



# NCOME Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2019

## Welcome to the NCOME Newsletter!

In an effort to make communication simpler and user friendly we are starting a newsletter! A new issue will be sent out the first of every month with information on upcoming events and resources. We will continue to send out reminders about events in between issues as needed.

### What information is included?

In every issue we will include:

- Events calendar
- NCOME contact information
- Specifics on the next event
- A new spontaneous problem
- Questions & Answers section

Other sections that may be included are new procedures, team building exercises, and other advice.

Please contact us with any or suggestions or feedback you have! [ncomeTD@gmail.com](mailto:ncomeTD@gmail.com)

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## Skills Fair

*Everything you need to know*

### Date:

Saturday November 16  
9:00am – 12:30pm

### Classes Offered:

Electricity and Wiring - batteries, light bulbs and motors!

Creative Use of Material - how to take common materials and create something with them!

From Script to Stage - creating a script and acting it out

Building Sets and Props with PVC - how to create sets and props using PVC pipe

Brainstorming and Time Management – organized creativity!

Characterization - how to “become” a character on stage

Spontaneous Skills – tools for solving spontaneous problems

Woodworking – the very basics

### Cost:

\$10 per team member

### Note:

Unfortunately, because of space we must limit registration to 3 members per team. These team members can bring their new skills back to the team!

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**Location:**

Hope Valley Elementary School  
3005 Dixon Rd  
Durham, NC 27707

**Registration:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCOME-SkillsFair2019>

Space is limited and fills up quickly so don't wait!  
Please note there is NO onsite registration. You must register your team members online ahead of time.

**Contact:**

Randy Burton [randy.burton@earthlink.net](mailto:randy.burton@earthlink.net)

# Regional Tournament Registration is now OPEN!

Early Bird Registration closes on December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Final Registration deadline is January 25<sup>th</sup>

**Don't forget** – you MUST enter a judge and volunteer when registering

## Spontaneous Problem

*Turn it up!*

(When the team enters the room, tell them that this will be a verbal problem)

- 1) You will have 2 minutes to think and 5 minutes to respond.
- 2) Each of you has 7 cards. After each response, you will place a card in the box. You will respond in sequence. You may give responses until you no longer have any cards or until time ends, whichever occurs first.
- 3) Questions count against your thinking time. You may not skip your turn, nor repeat, nor pass. If one member of the team is stuck, the team is stuck.
- 4) Common answers will receive 1 point. Creative answers will receive 3 points. Highly creative or humorous answers will receive 5 points.
- 5) Your problem is to name something that you might turn and say what happens when you turn that item. For example, you might say: "When I turn the volume knob on my radio, the volume gets louder."

### For Judges Only

- 1) Provide 35 cards. If you have colored cards or cards that are somehow marked, that works the best.
- 2) Looking for unusual responses and always reward humor.

## Heads Up!

An individual by the name of Jason Akel has been advertising himself as the Spont Master and offering videos and spontaneous training to teams. **Mr. Akel is not at all affiliated with Odyssey of the Mind (OotM)** and OotM does not support individuals offering services for money using OotM materials.

We recommend that teams ignore any information they receive from Mr. Akel.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SKILLS FAIR – NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

HOPE VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
9:00AM – 12:30PM

### SPONTANEOUS FAIR – JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>

MORRIS GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
TIME TDB

### PRIMARY TOURNAMENT – FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>

TBD  
TIME TBD

### JUDGES TRAINING – FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>

TBD  
8:30AM – 3:00PM

### REGIONAL TOURNAMENT – MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>

WAKEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL  
8:00AM – 6:00PM

# Check out our new NCOME logo!



## Judges and Volunteers

*Why we require teams to provide both*

### Background

All teams are required to provide a judge who can attend both training and the tournament and a separate volunteer for tournament day in order to participate in the regional tournament.

### Challenge

We are an all-volunteer organization that cannot make the regional tournament happen without the people power of the required judges and volunteers. They ensure all teams are judged equally and all pieces of the tournament run smoothly. Unfortunately, we've been increasingly let down by teams who ignore the requirement and think it causes no harm.

### Solution

This year, the NCOM Board of Directors has approved the use of assessing a penalty to teams who do not provide their required judge and volunteer. Our regional board is discussing and voting on this policy at our next meeting. Please watch for more news soon.

### We are here to help!

We understand that this potential new policy is scary, but we are committed as ever to supporting teams. If you are having trouble finding a judge and/or volunteer, please reach out and ask for support, the sooner the better! Tournament Director Lexie Groner is reachable at [ncometd@gmail.com](mailto:ncometd@gmail.com). It is never too early to start a conversation and we are never too busy for your questions and concerns! ■

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Regional Director: Tom Hansen [Tom.Hansen.OotM@gmail.com](mailto:Tom.Hansen.OotM@gmail.com)

Tournament Director: Lexie Groner [ncometd@gmail.com](mailto:ncometd@gmail.com)

Problem 1 Captain: Randy Burton [ncomePC1@gmail.com](mailto:ncomePC1@gmail.com)

Problem 2 Captain: Barry Groner [ncomePC2@gmail.com](mailto:ncomePC2@gmail.com)

Problem 3 Captain: Marj Moe [ncomePC3@gmail.com](mailto:ncomePC3@gmail.com)

Problem 4 Captain: Rita Welsh [ncomePC4@gmail.com](mailto:ncomePC4@gmail.com)

Problem 5 Captain: Suzanne Ladd [ncomePC5@gmail.com](mailto:ncomePC5@gmail.com)

Primary Captain: Diana White [ncomePC6@gmail.com](mailto:ncomePC6@gmail.com)



NC Eastern Region Odyssey of the Mind



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### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What's the best resource for coaches?

A: The Coach's Information Packet. An updated version will be available soon. The 2018-2019 version is currently available and is still a valuable resource (just don't look at event dates!). You can find it on [www.ncome.org](http://www.ncome.org).

Q: How do I purchase an OM Membership?

A: You can register for a membership [here](#)

Q: How much does tournament registration cost?

A: Early Bird cost is \$100 per team. After that it goes up to \$145. Primary team cost is \$25 regardless of registration date.

Q: Who can be a judge?

A: Anyone over the age of 18! There has been some misinformation throughout the region that it has to be a parent. It's actually better if it's not so the parent can see the team perform. Ask friends, older siblings, church members, community members, neighbors, teachers, coaches, anyone!

Q: Who can be a volunteer?

A: Again, the answer is almost anyone! This is a good job for parents because it's a 2-3-hour commitment that can be arranged around the team's performance. If you have a high schooler who needs volunteer hours, or your volunteer needs physical accommodations please contact Lexie Groner at [ncomeTD@gmail.com](mailto:ncomeTD@gmail.com).