



MICHIGAN'S PREMIER MOTORCOACH CONNECTION
BETWEEN EAST LANSING, ANN ARBOR
& DETROIT METRO AIRPORT



e-news

MAY 2019



Bringing the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals to MSU

Between May 22 and 25, more than 20,000 students, teachers, parents and volunteers from around the globe will travel to Michigan State University for the 40th annual Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. It's an educational competition whose mission is to provide creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college.

"We were very fortunate to bring this major event to the community originally," says Julie Pingston, executive vice president of the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau (GLCVB), whose mission is to promote

the region as a visitor destination to impact the area's economy. "Now it comes every other year, rotating between MSU and Iowa State University, and gives our community a huge, multi-million-dollar boost. Most mid-Michigan hotels, restaurants, retail shops, businesses and attractions benefit from it."

Michigan Flyer and its parent company, Indian Trails, play a key role in making this big educational gathering a success, just as we did in helping to attract it in the first place. Together, we have dozens of buses ready to transport thousands of participants from Detroit Metro Airport to East Lansing, all around campus during the event, and then back to DTW when it's over.



What Odyssey of the Mind is All About

Competing at MSU will be 894 teams of seven members each, whose performance will be assessed by 450 volunteer judges and officials. Each team chooses one of [these five competitive problems](#) to solve under the guidance of an adult coach. Some are technical, while others are artistic or performance-oriented.

The U.S. teams—from 32 states including Michigan—have been working on their solutions all year, and previously reached championship status through

competitions at the state level. So have their international counterparts from Africa and 13 nations that are sending their best of the best: Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, and Switzerland.

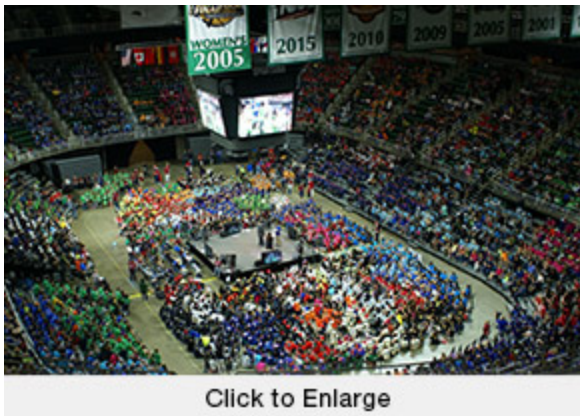


Julie Pingston

Ultimately, on Saturday, May 25, before a packed house at MSU's Breslin Center, 19 teams—one per age group solving the five problems—will be named World Champions of Creative Problem-Solving.

Along the way, the Odyssey kids will fill MSU's residence and dining halls, form life-long friendships with both teammates and opponents from around the globe, and have loads of fun at a Creativity Festival, an International Festival, a Coaches & Officials Competition, and NASA-sponsored events. They'll explore and patronize businesses in the surrounding area, too.

"We work on getting them out in the community by sharing all the different things that are going on here," says Pingston. "We staff information tables throughout campus. We make hotel arrangements for all the judges and officials, and provide vouchers paid for by the Odyssey organization for them to eat at local restaurants. We publish five editions of a daily newspaper so Odyssey participants know what's going on in terms of the schedule, evening events, and attractions in the community."



Click to Enlarge

Give Participants a Warm Welcome

While many of the U.S. teams arrive by car, all of the international teams fly to U.S. airports, and a high percentage of them use the buses of Michigan Flyer and Indian Trails to access the Greater Lansing area.

"We're glad Michigan Flyer exists," says Pingston. "Otherwise, they'd be trying to rent cars, and with a team of seven 12-year-olds from China, for example, that can be problematic."

Members of our staff will join other folks from GLCVB

and MSU to greet Odyssey participants at DTW. Since the teams tend to travel around the area wearing matching t-shirts, you may want to give them a warm welcome, too. Also, Odyssey of the Mind World Finals events at MSU are free and open to the public, if you'd like to join in the excitement.



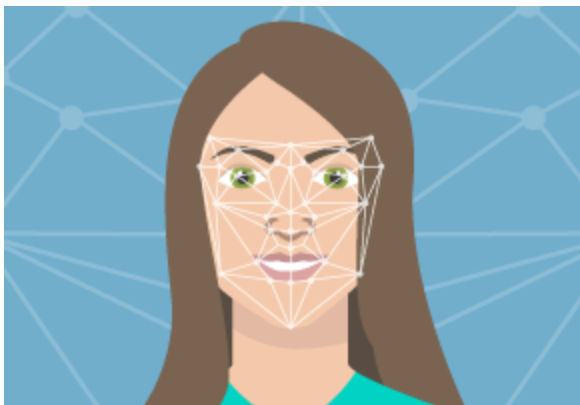
Travel Bargains

Less than \$800: 7 Days in Las Vegas for 2, including Flights from DTW

Considering the low package prices available now, it's not too soon for a couple to start planning a fall vacation to, say, Las Vegas. We used the Expedia website to spot-check a sample trip departing Detroit Metro Airport on Oct. 9 and returning from Las Vegas on Oct. 16. Up popped a deal that includes seven nights at the well-regarded Stratosphere Hotel, Casino & Tower, as well as roundtrip nonstop flights on Frontier

Air, all for \$773. For \$35-\$69 more, depending on the flight selected, you could opt for Delta Airlines instead.

Alternatively, if you wouldn't need hotel accommodations, the per-person roundtrip airfare for nonstop flights on the same dates was listed as \$207 on Frontier, \$244 on Delta, when we checked.



