Schedule of Events

Thursday, May 28
- Souvenir Sales: Memorial Union, Campanelle Room, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Scheman, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Team Registration: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Memorial Union OM Information Desk
- NASA Science Talks: Hoover Hall Room 2055, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- Creativity Festival: Lied Rec Center, 9 p.m.–5 p.m.
- Competitions: Various locations (check the app)
- Float & Banner Parade: Hilton Coliseum, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 29
- Competitions: Various locations (check the app)
- NASA Science Talks: Hoover Hall Room 2055, 10 a.m.
- Creativity Festival: Lied Rec Center, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- International Marketplace: Lied Rec Center, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Graduation: Hilton Coliseum, 7 p.m. (doors open 6:30 p.m.)
- Coaches Competition: Hilton Coliseum, 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 30
- Souvenir Sales: Memorial Union, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.; Lied Rec Center, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Creativity Festival: Lied Rec Center, 9 a.m.–Noon
- NASA Science Talks: Hoover Hall Room 2055, 10 a.m.
- Competitions: Various locations (check the app)
- Awards Ceremony: Hilton Coliseum, 7 p.m. (doors open 6:30 p.m.)
- Pre-Teen/Teen Parties: 9:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m.–Harvester Courtyard
- Coaches' Recovery Party: Gateway Hotel, 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m.

Visit discoverames.com to find more things to do around town!

Important! The OMER's World App is back!

Stay organized and be the first to know any updates or announcements by using the OM World Finals app **OMER's World Finals.**

The free app can be downloaded from your preferred app store.

You can find the World Finals Competition Schedule, Schedule of Events, shuttle routes, problem sites, local information, OMER's News digital editions, and more. **Search OMER's World Finals and download!**

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)
- Thursday: noon–5 p.m.
- Friday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m.–noon

Hilton Coliseum (Main Concourse)
- Wednesday: 7 p.m.–9 p.m.
- Thursday: noon–8:30 p.m.
- Friday: noon–8:30 p.m.
- Saturday: 6:30–9:30 p.m.

ARM & HAMMER™ at World Finals!

Be sure to visit our generous sponsor ARM & HAMMER™ during your time at World Finals! Representatives will have fun booths at the Creativity Festival with many fun and challenging hands-on activities including making slime, launching baking soda rockets, pin drops, and more!

Also check out some Problem 1: Off the Rails performances and see all the creative ways teams used ARM & HAMMER™ Baking Soda. Take both opportunities to thank them and continue using their wonderful product in creative ways!

Part of the fun of World Finals is meeting other OMers. Collect pins from U.S. states and around the world, as informal trading will be conducted throughout the week. You will see signs for specified pin trading locations throughout the campus.

Please trade fairly and be kind to our young OMers and show them the pin trading ropes! Sibling OMers can stop by the Creativity Festival Sibling Booth and receive a free lanyard of vintage pins to trade.

Odyssey of the Mind World Finals 2026 Ames, IA — OMER'S World News

Tuesday/Wednesday May 26-27, 2026 • Odyssey of the Mind World Finals • Iowa State University

Welcome to OM World Finals at Iowa State University!

Ames and Iowa State University love to host Odyssey of the Mind World Finals! We can't get enough of the energy and brain power generated by this event.

To get to the finals, thousands of teams throughout the U.S. and around the world participated in the program. 686 teams are competing in the Odyssey of the Mind 2026 World Finals. We are so glad you came!

If this is your first visit to Ames and ISU, here's a brief introduction and some fun things to discover while you're here:
- Iowa State is known for innovation, so you'll feel right at home on campus. Be sure to check out the Student Innovation Center!
- We think Ames is Iowa's coolest college town, and ISU is definitely Iowa's coolest college. Take a walk on campus and enjoy public art, park-like landscaping, and world-class architecture.
- Spring is in the air at Reiman Gardens, a 17-acre public botanical garden featuring a tropical plant conservatory, the Butterfly Wing, colorful annual displays, seasonal events, and Elwood, the world's largest concrete gnome.
- Take a break in the ISU Memorial Union, where you'll find bowling, shopping, food, and a coffee shop.

ISU is a beautiful backdrop to OMWF2026. Enjoy the campus and the welcoming community as you compete!

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, May 26
- Team Registration: Scheman Lobby 2, 12 p.m. to Midnight
- Officials Registration: Gateway Hotel Lobby
- Souvenir Sales: Scheman, 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 27
- Team Registration: Scheman Lobby 2, 10am-Midnight
- Souvenir Sales: Memorial Union, Campanelle Room, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Scheman, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Information Desk: Memorial Union, 8a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Opening Ceremonies: Hilton Coliseum*, 7 p.m. (doors open 6:30 p.m.)

**Assoc reps line up 6:45 east side tunnel*

Don't Miss Opening Ceremonies!

Teams, coaches, and officials will have reserved Opening Ceremony tickets in their registration packets. All others will need to get their reserved seating tickets from the Odyssey of the Mind Information booth in the Memorial Union building RM 2630 on Wednesday for the Opening Ceremonies by 5 p.m. Tickets will then be distributed from the lower west doors of Hilton Coliseum from 5:30-7:30 p.m. All seats are reserved.

Clear bags are required. No backpacks, sacks, bags, or purses. All bags subject to search.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; line up at 6:45 p.m. in the tunnel area east side of Hilton Coliseum.

Date: Wednesday, May 27
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Hilton Coliseum

Attention teams! Be sure to keep this copy of OMER's World News as a keepsake. The rest of the issues will be digital. You can download from the OM app OMER's World Finals or omworldfinals.com.

