



SATURDAY MAY 28, 2022

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND WORLD FINALS



## Connect With Us! @OdysseyHQ

All evening events will be live streamed then posted through these [@OdysseyHQ](#) social accounts. Pics of WF will be posted to OdysseyHQ's Flickr. Be sure to tell your family and friends watching from home!

#OMWF22

#WeLoveOM

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## OM Graduates Take Center Stage

The special ceremony was both emotional and empowering.

In a touching graduation ceremony, the Class of '22 received powerful words of advice, a special friend of OM, and of the ceremony itself, was remembered, and the Odyssey family was bonded even more.

As OMer led the graduates to their seats in Hilton Coliseum, the stage filled with inspiring speakers. Katarina Micklus honored Dr. Harold Kurtz, WF Graduation Coordinator for over 30 years, by sharing how much he impacted the program.

Spirit Award winner, Dr. Jim Mourey inspired graduates to believe in themselves and in all the "superpowers" being in OM has given them, "OM changes who you are as a person. OMers are a unique bunch-- in the best possible way. Whereas others complain about problems, OMers solve them."

He concluded by replacing his graduation cap with his Timekeeper/Announcer "cap" and said, "Graduates the world is your stage. You're ready. Go get 'em! Your time begins now."

Class Valedictorian Samantha Pollard, wearing her own creative graduation cap decorated by the Texas creativity festival booth, reminded the class that they will always be connected as OM family, "As we enter the next chapter of our lives we'll go on to become doctors and lawyers, businessmen and tradeswomen, but there is one thing that will always remain. We will always be OMers."

Dr. Lisa Hackney, the incoming Graduation Coordinator held space for all the graduates to reflect on all the wonderful memories and solutions they've had while in the program and

then proudly introduced the class to Dr. Sam.

He also paid tribute to Harold and noted that he was, "smiling down on everyone here thinking what a job well done."

He then empowered the class with sage advice, "Set your lifetime goals high because you can achieve anything."

Dr. Lynn Larson concluded the ceremony by giving the benediction and announcing the graduates. Congratulations!



(top) Dr. Jim taking the stage as the graduates file in. (bottom) 1st place winner — a caterpillar that turns around and becomes a butterfly!

## Coaches Competition Fun For All!

Creative costumes, loud cheering, and chants filled Hilton Coliseum Friday night -- but it wasn't because of students, it was the coaches! Over 40 coaches rose to the challenge of creating a costume that looks different when moving forwards and back. It was a tough decision, but through crowd support and OM judging there were three winners and a best Style award!

1. Gentry Middle School, Arkansas
  2. Central High School, Michigan
  3. Donald H Eichhorn MS, Pennsylvania
- Style. DaVinci Connect, Southern California

# Odyssey World Finals Schedule

## Saturday, May 28

**8 a.m. to 4 p.m.:** World Finals Competition (check the app)

**9 a.m. to 5 p.m.:** Souvenir Sales, Memorial Union, Campanile Room

**9 a.m. to noon:** Creativity Festival, Lied Rec Center

**\*7 p.m.:** Awards Ceremony

**9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.:** Pre-Teen Party, Lied Rec Center

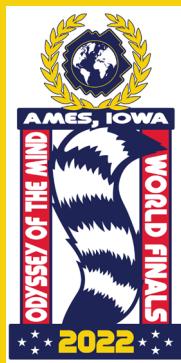
**9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.:** Teen Party, Lied Rec Center

**9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.:** Coaches Recovery Party, Sukup Endzone

## Sunday, May 29

**Before Noon:** Housing Check out

**REMINDER:** The coach must turn in **all room keys** at check out. An ISU team member will make note of all keys received.



# Buddy Teams Lend a Helping Hand

**I**magine going to a completely different country where you might not speak the same language as anyone else, not sure how to get around or what to do if you even need to go to the store. On top of that you are representing your school and area in a big competition! To some this would be a difficult challenge, but in OM it's an opportunity! Thanks to the Buddy Team program, teams and coaches not only help each other in unfamiliar places, but they become friends and learn so much about each other's cultures. Usually they find out they have more in common than not! "The Buddy Team program is an important component of World Finals. First and foremost, the buddy team provides a welcome and support to the International team. Imagine sending your child halfway around the world and knowing that there is a team and coach waiting to greet them and help problem solve and celebrate with them. The Buddy Team program allows the teams to learn about other cultures. And to possibly develop lifelong friendships," said Paula Mittner, Buddy Team Coordinator.

