



NCOME NEWSLETTER

CREATIVITY IN THE EASTERN REGION SINCE 1982

JANUARY 2022 • ISSUE 4 • VOLUME 4

Welcome!



It's our Anniversary!

NCOM is celebrating **40 years** of creativity and we are looking forward to celebrating with all our teams!

Inside this month's newsletter, you will discover when and how to register your team for our regional tournament & lots of spontaneous information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NCOM STATE BOARD MEETING—JAN. 8, 2022

EASTERN REGION BOARD MEETING—JAN. 12

FINAL TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION DEADLINE—
JAN 15—\$150 PER TEAM

SPONTANEOUS FAIR—JAN. 22

EASTERN REGION BOARD MEETING—JAN. 12

TOURNAMENT PREP WEBINAR—FEB. 12

JUDGES' TRAINING—FEB. 26

EASTERN REGION TOURNAMENT—MAR. 5

NCOM STATE FINALS— APRIL 2
WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

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SPONTANEOUS FAIR

JANUARY 22, 2022

9 AM—12:00 PM



VIRTUAL EVENT

ZOOM EVENT

TEAMS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GATHER &
PARTICIPATE AS A UNIT.

A LIST OF MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED.

REGISTRATION

\$5 PER TEAM MEMBER

NO CHARGE FOR COACHES

VISIT [NCOME.ORG](https://www.ncome.org) TO REGISTER.

*LEARN ABOUT SPONTANEOUS TECHNIQUES AND
PRACTICE ALL TYPES OF SPONTANEOUS PROBLEMS!*

SCHEDULE:

- 9-9:35 SESSION 1—INTRO TO SPONTANEOUS
- 9:40-10:20 SESSION 2
- 10:20-10:35 SNACK/BREAK
- 10:35-11:15 SESSION 3
- 11:20-12:00 SESSION 4

Looking for more spontaneous ideas? Check out all the information available under [Membership Resources](#) on the [Odyssey of the Mind](#) site!

SESSIONS TAILORED TO BOTH IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIPS



**Spontaneous
practice problems
are available!**



Spontaneous Procedures

In-Person Competition Procedures



Who Will Compete:

ALL team members (up to 7) are encouraged to participate . This will apply to verbal, verbal/hands-on, and hands-on problems.



Verbal and Verbal/Hands-on Problems:

There will be a limited number of TEAM responses. Responses will be tracked using “tokens” that are randomly scattered on the table to start the problem. “Tokens” could be plastic discs, poker chips, coins, etc.



Giving Responses:

Team members will select a token, place it in a container, and give a response. Team members may respond in any order. Individual team members may give as many or as few responses as the team wishes.



For ALL TYPES of problems, team members should listen closely to the directions for their specific problem.



Visit
odysseyofthemind.com
for more details



GO TO [NCOME.ORG](https://www.ncome.org)—FINAL DATE TO REGISTER—JANUARY 15!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE EASTERN REGION DIRECTOR, RANDY BURTON

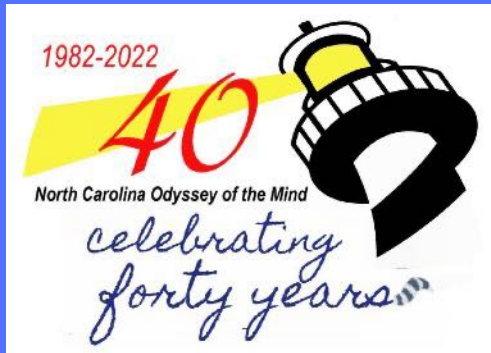
With the current pandemic, the number of teams competing is much lower than it was previously. In some cases, there could be only one or two teams registered for a given problem and division competition. Since the first and second place teams advance to the NCOM State Tournament, this means that in these cases all of the teams will be eligible to advance.

Regardless of the numbers of teams competing, in order to be eligible to advance to the State Tournament, teams must make a significant effort to solve the long-term problem and must present their solution at the Regional Tournament.