Prop Storage and Delivery

If you shipped props ahead of time:

Props will be delivered to each competition site by Wednesday, May 27, and access will be available beginning on Wednesday, May 27 at 8 a.m. During registration, staff will be on hand at the prop information booth at Scheman during Team Registration on Tuesday and Wednesday.

If you brought items with you:

If you brought props with you, you must load and unload your own items. Please see the prop delivery map at:
www.discoverames.com/odyssey.
Note the 10-minute time limit at designated drop off areas.

Prop return shipments:

Teams who wish to ship materials home must register such request with the ISU Prop Information booth for proper guidance.

Prop Storage Hours:

Wednesday: 8a.m. – 10 p.m.
Thursday: 7 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Friday: 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday: 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. (or 30 minutes following last competition, whichever is later). All remaining props to be packed for shipping or removed by 4 p.m.

Prop Storage Phone: 515-230-1308

The Power of Recycling!

It's a step towards a cleaner, greener future

Hey OMers! Iowa State University welcomes you to our campus! Let's take a moment to celebrate the excitement of participating in the World Finals and think about the positive impact we can make on our planet. At Iowa State, we believe in the power of recycling. Our small actions can make a huge impact and big change. Recycling is a priority at Iowa State, and we hope you join us with this passion.

Please make sure you consider recycling your waste when throwing out your materials. From cups to cans, paper to plastics, let's all do our part to keep waste out of the landfill and give our resources a second chance. OMers are experts at giving trash a second chance, so pitch in to keep ISU looking clean and beautiful!

Is it plastic, paper, metal, or wood? These items can be placed in the recycling bins/dumpsters and saved out of the landfill. Recycling cans are blue bins in the buildings; Recycling dumpsters are green and yellow with banners that say, "Recycle Here." Remember, "if in doubt, keep it out." Don't recycle things you are not sure about. Every item recycled, or material reused, is a step towards a cleaner, greener future for all. Thank you for your help! And congratulations on your success!

Connect: WiFi On Campus

While you're on the Iowa State University campus, you may access the guest WiFi network. To access the guest WiFi network, **IASTATE-Guest** – you must agree to the university's acceptable use policy before being connected to the Internet.

Once connected, access is available for 24 hours. At the end of 24 hours, you can request access again by agreeing to the terms and conditions for another 24 hours. Simply look for the IASTATE-Guest option when connecting.

Check out the OMER's World Finals App!

OMWorldFinals.com **Stay Connected**

ISU Recreation Program

Take advantage of all ISU has to offer! Aside from enjoying the scenic campus, special WF events, and local Ames activities, explore these recreation opportunities between competitions:

State Gym – Volleyball, basketball, climbing wall
Thursday: 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; 9-10:30 p.m. (Divisions 3/4)
Friday: 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; 9-10:30 p.m. (Divisions 3/4)
Saturday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

State Gym Pool – Swimming
Thursday: Noon to 5:30 p.m.; 9-10:30 p.m. (Divisions 3/4)
Friday: Noon to 5:30 p.m.; 9-10:30 p.m. (Divisions 3/4)
Saturday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Memorial Union – Cy-Bowl - Bowling and Billiards
Thursday: 1-5 p.m.
Friday: 1-5 p.m.
Saturday: 1-5 p.m.

Parking

Residence Area Parking

Teams housed in residence halls on campus will be able to park in a designated lot (information given at registration). Use the free Odyssey of the Mind CyRide bus route to get to and from the parking lots.

Iowa State Center Parking Lots (Hilton / Scheman / Fisher)

Those not staying in the residence halls should park at the Iowa State Center lots north and south of Hilton Coliseum. No charge for parking in these areas. Those teams that are staying off campus, must park at the Iowa State Center lot and utilize the shuttle service available on the west side of Stephens Auditorium CyRide bus route are provided to get you to central campus.

ISU Dining Locations & Hours

Participants should wear their wristbands around their wrists at all times. The bands are good for entry into the ISU Dining Centers.

Dining Center Hours:
Tuesday – Saturday
Breakfast: 6:30–9:30 a.m.;
Lunch: 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.;
Dinner: 4-7 p.m.
Sunday Breakfast: 6:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Be on the lookout for OMER as you explore all ISU and OM WF has to offer. Grab an Odysselfie and say hi!

Shuttles

CyRide, the Iowa State University and city of Ames public transit system, will operate a free bus service throughout the event. There are specific CyRide campus bus routes running during Odyssey of the Mind World Finals that will stop at Odyssey of the Mind venues. OM participants ride all CyRide buses free.

Tuesday: 12 p.m. – 11 p.m.
Wednesday: 6:30 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Thursday: 6:30 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Friday: 6:30 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Saturday: 6:30 a.m. - 1 a.m. Sunday
Sunday: 2 a.m. – Noon

More Info

More information about fun sites and activities around campus can be found in the World Finals Coaches Packet and DiscoverAmes.com

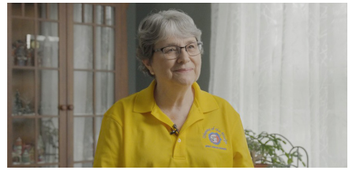
Download the World Finals 2026 Coaches Packet

Visit DiscoverAmes.com

Special OM Award Recipients

Be on the lookout for this year's Spirit Award winner! Paula Mittner has been bringing OMers together since 1993. She started as an Odyssey Parent, quickly became a Regional Director and is now the Treasurer for Creativity Unlimited in Michigan.

Paula has held the role of Buddy Team Coordinator for over 20 years and is the reason OMers have a chance to build friendships with others all over the world. Look for her at the Buddy Team Registration booth and at Opening Ceremonies!



FACEBOOK: www.fb.com/OdysseyHQ • **INSTAGRAM**: @Odyssey_HQ • **HASHTAG**: #OMWF26