



NEPA ODYSSEY OF THE MIND 2025 Karl R. Schneck, Jr. Scholarship

Karl Schneck was an amazing person who dedicated himself to the Odyssey of the Mind program. He believed in combining creativity and teamwork to solve problems. No one loved crazy, wild, and outrageous solutions more than Karl. He served Odyssey of the Mind for decades in many roles including as an NEPA co-regional director, PA state problem captain, and World Finals official.

Unfortunately, we lost Karl much too soon, and when he was far too young. As a way to honor his memory – and his love of creative problem solving – we offer a scholarship to a graduating NEPA Odyssey of the Mind senior each year.

The scholarship is not based on financial need or academic performance. It is awarded to an Odyssey of the Mind high school senior who creates a unique, wild, crazy, and outrageous solution to a problem created by the NEPA Odyssey of the Mind Board of Directors. All entries are reviewed by the entire board, and they determine the winner as a team.

Requirements to apply for the Karl Schneck Scholarship:

- A letter from your coach stating you have been a team member who has participated at a regional Odyssey tournament for three or more years. Two of the years must have been at an NEPA Regional Tournament. Application is not restricted to current Odyssey participants.
- A letter of recommendation from at least one of your coaches. The first two items may be combined as one letter, if appropriate.
- A copy of an acceptance letter from an institution of higher learning. If you have not yet heard from the school you hope to attend, you may send us a list of schools to which you have applied. Once you are accepted at one of those colleges/institutes, we will issue the scholarship after we receive a copy of your acceptance letter.

***All scholarship entries must be received electronically by the end of the day (before 11:59 PM) on:
Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025***

Please send your materials to NEPAscholarship@paodyssey.com.

The Problem

You will create a postcard to your current self from your future self! Your postcard from the future will be postmarked Jan. 28, 2045. On this postcard, you will explain how ***you and a team*** solved a big – maybe even global? – problem. The front of the card should have an illustration and a few words. It should give us the big picture of what you did. The back of the card should have a concise statement of the problem and a step-by-step description of how you and the team solved it. Don't forget to include some sort of "future postage stamp"!

Dream big, and then dream bigger! You may find a solution to any problem that you choose. The people who decide who will win the scholarship are looking for logical solutions that actually might work. We're not interested in magic beans, flying pigs or other improbable solutions. We are looking for thoughtful, original, creative ideas that might just work.

Selection of the winning scholarship entry will be based on:

- Logical, reasonable progression of steps that lead to the solution.
- Creativity and originality of the solution to the problem.
- Creativity and originality of the artwork and words on the postcard.
- Creativity of the stamp on the postcard.
- Timeliness of the entry.

Remember, all entries must include:

1. A letter from a coach indicating that you have participated at the regional level in Odyssey of the Mind for at least three years. Two of those years must have been in the NEPA region.
2. A letter of recommendation from an Odyssey coach, which may be combined with the first letter.
3. A copy of your acceptance letter to an institution of higher learning starting in 2025
–OR–
A list of schools to which you have applied to for admission.
4. Your postcard from your future self, explaining how you solved one of the big problems of the world.

All entries must be received electronically by the end of Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025.

Incomplete or late entries will not be considered.

All materials should be emailed to NEPAscholarship@paodyssey.com.

The NEPA Odyssey of the Mind Karl R. Schneck, Jr. Memorial Scholarship is made possible by donations from OMers and their family and friends at our regional tournament each year.



NEPA Odyssey of the Mind is presented by the entirely volunteer Creativity Unlimited in Pennsylvania, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Be sure to also apply for the PA Odyssey of the Mind statewide Line Mountain Scholarship.

The deadline to apply will be March 21, 2025.

For more information, visit www.paodyssey.com/scholarships

We look forward to seeing you as a future judge, coach, or volunteer! 😊