NORTH CAROLINA ODYSSEY OF THE MIND
2026-2027 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

North Carolina Odyssey of the Mind (NCOM) is pleased to announce three college scholarships available to current and/or former Odyssey of the Mind participants. Each scholarship is a one-time scholarship of $1,000. Recipients must demonstrate creative problem-solving skills as well as outstanding sportsmanship, perseverance, and teamwork skills.

To be eligible for the NCOM Scholarship, you must:

- Have participated for a minimum of one year in Odyssey of the Mind from team creation through competition.
- Be a high school senior with plans to attend college, university, or a vocational school in the fall of 2027 **OR** be a full-time student currently enrolled in a college, university, or vocational school.
- Not be a previous Odyssey of the Mind scholarship recipient.
- First consideration will be given to applicants for the Susan Lawson Memorial Scholarship who are enrolled in undergraduate education programs or are pursuing higher degrees in the education field. **The Lawson scholarship is open to team members, coaches, and other Odyssey of the Mind volunteers.**

2026-2027 SCHOLARSHIPS:

- **Lynda McGinty Scholarship –** In recognition of being a co-founder of NCOM and of over 40 years of faithful service to the Odyssey of the Mind program and NCOM. (Co-sponsored by NCOM and donations)

- **Susan C. Hultin Memorial Scholarship -** Susan Hultin was an educator in the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System and a strong supporter of NCOM (Funded by a grant established by her family)

- **Susan Lawson Memorial Scholarship** – Susan Lawson was a long-time educator, regional director, state board member, state problem captain, coach, mentor, and guiding light for Odyssey of the Mind and NCOM. (Sponsored by the Lawson Family)

TO APPLY FOR AN NCOM SCHOLARSHIP, COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING~~~~

Mail all of the following documents to the address listed below:

1. Your NCOM Scholarship Application Form (pages 2-3 below).

2. A **Personal Inquiry** response to **ONE** of the following three questions. Your response may take any form, format, or style you wish but please limit your response to no more than two pages double spaced.

a. How has Odyssey of the Mind affected/influenced your life?

b. Describe your most memorable Odyssey of the Mind experiences. How will your experiences continue to be a part of your life?

c. What personal characteristics have you developed from your involvement in Odyssey of the Mind? How will you further develop those characteristics?

3. **ONE** letter of recommendation from an **Odyssey of the Mind** coach, limited to one page, double spaced. The letter should address the student's creative problem-solving skills, spontaneous problem-solving ability, and teamwork and leadership skills. Please use the attached form.

4. **ONE** letter of recommendation from a school official (high school administrator, teacher or counselor, or college professor or advisor) limited to one page, double-spaced on current school stationery. The letter should address the student's creative problem-solving ability, sportsmanship, perseverance and teamwork skills. Please use the attached form for reference.

5. Copy of high school transcript (for high school applicant) **and/or** college transcript (for college applicant)

ALL supporting information **MUST** be returned with the application.
MAIL all materials to:

Pamela Norton
NCOM Scholarship Committee
103 Oakland Drive
Black Mountain, NC 28711

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ALL INFORMATION IS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2027.

The NCOM Scholarship Committee will notify winners by **March 10, 2027,** and will request the winners to attend the State Finals Competition at Western Carolina University. **Applications received after the deadline or incomplete will not be considered.**

NORTH CAROLINA ODYSSEY OF THE MIND
2026-2027 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Applicant's Name: _____

Address:_____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address:_____

School: _ Check one: ____12th grade ____ College

I. Personal Information:
GPA (on 4-point scale): _____
Current class rank / number of students in class: _____/_____
For high school applicants: What college/university/ vocational school do you plan to attend? What is your planned field of study?

_____
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For college applicants: What is your current field of study?

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II. Odyssey of the Mind Involvement:
How many years have you participated on an Odyssey of the Mind team? _____
Are you currently on an Odyssey of the Mind team? _____ If "No", are you currently involved with a team? (Circle – Yes or No) If "Yes", in what capacity?

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Have you or your team received a Ranatra Fusca or OMER Award? (Circle –Yes or No)
Describe: _____

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List the long-term problems(s) in which you have participated as a team member:

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List the long-term problems or Odyssey of the Mind events in which you have participated other than as a team member. Describe your involvement.

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Attach:

- Application Form (pages 2 & 3 of this document)
- Personal Inquiry Essay (page 4 of this document)
- Official Copy of Academic Transcript(s)
- Letter of Recommendation from Odyssey of the Mind Coach (page 5 of this document)
- Letter of Recommendation from School Official (page 6 of this document)

Include all supporting information with your application. **Your submission must be received at the address listed by the close of business on February 20, 2027.**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

To all scholarship candidates: The members of the NCOM Board thank you for your involvement in the Odyssey of the Mind program. We hope you continue to be involved so other North Carolina students will have opportunities to experience "life on the Odyssey of the Mind stage."

III. Personal Inquiry: Respond to **ONE** of the following questions in any form, format, or style you wish but please limit your response to **no more than two pages, double-spaced**.

a. How has Odyssey of the Mind affected / influenced your life?

b. Describe your most memorable Odyssey of the Mind experiences. How will these experiences continue to be a part of your life?

c. What personal characteristics have you developed from your involvement in Odyssey of the Mind? How will you further develop those characteristics?

(Attach additional pages if needed.)

To be completed by Odyssey of the Mind Coach

(If you are forwarding a typed page, please attach it to this sheet)

Student's Name:_____

Coach's Name:_____

Relationship to student: _____

The above-named student is applying for a scholarship from North Carolina Odyssey of the Mind. Please discuss the student's creative problem-solving skills, spontaneous problem-solving ability, and teamwork and leadership skills.

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Signature:_____

To be completed by School Official:

(If you are forwarding a typed page, please attach it to this sheet)

Student's Name:_____

School Official's Name: _____ **Position:**_____

The above-named person has applied for a scholarship from North Carolina Odyssey of the Mind. Please discuss the student's creative problem-solving ability, sportsmanship, perseverance, and teamwork skills.

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Signature: _____