This rings true for Coach Adele Hennig from Arizona. She has been part of the program in the past and continues this year with a team from Korea, "Buddy teams are so great! My kids and I now have friends all around the world. I am still in close contact with folks from both Germany and Poland and we were even able to do our own high school student exchange for a semester."

While the program has a big impact on teams both here and abroad, at its core it's very simple. Enjoying local food, showing teams around the campus, or helping them fix props

that endured long travel! Hennig and her teams plan to simply get to know each other, watch each other's performances, and go swimming at the Aquatic Center.

Paula has witnessed many connections being made in her 20 years with the program, "My favorite part is meeting coaches at registration and having them tell me that the teams have already met over email, what's app etc. and are already friends and have plans to meet as soon as they are both on campus. As one coach said to me— The girls have similar interests and there is one girl on each team who loves turtles, what are the chances of that?"

Coach Melissa Rickman from Oklahoma agrees that the program is an important and fun part of World Finals, "There are so many things to love about having a Buddy team! Watching the team members sharing their stories with each other and getting to know them, learning about their country and culture. We exchanged information in advance and each team member wrote a few sentences about themselves to share. We try to meet them as soon as they arrive

on campus to help them get settled into the dorm and unload props. Both of which are daunting tasks after the long journey to campus. We are always excited to watch their performance and share meals and down time together when time permits," she said.

Coach Hennig sums it up perfectly, "For me the best memory is getting to see the realization that our 'weird out of the box' kids are not alone in the world, there are kids just like them in every corner of the planet. Good times for sure!"

**"The best memory is getting to see the realization that our 'weird out of the box' kids are not alone in the world, there are kids just like them in every corner of the planet."**



(Left) Coach Melissa's team from Jenks High School, OK with their Buddy Team from X Lo Wroclaw in Poland.  
(Right) Coach Adele's team from East Valley Cre8tive Kids anxiously awaiting their team from Seocho-Gu in Korea!

## Team Photos

Plan to get your team photo taken during World Finals! Bring your entire team to the booth to be photographed immediately after your competition. No appointments are necessary, but come as early as you can to avoid long lines. Costumes and props are strongly encouraged. Each team gets a free team picture courtesy of CCI. Photos will be taken at the following times and locations:

### Creativity Festival (Lied Rec Center)

- Saturday: 9 a.m. to noon

### Hilton Coliseum (Main Concourse)

- Saturday: 9:30 a.m. to noon

### Team picture prices:

- 5x7 — \$10
- 8x10 — \$20
- Key Chain special — \$20
- Light up photo badge Lanyard — \$20
- Odyssey Yearbook — \$25
- Thank you cards — \$10 + S&H



## Don't Miss Tonight's Awards Ceremony!

**T**eams, coaches, and officials have reserved Awards Ceremony tickets in their registration packets. All others will need to get their reserved seating tickets for the Ceremony from the Odyssey of the Mind Information Booth at the Memorial Union on Saturday by 5:30 p.m. Tickets will then be distributed from the lower west doors of Hilton Coliseum from 6-7:30 p.m. All seats are reserved. Clear bags are strongly encouraged; please, no backpacks, sacks, bags, or purses. All bags will be subject to search.

**Odyssey of the Mind World Finals Awards Ceremony - Saturday, May 25**  
**Hilton Coliseum, 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30)**

## Departure Shuttle Information

**R**eturn shuttle information can be confirmed at the Ames/ISU information desk at Memorial Union. All return shuttles will depart from the west side of the Memorial Union at the Odyssey of the Mind bus stop.

Blue CyRide will begin running at 6 a.m. to bring teams to the departure location at the Memorial Union bus stop. Teams departing before 6 a.m. will be notified of their pick-up location. Teams/individuals staying in hotels will be notified of scheduled departure time and location for pick-up.

For more detailed information, please go to the Ames/ISU information desk in the Memorial Union. For questions regarding airport transportation: 515-686-1520 (24-hour cell phone) or email: kima@amescvb.com.

