

North Carolina Odyssey of the Mind



Eastern Region

Hello Coaches and Coordinators!

We will be sending another message later this week with regular Eastern Region information, but first we want to let you know about an educational opportunity shared recently by Illinois OotM and open to OMers worldwide! We don't know yet how much the online class will cost or how many student spaces there will be, but here is what we know:

Starting November 1, teams around the world will be able to register for a 4-week online class created and taught by The Second City designed *specifically* for Odyssey of the Mind team members, coaches, and supporters! As part of the new partnership between Odyssey of the Mind and The Second City announced at World Finals in May, the class - Odyssey S.P.A.R.K. - introduces Omers to many of the brilliant brainstorming and splendid skills used at The Second City to help them write better sketches, be better performers, work as a team, and fail spectacularly (in a good way!). Just like balsa teams have balsa and architecture workshops, now Omers in each and every long-term problem have the opportunity to learn new skills that will help them write funnier sketches, dream up even more creative solutions, and live in the world of "Yes, and..." teamwork and agreement! The best part: it's open to teams (and parents and coaches) all over the world!

Here's a brief description of the class:

Odyssey of the Mind, the world's first creative problem solving program, has challenged young minds around the globe to think divergently for 40 years! Now, students can spark their creative solutions using the tried and true techniques of The Second City thanks to an exciting new partnership between Odyssey of the Mind and The Second City!

Odyssey S.P.A.R.K, an online four-week crash course to get your creativity flowing, covers sketch writing, partnerships/teamwork, acting and performance quality, and creative risk-taking (including learning from failure)

in the style of The Second City. Designed specifically for Odyssey of the Mind participants, coaches, and parents, Odyssey S.P.A.R.K. is a great way to jumpstart the divergent thinking process while having loads of fun in the process!

Keep an eye out at The Second City's website (www.secondcity.com) --> Classes --> Teens/Online. If you don't make the first round, don't worry - more classes will be added as we continue our amazing new partnership with the world's best-known comedy institution!

PS - Remember: never talk about your specific solutions online. The Odyssey S.P.A.R.K. class will teach general skills (e.g., scene structure, acting/performing techniques, etc.) but will never discuss specific solutions or problems.

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