

Technical • Structure

## Delaware Valley High School

Vehicle • Technical  
Structure • Performance

## Dingman-Delaware Elementary School

Primary • Classics • Performance

## Dingman-Delaware Middle School

Technical • Performance

## Shohola Elementary School

Primary • Vehicle • Performance

Thank you to all the DV  
coaches, parents, and  
judges for everything  
you do!

And a special thank you  
to the DV administration,  
faculty, staff, and school  
board for supporting our  
teams and inspiring the  
next generation of  
creative problem-solvers  
throughout the pandemic.

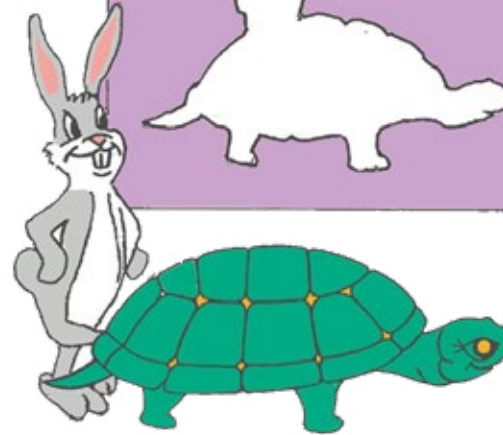
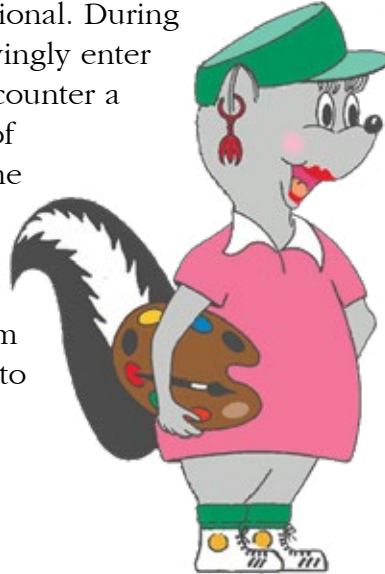


## PROBLEM 2: TECHNICAL

# Virtual Odyssey

Creativity is boundless as teams create a performance that includes a Virtual Reality World. As part of the world, they will design and build various technical effects, which include changing something that is two-dimensional into three-dimensional. During the performance, a character will unknowingly enter the Virtual Reality World where it will encounter a nefarious creature. It will learn the rules of collecting credits in the virtual world as the odyssey progresses. Finally, the character will escape the “clutches” of the creature and earn the last credit that allows it to journey back into the real world. The team will also create a special effect indicating to the judges and audience when the performance goes into virtual reality.

Cost limit: \$145



Div. I, II, III  
PROBLEM CAPTAINS:  
LINDA PLATT  
SAM PLATT

### Problem 2 – Div I – Virtual

1 RICE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #11917

### Problem 2 – Div II – Virtual

1 PINE GROVE AREA CARDINALS #48541

### Problem 2 – Div II – Traditional

1 DELAWARE VALLEY MID SCH #5570

2 DINGMAN-DELAWARE MID SCH #19690

### Problem 2 – Div III – Traditional

1 ABINGTON HEIGHTS H S A #30358

2 DELAWARE VALLEY H S #3887



**PROBLEM 3: CLASSICS**

# OMER and the Beanstalk

Storybooks come alive when a special bean grows into a magic “beanstalk” that takes a youngster into a storybook land. There, a creative host will guide them around as they meet different storybook characters and encounter objects from selected stories that exist together in this mystical land. Teams will use ARM & HAMMER™ Baking Soda to create works of art relating to the stories. A set piece or prop that grows or appears to grow and an original Life Lesson learned by the youngster in storybook land will be part of the performance.

**Cost limit:** \$125

**DIV. I, II, III**  
**PROBLEM CAPTAINS:**  
GINA FONTANELLA  
STACY LANGE

**Problem 3 – Div I – Virtual**

1 ABINGTON HEIGHTS ELEM SCH #48636

**Problem 3 – Div III – Virtual**

1 ABINGTON HEIGHTS H S B #35204

**Problem 3 – Div I – Traditional**

1 DINGMAN-DELAWARE ELE SCH #5521

**Problem 3 – Div III – Traditional**

1 ABINGTON HEIGHTS H S A #30358



Abington Heights High School

Division 3

Problem 2: Virtual Odyssey

*Note: Photo was taken pre-Covid.*



**The Proud Parents of:**  
Ryan Tinkelman, Mark Nzasi,  
Colin Rooney, Eric Schuster, Ashley Hamilton,  
Jules Colombo, Kylie Augis

