



# Gulf Coast Region

## Florida Odyssey of the Mind

2017-2018



### FORMS GO WHERE?

- a. Coordinators Keep: Team, Worker, and Judge Registration forms
- b. Give to Coaches: Regional T-Shirt Order form, Important Dates, Training flyers, **DISTRICT REQUIRED FORM**
- c. Send to National: National Membership form (NOT Pasco Public Schools)
- d. Send to the Regional Director (Freda):
  - National Membership Application (send by October 5 if Pasco Public School)
  - Regional Membership Registration form,
  - Regional T-shirt Order forms with money, and
  - Scholarship forms

### REGISTER WHAT? REGISTER HOW?

1. National Registration of membership is done at [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com) to pay by credit card. Pasco County Schools is paying national membership for public schools that send the national application to Freda Abercrombie by October 5.
2. Register all individual teams for competition at [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com). The coordinator and coaches do this. Complete registration includes all information on the team's coaches, members, judge, and volunteer worker.
3. New coaches register for Beginning Coach training and Spontaneous workshop at [www.gcodyssey.com](http://www.gcodyssey.com). ALL coaches register for Advance Coach training at same.
4. Coaches order regional t-shirts online at [www.gcodyssey.com](http://www.gcodyssey.com). Include a copy of all order forms with one check per membership, not per team.

### BIG CHANGES FOR THIS YEAR:

- Team Registration now at national site (work in progress) – coaches and workers and judges all involved in the ONLINE process
- Spontaneous workshops for NEW coaches and teams only
- MANDATORY Coach Meeting (the one prior to the tournament) – now called COACHES WHO CARE meeting – one on east side and one on west side – evening meetings
- Coaches of Primary Teams REQUIRED to attend training on February 3
- No hospitality assignment for teams day of tournament
- Team registration fees increased to cover cost of feeding judges
- New address for mailing checks for registration to state – Pay attention.
- Scholarship deadline moved up – January 12!
- TOURNAMENT IS ON ONE WEEKEND!!!! Saturday AND Sunday
- Food trucks at Division 1 tournament; Region not selling food at tournaments
- New award: team who scores highest in spontaneous in each problem/division

Dear Odyssey of the Mind Membership Coordinator,

Welcome back and thank you for all you do for the children of Gulf Coast Region. On behalf of the entire Regional Board, good luck to all teams! This may be the most important information we give to you this year, so please take the time to read all SIX pages carefully, make the appropriate copies, and distribute them to EVERYONE who needs to know this information.

Included, please find: (If you're downloading this letter, make sure you download all forms)

- A “2017-2018 Gulf Coast Important Dates” - an overview of all registration due dates, training information, and tournament schedule – COPY AND GIVE TO COACHES.
- A “Regional Membership Registration” form, also known as the “Coordinator’s Form”: As coordinator, your responsibility is to collect ALL fees and forms from ALL teams and USE THE INFORMATION TO REGISTER THE TEAMS, WORKERS, AND JUDGES ONLINE. This form serves as an overview of your TOTAL membership and as proof that ALL ADULTS associated with a team are approved volunteers. This form must be sent to the regional director by December 15, 2017. **ONLY SEND IT WHEN IT’S COMPLETE.**
- A “Team Registration” form: Complete **one per team**. Use the form to complete a team registration online by **December 15**. Or, you can start the team registration and have the coach complete it. KEEP THE FORM. As soon as you enter team member information and click “next,” the information locks. You can add a member, but you can’t delete or change a member. Wait to make sure the child is attending and active on the team. If the problem is given to the coach and any kid shows up, the assumption is the problem has been discussed. That child is on the team forever! The names listed online will be compared to the team’s “Outside Assistance” form submitted at each level of competition. **ALL TEAMS MUST BE REGISTERED ONLINE BY THE DEADLINE.** Once all your coaches have verified the online info, you’ll be able to pay for the teams either by check or by PayPal. THIS IS A NEW PROCESS. BE PATIENT AS WE LEARN TOGETHER.
- A “Worker” form - **Each team** is required to provide one adult to work a three-hour shift on the day of competition or setup the Friday evening before. Workers monitor doors, work sales, staff check-in, run errands, and otherwise help us make sure the regional tournament is successful. We will make sure a worker is not scheduled at the same time his or her team is competing. We will also schedule the worker around all other teams with which the worker is affiliated IF the worker detail that connection in the comments section of the online registration. **ALL WORKERS MUST BE 16+. MEMBERSHIPS ARE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO WORKERS WHO ARE UNDER 18 OR STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.** Workers must be ENTERED online by December 15. The worker must complete the online registration by January 10. KEEP THE FIRST PAGE OF THE FORM; GIVE THE SECOND TO THE VOLUNTEER – **BE SURE YOU MARK THE APPROPRIATE INFORMATION ON THE SECOND PAGE.**

