



From the Director's Desk

With the school year now underway across the state, I wanted to take a moment to check in as we settle into September—and the early days of a brand-new Odyssey of the Mind season.

This is always one of my favorite times of year. There's something special about the energy that comes with a fresh start. Teams are forming, first meetings are happening, and those early ideas—the wild ones, the funny ones, the “wait... what if we actually did that?” ones—are beginning to spark. Whether you're a seasoned coach or a brand-new parent volunteer figuring it out as you go, I'm so glad you're here.

Across Florida, our regions are starting to host kickoff meetings, both in person and online. These are great opportunities to get familiar with the season, meet others in your area, and ask the

questions that always come up early on. If you're just getting started, I really encourage you to connect with your Regional Director (contacts listed at the bottom of the newsletter)—they're here to help and are such an important part of our statewide support team.

Long-term problems are out! For those of you who have a paid membership, the problems can be accessed on HQ's website. If you've not yet signed up, that can also be done on HQ's site. As of today, FLOMA has 67 memberships and counting!

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the FLOMA Board is working hard to get everything in place for the year ahead. From tournament planning to coach resources, we're focused on making sure teams have the support they need. I also have to say—we're really excited about this year's merch. I think it's going to be a hit!

Thank you, truly, for all you do to make Odyssey happen. This program is powered by volunteers—by coaches, coordinators, judges, parents, and supporters who believe in what creative problem solving can do for kids. We don't take that for granted.

I'm looking forward to the season ahead, and I hope it's already off to a great start for you and your team.

Anna Long, FLOMA AD
associationdirector@floma.org

September Events

*All events are in person unless otherwise noted.

Date	Event	Region
SEP 2	Coaches meeting (virtual)	Buc Bay
SEP 3 & 4 @ 7pm	Welcome to the 2025-2026 OM Season (virtual)	Space Coast
SEP 11 @ 5pm	Coach Welcome Session @ Morningside Elementary	Palms
SEP 16 @ 6:30pm	Coach Welcome Session @ Jensen Beach Elementary	Palms
SEP 27 @ 9am	Style Workshop @ Morningside Elementary	Palms

SEP 27 @ 12:45pm	Coaches Training @ Morningside Elementary	Palms
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Auction Incoming!

Get ready for FLOMA's 3rd annual online auction! Last year we had incredible items and experiences such as NASA merch, Rosen Plaza hotel stay, Brevard Zoo tickets, and more.

This year we hope to have even more up for bid! If you'd like to showcase your business while supporting FLOMA, email sponsorships@floma.org to donate now!



3RD ANNUAL ONLINE AUCTION



**BIDDERS
STAY
TUNED**

**ACCEPTING
DONATIONS
NOW**

**SHOWCASE YOUR
BUSINESS. SUPPORT A
MISSION.**
Donate to our auction and get
seen by passionate supporters
who want to shop with heart.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL SPONSORSHIPS@FLOMA.ORG

Alumni Advice



Are you a graduating senior or a collegiate volunteer/official who has participated in Odyssey? If so, did you know FLOMA offers two scholarships opening on October 1, 2025, and closing on March 1, 2026—each worth at least \$500? The FLOMA Scholarship Committee is excited to share this year's applications with you soon. Be sure to check our website and Facebook page next month for the official launch, along with full details on application requirements and selection criteria!



FLOMA Proud



This summer, Pasco County School Board honored those Gulf Coast Odyssey teams who represent public or charter schools, so six of their nine World Finals teams got to shake hands with the district leaders:

Dayspring Academy, P2D1, Dayspring Academy A, P3D3, Dayspring Academy B, P3D3, Lacoochee ES, P5D1, Connerton ES, P5D1, and Pineview ES, PID1.

Thank you to the board, region, and teams—you make us FLOMA proud!

FLOMer of the Month

Mrs. Mentillo, Ocean Breeze Elementary

Mrs. Mentillo has been nominated for her incredible dedication to her students and her passionate leadership. This past year, she supported multiple OM teams, and her commitment left a lasting impact on both students and families.

The nomination highlights how her passion for OM is “infectious and encouraging—not only to the students, but to us parents.” Through her guidance, many students discovered new skills and a renewed sense of confidence. One parent shared that their son, who had previously focused on sports, tried OM for the first time and experienced tremendous personal growth. “It has been an amazing journey to watch him grow under Mrs. Mentillo’s leadership,” they wrote.

Know a team member, coach, volunteer, or parent who shows the true spirit of Odyssey of the Mind? We'd love to feature them in next month's newsletter!

Email your nomination to outreach@floma.org.

Regional Director Contacts

Don't know what region you're in? Check out our Region map here:

<https://www.floridaodysseyofthemind.com/contacts>

Buccaneer Bay	Amanda Pope	BucBayRD@FLOMA.org
Emerald Coast	Doug & Martha Smith	EmeraldCoastRD@FLOMA.org
Gulf Coast	Freda Abercrombie	GulfCoastRD@FLOMA.org
Magic Center	Charlene Norato	MagicCenterRD@FLOMA.org
Manatee	Lindsey Waggoner	ManateeRD@FLOMA.org
Nature Coast	Dawn Pharr	NatureCoastRD@FLOMA.org
Palms	Judi Ackerman	PalmsRD@FLOMA.org
Space Coast	Melinda Gerding	SpaceCoastRD@FLOMA.org
Sun	Marlana Rodriguez	SunRD@FLOMA.org



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