**Wishing Team Hamilton  
"Good Luck" and  
Thanks to Coach Mitch, Coach Amy, and  
our team judge Pam for all their  
time and dedication**

# Delaware Valley High School

## Problem 5, Division 3



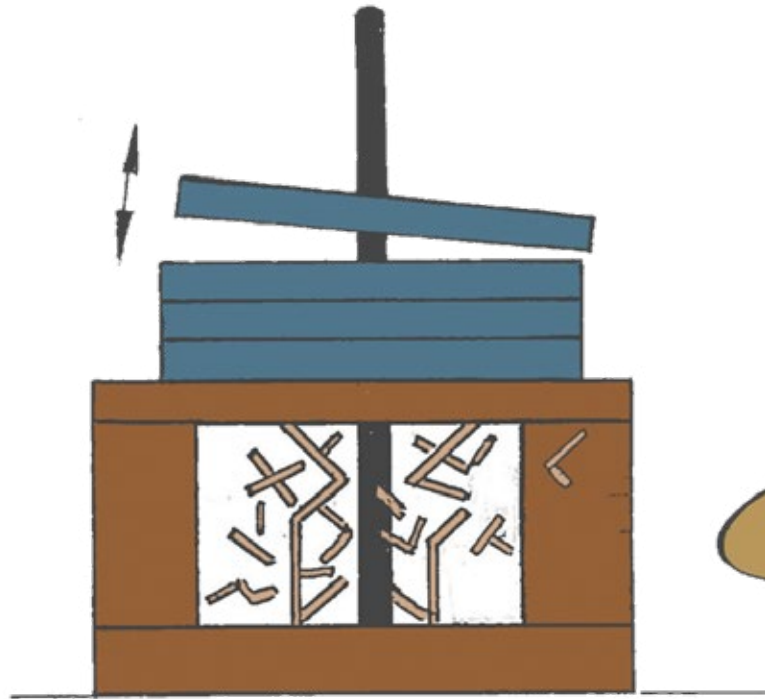
**We are all so proud of you!  
You're an amazing team.  
GO DV!**

## PROBLEM 4: STRUCTURE

# It's a Trap

Oh no, it's a trap! Or is it? In this problem, teams will design and build a structure made of only balsa wood and glue, if desired, that holds as much weight as possible after it is used to trap a moving object. However, an oblivious character will unwittingly avoid traps it does not recognize in a humorous performance. The performance will also include a narrator character that alerts the audience to the action and the traps.

Cost limit: \$135



### Problem 4 – Div I – Traditional

1 DELAWARE VALLEY ELE SCH #1436

### Problem 4 – Div II – Traditional

1 DELAWARE VALLEY MID SCH #3887

### Problem 4 – Div III – Traditional

1 DELAWARE VALLEY H S #3887

DIV. I, II, III  
PROBLEM CAPTAINS:  
DAVID PALERMO  
DUSTIN BALTON

## Ranatra Fusca Award

This award epitomizes the spirit of Odyssey of the Mind. Presented to teams or individuals exhibiting exceptional creativity, the Ranatra Fusca encourages creative thinking and risk-taking. A successful solution is not criterion for winning.

The name has a special meaning. Odyssey was born from a college class taught by founder Dr. Sam Micklus. He had students create flotation devices to cross a pond. One student made a water-strider-like contraption, which couldn't solve the problem because of its inability to maintain balance. However, the idea was exceptionally creative, and the Ranatra Fusca Award, named after the species of a water-striding insect, was born.



## OMER's Award

Named for our mascot OMER, this award recognizes individuals or teams who demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship, exemplary behavior, or exceptional talent. Recipients may be anyone that officials feel exhibit these traits.

Anyone may inform a tournament official of a possible OMER's Award candidate. That official will then determine if that person should be nominated. Nominees are reviewed by a panel to determine the recipients.



Seniors, make sure you register at

[ODYSSEYALUMNI.org](https://www.odysseyalumni.org)

When you graduate high school,  
your Odyssey isn't over...

We can use your expertise as a judge  
or volunteer next year!

[Odyssey Alumni on Facebook](#)

# VIRTUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Join us to celebrate your team's  
accomplishments this year!

**Wednesday, March 17 at 7 PM**

[nepaootm.com](https://nepaootm.com) / [NEPA Odyssey Facebook page](#)



## Calling All Juniors!

Next year, make sure you apply...