- A “Judge Registration” form - **Each team** is required to provide one judge for the regional competition. This person agrees to attend judge’s training (February 3) and to BE AVAILABLE TO judge at BOTH of the regional competitions (MARCH 3 **AND** MARCH 4). This **two-PAGE** form has several questions necessary to properly ENTER judge. Use the info to ENTER the judge online by **December 15**. The judge must complete the online registration by January 10. KEEP THE FIRST PAGE OF THE FORM; GIVE THE SECOND PAGE TO THE JUDGE.

If a large membership has difficulty securing enough judges, the coordinator may request that ONE judge be a junior or senior in high school, **but this must be approved by the regional director BEFORE registering the judge**. MORE JUDGES WILL BE NEEDED AT THE DIVISION ONE TOURNAMENT, THAN THE DIVISION 2/3 TOURNAMENT. Sign up judges with the understanding that they WILL be chosen to judge BOTH of the tournaments. We may excuse them for one tournament, but that decision will be made on or after training day.

Judges are committed to one area the whole day of competition and can’t leave to see their own child compete in another problem, so teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators make good prospects for judges. Judges are the heart of a quality tournament. For us to ensure a successful experience for the participants, ALL judges must commit to and attend the training, or teams will be penalized. We will notify a judge by e-mail of his/her assignment.

**ALERT:** Every adult WORKER, JUDGE, OR COACH representing any Pasco County Public School Odyssey of the Mind team must be an approved volunteer who has been screened according to district regulations. Coordinators must insure this requirement is met.

- “Regional T-Shirt Order” Form – We have a lovely t-shirt design this year, including a special coach version. If you check the regional website periodically, you’ll see the design. The deadline for ordering a regional shirt is **December 15**. Coaches order shirts on the regional website by team. Use the paper form and send all forms with one check for the membership. Shirts will be available for pick up at the COACHES WHO CARE meetings the week of February 12. **SEND ONE CHECK PER MEMBERSHIP TO COVER ALL T-SHIRT ORDERS, PLEASE!** Checks are made payable to Florida Odyssey of the Mind.

- “Scholarship” Application - Any graduating senior who has participated in the Odyssey of the Mind program as a team member for a minimum of three years can apply for this scholarship. The deadline is January 12, 2018. The scholarship(s) will be awarded at the Division 1 regional tournament awards ceremony.

- School Banners Information – You’ll need a banner for the awards ceremony. Read the form carefully.
- Training Flyers – Please copy and give to all coaches as appropriate. Go over the directions with them and ask them to attend the trainings if possible and applicable. We are making a concentrated effort to improve our teams by making sure our newest coaches are teaching problem solving skills and focusing on creativity. At this year’s Advanced Coach Training we are training coaches to be better style leaders as well as new tips for how to avoid Outside Assistance. COACHES SHOULD REGISTER ONLINE AT THE REGIONAL WEBSITE.
- DISTRICT REQUIRED FORM – Pasco County public school teams must have each Odyssey family sign the “Parent Permission and Acknowledgement” form for 2017-2018. Coaches also sign the form. Coaches can turn in the forms via email, courier, U.S. mail, in person at trainings, or texted image UNTIL TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20. If it’s not in by then, the team will be pulled from the schedule. There are other “contracts” that a coach may find helpful: one for parents and one for students. They’re available online. These are NOT required by the region and are provided only to help facilitate conversations about what we expect from team members and families.