NCOM 2022 COVID-19 Event Protocols

- Tournaments will follow the venue masking and Covid requirements. Please note that currently Wake County requires *all persons to be masked at all times*. We've gotten some questions about masks that allow for playing wind instruments and those are currently NOT allowed. While this could change before March teams should prepare for the most restrictive rules
- Following CDC recommendations, the wearing of face masks will apply to ages 2 and older.
- We encourage all students, coaches, volunteers, parents and supporters participating in the program—and are eligible—to be vaccinated for the COVID virus OR have a negative COVID test within the 72 hours prior to attending an event.
- Participants will social distance whenever possible.
- If you are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19 (or any infectious disease), do not participate or attend tournaments/events until you are symptom-free for 48 hours.
- At tournaments/events, any individual who is not wearing a mask inside event buildings:
 1. Will be asked to wear a face mask.
 2. If they refuse, they will be told to leave the building.
 3. If they refuse, school security will be summoned.
 4. If they refuse, the Long Term or Spontaneous presentations will not be started until the individual is properly wearing a mask or leaves the building.
 5. The team associated with the individual who refuses to wear a face mask or leave the building may be assessed up to a 10-point Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalty.
- Our desire is to have as many people observe the long term problem solution presentations and award ceremonies. The number of spectators allowed to watch may be limited and adjusted based on room capacity and social distancing efforts. Priority seating will be given to immediate family members, school administration and friends.

We are hopeful that these preventative measures will be short-lived. We want to provide a safe environment for all OMers—our children, coaches, parents and volunteers. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.



40 YEARS OF ODYSSEY OF THE MIND IN NORTH CAROLINA!

Odyssey is all about creativity, so I thought we should start with the Ranatra Fusca Award. The Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award represents the essence of Odyssey of the Mind. It is presented to teams or individuals who exhibit exceptional creativity, either through some aspect of their problem solution, or an extraordinary idea beyond the problem solution. A successful problem solution is not a criterion for winning the award; rather, the award is a way to acknowledge and encourage creative thinking and risk-taking.

[Ranatra Fusca](#) is the term for a classification of water insect. Although this may seem a remote association to creative thinking, the name has a special meaning in Odyssey of the Mind. Odyssey of the Mind was born from a college class taught by its founder, Dr. Sam Micklus, in which he assigned students to create a flotation device to transport them across a pond. One student designed a water strider-like contraption. The device did not solve the problem because of its inability to maintain proper balance; however, if given the time and opportunity to "go back to the drawing board," the student would have been able to correct this and cross the pond. Even though the device did not work properly, the idea was exceptionally creative.

Teams that earn a Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award at the state/province/country level of competition are eligible to advance to World Finals. If an individual is awarded a Ranatra Fusca, the entire team advances. Ranatra Fusca winners at the World Finals level receive a medal and have their team name engraved on the Ranatra Fusca trophy. This has been a tradition since 1981, and the trophy is on display each year at World Finals.

With the help of Odyssey HQ, I searched through Odyssey of the Mind Summer newsletters (there were a few missing years) and identified North Carolina individuals and teams that have been awarded a Ranatra Fusca at World Finals. As you can see, there have been a creative bunch of people at all ages and all across the state. Who knows, maybe you or your team will be added to the list!

Stay Creative!

Tom Bojanski
NCOM Association Director

[Click here to watch our 40th Anniversary Video!](#)



**NC RANATRA FUSCA
AWARD WINNERS AT
WORLD FINALS**



1982	Jeannie Evans & Laura Newbrough
1983	Buncombe CO G/T Program (Buncombe County) Jennifer Peak & Jerry Sally
1984	Erwin Middle School (Salisbury) Fairview Elementary School (High Point) Garden Park Elementary School (Gastonia)
1985	South Mecklenburg High School (Charlotte) Valley Springs Middle School (Arden)
1986	Underwood Elementary School (Raleigh)
1987	Catawba Heights Elementary School (Belmont)
1990	Kennedy Middle School (Charlotte) East Mecklenburg High School (Charlotte)
1993	A.C. Reynolds Middle School (Asheville)
1995	Durant Road Elementary School Team A (Raleigh)
1996	North Carolina State University School of Design (Raleigh)
2000	Pineville Elementary School (Pineville)
2002	Chapel Hill Homeschoolers (Chapel Hill)
2003	Knights of Columbus (Kernersville)
2012	Mt Pleasant Lions Club Orange (Midland)
2014	Mt Pleasant Lions Club Orange (Midland)
2017	South Mecklenburg High School (Charlotte)
2018	South Mecklenburg High School (Charlotte)
2021	Virtual WF Barringer Academic Center (Charlotte) In-Person WF St. Mark Catholic School (Wilmington)