**Karl R. Schneck, Jr.  
Memorial Scholarship  
"Gordo's Gift"**

*As a coach, regional co-director, state  
problem captain, and world finals official,  
Mr. Schneck embodied the spirit of creativity  
and positive attitude that drives  
Odyssey of the Mind.*



KEEP POSTED TO [NEPAOOTM.COM](https://nepaootm.com) FOR DETAILS

**Pennsylvania Odyssey of the Mind  
is also accepting applications for the  
LINE MOUNTAIN SCHOLARSHIP**

**DUE MARCH 20**

VISIT [PAODYSSEY.COM/SCHOLARSHIPS](https://paodyssey.com/scholarships) FOR DETAILS



## PROBLEM 5: PERFORMANCE

# Superhero Socks: A Cliffhanger Beginning

Get ready for a story that begins with a cliffhanger “ending.” A Superhero is in peril and needs help to escape. Just as all hope seems lost, the Superhero puts on a pair of Super Socks that give the hero a special power. The Superhero uses the power to escape and fend off an adversary who caused the cliffhanger situation. Teams will also create an extreme weather setting, a humorous character, and a sound effect that occurs whenever the character activates the Super Socks.

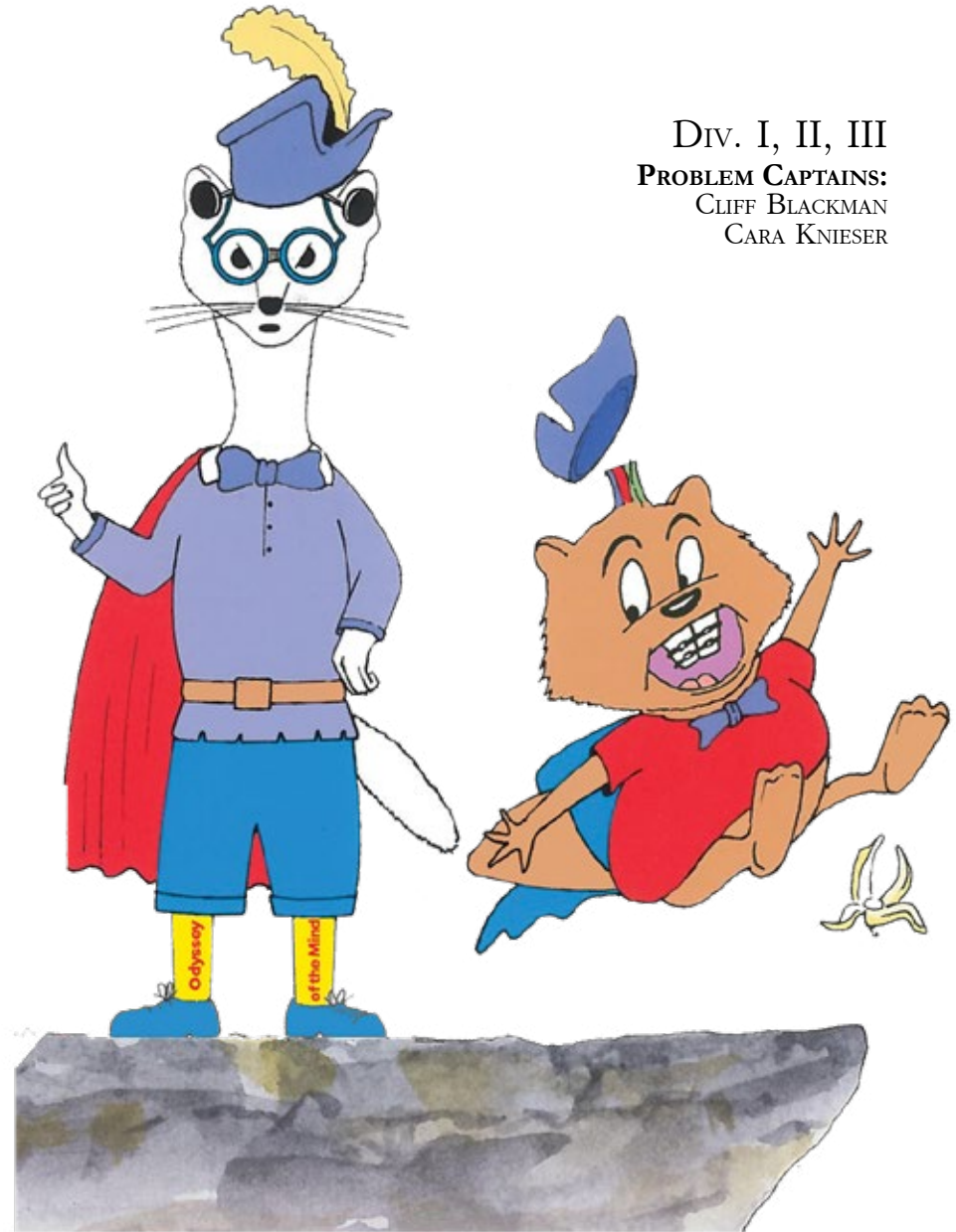
Cost limit: \$125

Problem 5 – Div I – Traditional	
1	DELAWARE VALLEY ELE SCH #1436
2	DINGMAN-DELAWARE ELE SCH #5521
3	SHOHOLA ELE SCH #11416

