

The Creativity Chronicles



From the Director’s Desk:

Welcome to the 2025–2026 Odyssey of the Mind Season!

As we turn the calendar to August, we officially welcome the start of a new Odyssey season across Florida. Whether you're a returning team or just getting started, this is the time of year when the planning begins—teams are forming, ideas are circulating, and the earliest steps of the creative process are taking shape.

If you're new to Odyssey of the Mind, we’re glad you're here. Getting started can feel like a lot—but you don’t have to figure it out alone. Your Regional Director is your best point of contact as you begin forming a team or navigating early questions. Don’t hesitate to reach out. We are here to support you.

For those returning, now is a good time to reconnect with your teams, begin those first conversations around the problem synopses, and revisit the basics before things start moving quickly.

A few reminders as the season begins:

- Follow FLOMA on Facebook, and be sure to follow your regional Facebook pages as well. We post updates from HQ, tournament details, and important reminders throughout the year.
- The latest Program Guide is available at odysseyofthemind.com. It’s a valuable resource—not only for understanding the rules, but for official guidance and best practices directly from HQ.
- You don’t need all the answers right now. It’s okay to start slow. Whether your team is already meeting or just starting to form, the most important thing is that you're here and you're engaged.

Florida OM has always been defined by the strength of its teams—and the dedication of its coaches, coordinators, parents, and volunteers. Thank you for continuing to create space for students to grow as thinkers, problem solvers, and teammates.

We look forward to what this season holds. Let’s get started.

Anna Long, FLOMA AD
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August Events

*all events are in person unless otherwise noted

- AUG 5**
 - Interest Meeting (virtual) - Buc Bay
- AUG 18**
 - Leading the Adventure: Recruitment (virtual) - Palms
- AUG 20**
 - Let the Journey Begin: Coaching (virtual) - Palms
 - Educator Open House at the Jacksonville Zoo - Manatee

Read Our Season Prep Guide

Reach out to your Regional Director or visit our Facebook page to access the Season Prep Guide! It’s packed with problem synopses, important dates, helpful links, tips, and tricks to kickstart your Odyssey year—you won’t want to miss it!

Alumni Advice



Do you have ideas for future alumni events? We are actively working to plan for next year and would love your input! Email alumni@floma.org with any ideas/suggestions!

Are you an Odyssey Alum?
Scan the QR code to join the national alumni database!!!



<https://www.odysseyalumni.org/>

Spontaneous Problem of the Month

(Hands-On) Radio Activity: Use materials to move 12 balls from a plate to a container in 3 minutes. Move one ball at a time and only use the materials provided. Once you use a material, it cannot be used again.

 **Like**

Stay Connected

Follow *Florida Odyssey of the Mind* on Facebook for real-time updates throughout the season.

Program Guide Pointers

The Program Guide states that “all students can benefit from participation in Odyssey of the Mind,” and we couldn't agree more. Great teams are often made up of students who think creatively, collaborate well, or simply need a space to shine.

The guide encourages building a team with a variety of talents—“an artist, musician, computer expert, writer”—to create a group that’s both versatile and supportive.



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FLOMA Proud

This year, FLOMA teams and supporters were celebrated at four school board meetings across the state—a huge step for Florida Odyssey recognition!



Martin County honored all local teams that placed at Regionals and State, and Palms presented their Superintendent with an Outstanding OMER Award for supporting teachers and teams. Coaches and students received special recognition and awards!

St. Lucie County was recognized for generously supporting the Palms’ Regional Tournament by providing space the past three years. Their Superintendent also received an Outstanding OMER Award for ongoing support of training and tournaments.



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FLOMA Proud



Palm Beach County celebrated Pierce Hammock Elementary for their success at Regionals and making it to State.

The School District of Lee County recognized their two World Finalist teams at the August School Board meeting. Congratulations on your recognition North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts and North Fort Myers High School!



Coming Soon: FLOMer of the Month

This year, we’re celebrating the amazing people behind Odyssey in Florida. Each month, *The Creativity Chronicles* will feature a FLOMer of the Month—a standout team member, coach, official, or volunteer. Want to nominate someone? Email outreach@floma.org with:

- Your name, region, and school (if applicable), and your connection to the person you're nominating.
- Their name, region, and school (if applicable).
- Why you’re nominating them—what makes them an exceptional FLOMer?
- A photo of the nominee (optional, but encouraged!). Just them—or a picture of you together.