



*Creative Competitions, Inc.'s*  
**Odyssey of the Mind®**

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Dear Odyssey of the Mind Team Members, Coaches, Families and Supporters,

The world is experiencing a great amount of uncertainty, stress, and anxiety due to the Covid-19 virus. Nothing is life as usual. It's most important that everyone follow guidelines and restrictions to help stop the spread and damage caused by this pandemic. As reports continually come out about brilliant scientists and doctors making great headway in developing medicines to cure and immunizations to prevent this invisible enemy, I can't help but think how OMers are the exact type of people who have the tools and heart to serve in those roles.

Out of caution for everyone's personal safety, Odyssey of the Mind 2020 World Finals is going to be held virtually. Registration will start on April 1 and entry will continue through May 15. Because a great number of teams from all over the world had no opportunity to demonstrate their solutions, the Odyssey of the Mind 2020 Virtual World Finals will be open to all teams. All solutions will still be viewed and scored by our selfless trained and dedicated Odyssey volunteer officials. We are scheduled to stream our Awards Ceremony on May 30<sup>th</sup> just as it would have been had we gone to the ISU campus.

Registration and guidelines will be posted on April 1. Be sure to check our website and social media accounts for more information and any updates regarding 2020 Virtual WF.

Let me emphasize personal safety – Odyssey of the Mind does not want anyone to put participation above health and safety. Teams will be allowed to submit a video and even replace it if they want to up until the deadline. Do not congregate if your area is on self-quarantine. Use caution, wash your hands properly and use social distancing until told otherwise. There will also be a spontaneous competition in May.

As sad as it is that so many tournaments were cancelled, we are blessed to live in a time where technology allows us to host a virtual World Finals. We want to see all the work the teams have put into their solutions and recognize their efforts and creativity. This is far from perfect, but we feel it is the best option under the circumstances.

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay creative!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sammy Micklus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sammy Micklus

*Executive Director*  
*Odyssey of the Mind*