

## FAQ Regarding District Sponsorship vs. Non-District Sponsorship

1. **If our team is non-district sponsored, can we receive funding/support from our school's PTA/PTO?**
  - a. *Financial support* can be provided by the school's PTA/PTO if the PTA/PTO is recognized as an organization by the school district and abides by its policies or if they operate as a non-profit.
  - b. However, you cannot be "sponsored" by this group unless they are a separate 501c3 organization. If your PTA/PTO is district-sponsored, it cannot, in turn, sponsor a non-district sponsored team.
2. **If we are non-district sponsored, can we receive funding from outside organizations that give funding to the school that is earmarked for our group?**
  - a. Yes. You can still receive some limited financial support as it is *available* through district channels.
3. **If a district staff member has agreed to be a *sponsor* (not coach) for a team do they have to be present at the district events (i.e.; Thompson Robotics Expo or a district chess meet) since those are district-sponsored events and the district staff organizing those events will be present?**
  - a. ??? We're checking into this.
4. **The sponsorship guidelines say our team must be "open to all interested and/or eligible students." Does this mean we cannot put size caps on our groups? Does it mean that kids who are not cognitively ready for the group have to be allowed to participate? What about kids who have participated but been asked to leave because of conduct problems?**
  - a. When you decide to start a new season for your team, make an announcement or invitation to the student body in order to give the opportunity for students/families to express their interest. You are expected to make reasonable efforts to include all students who are interested and qualified.
  - b. You may require an application for admittance on the team, but you must seriously consider all applications received before finalizing the team roster.
  - c. You may have caps on size based on reasonable supervision limits or based on the number allowed on a team for competition purposes.
    - i. If your team(s) is full, do not turn students away until you have done the following:
      1. Announce the need for additional volunteer coaches.
        - a. Start with the families of students who want to be on the team.
        - b. Send an invitation through your whole-school communications.
        - c. Contact the GT office (613-5057) for advertising to the larger GT community.
      2. If no coaches are acquired or the faculty sponsor cannot accommodate another team (see "3" below), please have the family of the student(s) turned away call the GT office (613-5057) to see if there are other nearby schools that have space on their teams.
      3. Please note: Odyssey of the Mind faculty sponsors are paid and are expected to accommodate teams for which coaches are available. Exceptions to this should be discussed with the district Athletics and Activities Office or the Gifted and Talented Office.
5. **If we are non-district sponsored, does our team have to pay to meet in a school?**

- a. Yes. The district charges community groups for facility use.
  - b. If a team is not district sponsored and plans to use a district building, they will be assessed \$3/hour for elementary classrooms and \$4/hour for secondary classrooms. There may be additional custodial fees.
  - c. The form to request building use (as well as the related policies and other information) is available at the TSD website.
- 6. What do our volunteer coaches need to do to be cleared to coach if we are district-sponsored?**
  - a. All volunteers must first register with the district. This is a one-time process.
  - b. Each school year, a volunteer must update his/her profile with the district. However, a volunteer should only REGISTER one time.
  - c. GT enrichment program volunteers must attend our one-hour district training (live or online) and any other district required volunteer training. Contact the GT office for more information.
  - d. Beginning later this fall, volunteers will be issued a badge that must be worn when volunteering.
- 7. Are there options for background checks if we are non-district sponsored?**
  - a. Yes. While the district cannot complete checks for volunteers of non-district sponsored groups, these community groups may choose to contract for their own checks to be run. The company the district's VITAL office uses for volunteer checks accepts outside groups (at the expense of those individual groups). Contact Korinne Fancher at 1-800-943-2589, x2223.
- 8. In the past, the GT Office has paid for one team's national registration for our school. Can we still receive this financial support in the 2012-2013 school year?**
  - a. District-sponsored teams: Yes. Please submit the sponsorship form (top half of the agreement form) and the registration will be completed as usual.
  - b. Non-district sponsored teams: Yes, if funds are available and a completed support form (bottom half of the agreement forms) is on file with the GT Office.
- 9. If we are district-sponsored, does our faculty sponsor have to attend our team meetings?**
  - a. Yes. The faculty member who signs the agreement form as your sponsor (and, in the case of OM, is paid as the OM sponsor) must be present and engaged in all team meetings. The faculty member does NOT have to be the coach of the team but can be the second adult required.
- 10. When and where do we send our completed agreement forms? Where can we find these forms?**
  - a. In May 2012, the agreement forms were sent in emails to all coaches, sponsors, and program coordinators we had in our contact lists. These forms are available on the Northern Colorado GT Parent Wikispace (<http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/>), or by contacting the GT Parent Liaison: [jennifer.solt@thompsonschoools.org](mailto:jennifer.solt@thompsonschoools.org). We are working to have this available from the TSD website as well.
  - b. The completed and signed forms should be sent to the GT Office through interschool mail addressed to Michelle Stout @ LS/GT or mailed/dropped off to 800 S. Taft, Loveland, CO, 80537, ATTN: Michelle Stout, LS/GT.
  - c. The forms are due BEFORE your students begin meeting as a team.