## Creativity Festival Mixes Science with FUN!

**O**n Friday, the Creativity Festival was the place to be at World Finals! Teams explored booths, crafts, caricatures, and more, and they experienced some great demonstrations on the stage by Iowa State University student groups:

- ISU Material Advantage started off the day by showing attendees the exciting world of materials science and engineering. During their presentation, they demonstrated tempering steel, crunchy liquid nitrogen marshmallows (yum!), memory wire, pulling fiber optic strands, and heating pennies on a space shuttle tile.
- Next, was a chemistry demonstration from SCUM (Society of Chemistry Undergraduate Majors) where they taught the science behind chemical reactions. This presentation

made everyone curious about the scientific world and eager to explore more!

- The afternoon was dedicated to Iowa State trivia. Did you know that Iowa State was the first Land Grant University in the nation or that there are approximately 140 buildings on campus?
- The Department of Aerospace Engineering also stopped by to join in on the fun. Their "Make to Innovate" presentation provided a hands-on project to increase understanding of engineering fundamentals.
- The College of Design ended the day with their "Design Thinking" presentation that audience members by the many possible areas of design taught at Iowa State.

There's still time to visit today - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.!



Some of the many fun and interesting attractions at the Creativity Festival!

## Souvenir Update:

Due to high demand, World Finals 2022 hoodies and t-shirts are NOW AVAILABLE to order through the official Odyssey Shop.

[odysseyofthemind.com/shop/](http://odysseyofthemind.com/shop/)

Orders will be shipped after the conclusion of World Finals.

## Pin Trading Locations

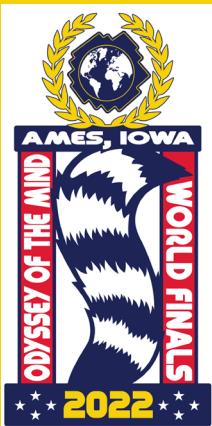
- At the Creativity Festival
- On the Scheman Building's south "overhang"
- Outside the Memorial Union (north lawn and west terrace)

**But please, no trading in hallways and corridors!**

## ARM & HAMMER™

### at the Festival:

Check out its DIY Slime station to make your own slime, test your strength on the More Power To You High Striker Game, show off your arm flex in the Baking Soda photo booth, and enjoy Arm & Hammer giveaways. 9 a.m. – noon.



# OM + ARM & HAMMER™ = a Great Team!

A special thanks goes to ARM & HAMMER™ Baking Soda for being such a fun part of World Finals and for sponsoring this year's technical problem, Odyssey reOMvention. Their generosity has helped thousands of kids explore their creativity and to possibly invent something that can help the world!

The company believes in so many Odyssey values, "Odyssey of the Mind challenges students to go beyond conventional thinking and use creative problem solving to tackle big problems. This commitment to creative problem solving is something we share at Arm & Hammer and it is why we are so proud to be in our 3rd year sponsoring

Odyssey of the Mind. The versatility of Arm & Hammer Baking Soda empowers our consumers to find creative solutions to everyday problems, this ingenuity has inspired many uses of Arm & Hammer Baking Soda from cleaning, baking,



The popular ARM & HAMMER™ booth at the Creativity Festival

to crafting and more," said Elizabeth Slenker, ARM & HAMMER™ Brand Manager.

And we all know that great things happen when OMers start feeling "crafty!"

"We are so grateful to ARM & HAMMER™ for believing in us and for sharing a common goal by investing in our future leaders and problem-solvers," said OM Program Director Sammy Micklus.

Be sure to check out a few "reOMventions" and be on the lookout for what problem the company sponsors next year! As OMers become more familiar with the product, they are bound to create many wonderful things.

If you haven't yet, visit the Creativity Festival today before noon and visit the ARM & HAMMER™ Baking Soda booth. Say 'hi' and thank them for being part of the Odyssey of the Mind family!



Missed something? You can find all past issues of OMER's News at [omworldfinals.com](http://omworldfinals.com)!

Share your OMerSelfies!  
Share your videos and selfies with the hashtag  
**#WeLoveOM**  
or send them to:  
[ootm.social@gmail.com](mailto:ootm.social@gmail.com)