

# **DOs AND DON'Ts FOR PARENTS AT AN ODYSSEY OF THE MIND COMPETITION from Creative Competitions, Inc.**

## **DO's**

- Remember that the coach is the adult directly responsible for the team and the only adult who can approach officials on the team's behalf. Any concerns you have should be discussed privately with the coach. If you confront any official, you risk having a stiff penalty assessed against your team.
- IF necessary, assist team members with the transfer of props and other materials from vehicles into the prop storage area and from the prop storage area to the pre-staging area, and assist with the transfer of performance items from the competition site once the judges have completed their evaluation of the team's performance.
- Exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Applaud for each team at the appropriate time.
- Stay away from the spontaneous check-in and competition area.
- Remember that your child will be sitting with their teammates and coaches at the ceremonies in an area for teams only. Please stay for the whole ceremony!
- Tell your child you are proud of their accomplishments.
- Remind your team to have a good time! Remember what is important in Odyssey of the Mind is the process, not the result.

## **DON'Ts**

- Flash signs such as "We're #1" or chant in front of other teams. Doing so marks your school as poor sports and does not help to make friends.
- Allow children to scream or to be rowdy near competition areas. Sound travels and such rowdiness lends credibility to a reputation of having wild or unruly children.
- Parents are only allowed in the prop storage area to drop off items they've helped carry in. You are not allowed to stay there. This area is for team members and coaches only to make final preparations for the competition.
- If you're helping to carry props to or from the competition sites, don't touch or adjust anything. Don't suggest what needs to be fixed or changed.
- Cost your team an outside assistance penalty! During the performance, don't say ANYTHING, e.g. "Turn it up" "The membership sign is crooked," or do ANYTHING for any team especially in the competition area. Don't apply makeup, style hair, help put on costumes or assemble props and equipment.
- Go near the spontaneous problem competition area – use this time as a quick break.
- Ask your child questions about the spontaneous problem. Discussing the problem prior to the end of all competition can disqualify the team. It is tempting to ask how the children feel they did, but it is best to avoid the topic entirely, or save it for a "ride home" conversation.
- Speak with the judges (unless to say "Thank you" – remember... all of these people are volunteers).
- Alter seating boundaries set up for the performance areas or the awards ceremony.