

411 On Outside Assistance

It is imperative that every aspect of your team's solution is generated by the kids themselves. No coach, parent, sibling, or friend may contribute in any way to any part of the problem. For example, as a coach, you may demonstrate how to sew a costume, but you may NOT sew any part of the costume that will be used in the competition. Judges are trained to ask questions about who did what, and kids are always very honest. If something is too difficult for your team to manage, go back to the drawing board and let them choose a different solution.

AS A COACH, YOU ARE ALLOWED TO:

- Be a "recording secretary" to your team. Write exactly what the kids say. (This includes the script)
- Provide leading questions to prompt students to think. For example, "How many different ways are there to make scenery?" "What are some different ways a story can be presented?"
- Show YouTube videos or other OotM performances
- Show multiple ways to connect objects
- Ask questions to make sure the solution is well thought out.
- Division I may fill out paperwork, Division II and III must complete it themselves
- Bring in a specialist to teach the kids MULTIPLE ways to solve problems
- Go on fieldtrips – Home Depot, library, a play, recycle center...

YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO:

- Say things like, "Don't you think it would be better to..."
- Give your ideas, work on their projects or costumes.
- Only teach/show one way to solve a problem or complete a task.
- Allow a sibling, friend, or anyone other than the team members to work on the challenge.
- Send homework home so parents can help the kids.
- Tell students how to "fix" problems.