

Odyssey of the Mind

To the parents of _____

As you know, your child has chosen to take part in the Odyssey of the Mind program, and has joined the team working on the “_____” problem. I am the coach of that team and the mother of _____, a member of the team. My name is _____, my phone number is _____ and my address is _____.

I will try not to overwhelm you with too much information at first, but please feel free to call me with questions or concerns you might have about the program.

Being part of the Odyssey program is a big commitment. Hopefully we will have a lot of fun but we have a lot of work to do if we are to take part in the tournaments on March 20 and April 17 (more information at a later date). We will need to meet once or twice a week for 1 to 2 hours. I would like to schedule one meeting a week at my home to work on our structure, preferably after school until roughly dinnertime. The coaches would pick the children up at the school at 3 o'clock and drive them to my home. Parents would pick them up to take them home after the meeting. This would work better for me than an evening or weekend meeting. If this would not work for you please let me know. Parents are always welcome to attend the meetings but I would like to set up a schedule of parent helpers at each meeting with that parent also responsible for supplying a snack for the meetings, for example, cookies, fruit, or granola bars.

You will hear this many times in the next few months but it is very important that the children develop the solution to the problem by themselves. No one, including parents, family members, teachers, friends, or even coaches, may give them ideas, suggestions, hints or opinions for building the structure. The team will lose points, or could be disqualified if this should happen. So, please, be very careful when talking to your child about the problem.

Another important point is that we must have 5 to 7 team members to compete in the tournament, and if team members drop out between now and March we are not allowed to replace them. So please encourage your child to attend meetings, understand the team and time commitment and not withdraw from the team unless absolutely necessary.

Yours truly,

Please return the following information to me as soon as possible.

Student's name: _____ Phone number: _____

Birthdate: _____ Email: _____

Address _____

Preferred meeting days (circle) M T W Th F Sa Su morning afternoon