Problem 5 – Div II – Traditional	
1	ABINGTON HEIGHTS MID SCH #28547
2	DINGMAN-DELAWARE MID SCH #19690

Problem 5 – Div III – Traditional	
1	DELAWARE VALLEY H S #3887

DIV. I, II, III  
PROBLEM CAPTAINS:  
CLIFF BLACKMAN  
CARA KNIESER



# About Odyssey of the Mind

The Odyssey of the Mind has its roots in the Industrial Design classes of Dr. Sam Micklus, Odyssey of the Mind founder. As a professor at Rowan University in New Jersey (formerly Glassboro State College) Dr. Micklus challenged his students to create vehicles without wheels, mechanical pie throwers, and flotation devices that would take them across a course on a lake. He evaluated them not on the success of their solutions, but on the ingenuity applied and the risk involved in trying something new and different.

Students had fun. Word spread. The students' activities attracted attention from the local media. Soon, people on the outside wanted a part of the action. This public interest led to the development of a creative problem-solving competition for school children. Odyssey of the Mind was on its way. Since then, Dr. Micklus's life has been happily consumed with developing problems for other people to solve.

## Scoring

You'll see teams present their long-term solutions for a maximum of 200 points and 50 points for style. These problems were released in the fall.

During the day, teams also take part in spontaneous problems for a maximum of 100 points. The teams don't know these problems in advance.

Scores for long-term (200), style (50), and spontaneous (100) are prorated against the other teams in each division. Scoring is finished after all teams are done competing. Judges need time to evaluate and confirm scores, which may delay the awards ceremony. Please be patient. The students have worked tirelessly on their solutions; we want to do a thorough job with scoring.

## Why Odyssey of the Mind is good for students...

Odyssey of the Mind teaches students to learn creative problem-solving methods while having fun in the process. For more than 40 years, this unique program has helped teachers generate excitement in their students. By tapping into creativity, and through encouraging imaginative paths to problem-solving, students learn skills that will provide them with the ability to solve problems – great and small – for a lifetime.

Odyssey of the Mind teaches students how to think divergently by providing open-ended problems that appeal to a wide range of interests. Students learn how to identify challenges and to think creatively to solve those problems. They are free to express their ideas and suggestions without fear of criticism.

The creative problem-solving process rewards thinking outside the box.

## In Odyssey of the Mind...

- Students develop team-building skills by working in groups of as many as seven students per team.
- Students learn to examine problems and to identify the real challenge without limiting the possible solutions and their potential success.
- The creative-thinking process is nurtured and developed as a problem-solving tool.
- Students of all types will find something that will appeal to them.
- The fun of participation leads to an elevated interest in regular classroom curricula.
- Teachers have a program to further provide students with a well-rounded education.

## An international extravaganza

Odyssey of the Mind is a worldwide competition. Participants include teams from Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Canada, China, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Mexico, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Korea,

United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, and practically every state across the USA. The annual Odyssey of the Mind World Finals is typically an event to behold. It embodies the international spirit of creativity!



NOW WE'RE OFF TO...

## PA Virtual State Finals

Submissions due Saturday, April 10  
More at [paodyssey.com/state-finals](http://paodyssey.com/state-finals)



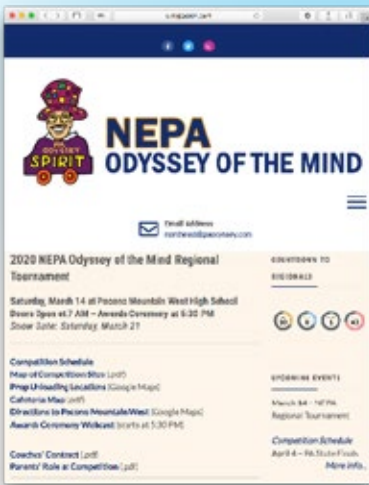
## World Finals Details TBD!

Stay tuned to [odysseyofthemind.com](http://odysseyofthemind.com)  
Odyssey HQ on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)



IT'S OMER'S HOMEPAGE!

# nepaootm.com



- Competition scores
- The WORLD'S largest spontaneous resource
- Updates on NEPA teams at State and World Finals



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