Well, that’s it for now. If you’re feeling a bit overwhelmed, please call or email me with any questions or concerns you may have. Please note that I am using the email address, [fabercro@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:fabercro@pasco.k12.fl.us) for all correspondence. Also, feel free to attend the coach’s training, even if you’re an experienced coach. We will be there to offer support and assistance. I look forward to seeing you at trainings, workshops, meetings, and of course, for the Regional Tournaments at T.E. WEIGHTMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL on MARCH 3 or 4, depending on division. Until then, good luck!

On behalf of the entire Gulf Coast Regional Board,

*Freda Abercrombie*

Freda Abercrombie, Regional Director  
(813) 924 – 0850 (cell)      (813) 794-0200 (TEWMS, school)  
E-mail: [fabercro@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:fabercro@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Check the website often! <http://www.gcodyssey.com>

## More Very Important Stuff

- **If you want to thank a sponsor, send the information to Freda and she'll put it on the website.**
- **The tournaments are scheduled on one weekend. Depending on numbers, some division 2/3 teams in some problems may be scheduled to compete on Saturday. That decision will be made after the January 18 deadline. All division 2/3 teams should remain flexible until numbers are finalized. Freda will send an email as soon as possible to all coordinators with final "Who's Competing When" info.**
- **Each team is required to provide one worker and one judge. If you provide more than one judge or worker per team, that's very helpful for the region, BUT PLEASE DON'T register multiple judges and/or workers with the idea that the extra adults are "back up" or "just in case" the required adult doesn't show up. We train, schedule, and rely on the extras the same as the required. Therefore, ALL WORKERS AND JUDGES WHO ARE REGISTERED AND SCHEDULED ARE EXPECTED TO FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATION OR THE TEAM WILL BE PENALIZED.**
- **PLEASE keep judges informed and reminded of the training and tournament dates. Do NOT just sign up people with the intention of finding a "real" person later. It's time consuming and confusing to reorganize dozens of judges two days before training.**
- **Please be sure to supply current e-mail addresses for all judges, coaches, and workers whenever possible. The website may caution against school email addresses, but they work better for our purposes. Most notifications will be issued by e-mail. If you give an e-mail address, please be sure to actually read your e-mail regularly. Thanks!**
- **Primary teams ("We're Cooking Now") have the same obligations as all other teams: one judge, one worker, paperwork, etc. One or more primary teams will represent the Gulf Coast Region at the State Tournament. The team will not compete, but will perform in both long term and spontaneous. The team will be chosen by random drawing from interested teams at the regional tournament Primary awards ceremony. New coaches of "We're Cooking Now" teams who attend the REQUIRED training on Feb. 3, will be allowed to bring their teams to tournament. Those who can't attend that training, will need to make it up in order to have their teams perform at the regional tournament.**

## Payment Information – Give to bookkeepers.

**\*Attention Pasco Schools bookkeepers: FLOMA is vendor #8655.**

It is imperative that checks be made payable to the correct organization and address.

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP is \$135 and goes to:

Creative Competitions, Inc. (CCI)

406 Ganttown Road

Sewell, NJ 08080

[www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com)

(\*\*SPECIAL NOTE FOR PASCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – the district is paying the national registration IF you send the national registration application to FREDA ABERCROMBIE at TEWMS by October 5. Send no money, just the form.)

The TEAM REGISTRATION cost is \$150.00 per team (\$60.00 for primary teams). After the national registration has been processed, you'll be able to register teams and pay for teams at [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com) through paypal (convenience fee added) or by generating an invoice and sending a check made payable to "FLOMA" with the invoice to:

Florida Odyssey of the Mind (FLOMA) (NEW ADDRESS)

c/o MATTHEW WHALEY, Association Director

1356 Smiling Fish Lane

Saint Augustine, FL 32080

REGIONAL T-SHIRTS FORMS AND MONEY go to:

Florida Odyssey of the Mind

c/o Freda Abercrombie

4846 Darlington Road

Holiday, FL 34690

(Pasco teams can send the forms and money through the courier.)

*How a membership raises money to pay the costs associated with participating in the Odyssey of the Mind program is up to the membership's administration. Some memberships hold fundraisers, some secure business sponsors, some charge participants a fee, and some use a combination of these methods. Regardless of how the money is secured, all registration and t-shirt money must be filtered through the membership according to its bookkeeping regulations.*