SPONTANEOUS PRACTICE

The 51st State

Verbal/Hands-On

Materials Needed:

- Paper, markers or crayons, etc.

The Problem:

Create a new state. Name it and design the state’s symbol, flag, and tree. The team must also compose a state song and perform it for the judges. You have 20 minutes.

Scoring:

State name

State symbol

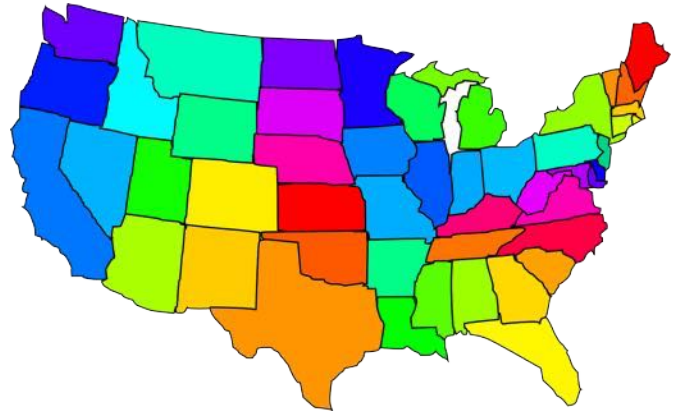
State flag

State tree

State song

- 5 pts. for creative answers
- 1 pt. for common answers
- 10 pts. for teamwork

This problem was adapted from the Northeast PA Odyssey’s collection: [Spontaneous Problems Galore!](#)



**Spontaneous
Tips and Tricks**

SCAMPER

When you and your team are at a loss for ideas, try SCAMPERING.

Substitute

Combine

Adapt

Modify, minimize or maximize

Put to another use

Eliminate

Rearrange



Learn more about [how to SCAMPER.](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION AND BOARD MEMBERS

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Regional Director: Randy Burton

ncomePC1@gmail.com

Tournament Director: Lexie Groner

ncometd@gmail.com

Assistant Tournament Director: Anna Ladd

Score Room Capitan: Stephen Downhower

Spontaneous Problem Capitan: Ann Ross

Assistant Problem Captains: Zoe Hansen Burnet, Michael Bojanski

Problem 1 Captain: Randy Burton

ncomePC1@gmail.com

Assistant Problem Captain: Tom Bojanski

Problem 2 Captain: Barry Groner

ncomePC2@gmail.com

Assistant Problem Captain: Alison Blake

Problem 3 Captain: Marj Moe

ncomePC3@gmail.com

Assistant Problem Captain: Gretchen Westman

Problem 4 Captain: Rita Welsh

ncomePC4@gmail.com

Assistant Problem Captain: Marc Blake

Problem 5 Captain: Suzanne Ladd

ncomePC5@gmail.com

Assistant Problem Captain: Sean Stichel

Primary Captain: Diana White

ncomePC6@gmail.com

YOUR 2021-2022 BOARD!

REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

RANDY BURTON

ASS'T REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

ZOE HANSEN BURNET

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:

LEXIE GRONER

SECRETARY:

GAIL HEMEDINGER

TREASURER:

BOB PECAUT

WEB MASTER:

ANDY CORDES

WEB ASSISTANT:

DAWN IMERSHEIN

SALES:

ANDY CORDES

COMMUNICATIONS:

LEXIE GRONER

PIN TEAM:

JACKIE BURTON, MARK BLAKE

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 7PM ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH VIA ZOOM. EVERYONE IS WELCOME! CONTACT RANDY BURTON AT ncomePC1@gmail.com FOR THE LINK TO JOIN.