Air Travel News

Smile, You're on Candid (Facial Recognition) Camera

If you've taken an airplane flight recently, or plan to do so in the future, an image of your face may wind up in a database of the U.S. Customs & Border Patrol (CBP). That's partly because of an executive order signed two years ago by President Trump to help protect the nation from terrorism by foreign nationals. Among other things, [the order](#) calls for facial recognition screening of

all international passengers by 2021 using a "biometric entry-exit system" originally mandated under a law signed by President Obama.

CBP already has access to photos of all visa holders who've entered the United States legally. The new system scans every passenger's face before they board a plane that's leaving the country. If no match is found in the database, it may indicate that the passenger has been in the U.S. illegally. But use of this technology extends beyond screening by CBP and TSA agents. Airports and airlines are using it, too.

A recent BuzzFeed News [article](#) says the facial recognition system is now in use at 17 major U.S. airports. And the Detroit Free Press [reports](#) that Delta Airlines is rolling the technology out to all gates in DTW's McNamara terminal, with scanners placed at the check-in kiosks, baggage counter and TSA checkpoint.

Considering the Fourth Amendment ban on searches and seizures done without first showing probable cause, privacy advocates worry that there are no laws limiting the use of facial recognition. On the other hand, the CBP says U.S. citizens can decline facial recognition and opt instead to confirm their identities through the normal boarding process. Besides thwarting terrorists, the technology is apt to speed up the security screening and boarding processes.

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There

East Lansing

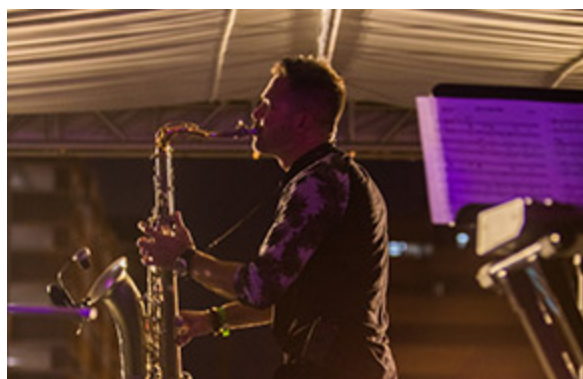


Area Transportation Authority (CATA) buses all day with a single [50-cent transfer](#).



✍ [Be a Tourist in Your Own Town](#). On Saturday, June 1, join 15,000 residents and visitors for this annual event created by the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau to showcase the area's attractions. Buy a [\\$1 "passport"](#) at one of many locations for FREE admission to [more than 100 attractions](#) in and around town between 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Special tours include Broad Art Museum, Impression 5 Science Center, Michigan Historical Museum, Michigan Princess Riverboat, MSU Dairy Store, MSU Horticultural Gardens, MSU Museum, Potter Park Zoo, State Capitol Building, and much more. Ride Capital

✍ ["I Love the 90's" Concert](#), 7 p.m.-11 p.m. on Friday, June 7, at Cooley Law School Stadium (home of the Lansing Lugnuts), 505 E. Michigan Ave. in downtown Lansing. This big throwback concert will feature performances by mid-90s artists Vanilla Ice, Coolio, Kid 'n Play, All 4 One, Young MC and C&C Music Factor with Freedom Williams. Tickets start at \$39; a "meet and greet" package (\$234 + fees) gets you seating in the first six rows, a photo with Vanilla Ice and his autograph.



✍ [Summer Solstice Jazz Festival](#). This free two-day event at the corner of Bailey and Albert in downtown East Lansing features the best in local, regional and national musical talent, children's activities, a traditional New Orleans-style Second Line Parade and more. See the [performer lineup here](#) (when it's posted online). Produced by the city of East Lansing and the MSU College of Music, it happens from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, June 21 and 22.

music from Thursday, June 27, through Sunday, June 30, at Adado Riverfront Park in downtown Lansing. This 20th annual festival will feature performances from national, regional, and local acts on two stages. [Tickets](#): including fees, one-day tickets start at around \$60; a full-festival general admission pass at about \$100. Here's the [lineup of performers](#).

✍ [Common Ground Music Festival](#), four days of

Find more local coming events with the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar:

<http://www.lansing.org/events>

Ann Arbor



603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Tickets start at \$45.



family entertainment—over 175 concerts and events in all, most of them free. There are both indoor and outdoor venues and spaces on the University of Michigan campus and in downtown Ann Arbor.

Outdoors, for example, “Movies By Moonlight” are projected on a gigantic inflatable screen at Top of the Park, 915 E. Washington Street. Vendors offering popcorn, beverages and other treats add to the festivities where friends and families gather under the stars to watch such films as Frozen, Won’t You Be My Neighbor, Eighth Grade, Paddington, Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner, Arrival, Black Panther, Field of Dreams, Crazy Rich Asians, Bill & Ted’s Excellent Adventure, Bohemian Rhapsody, and The Greatest Showman. All screenings are free and shown at 10 p.m.



Melissa Etheridge

 **Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder.** He struck his first chords on a mandolin over 50 years ago, and with Kentucky Thunder, his band of virtuoso pickers, he leads the revival of roots music. A 15-time Grammy winner and member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Skaggs has made it his mission in life to introduce a new generation of listeners to bluegrass and traditional American music. Special guests the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic open the show, which is a benefit for them. Saturday, May 25, at 8 p.m., Michigan Theater,

 **Ann Arbor Restaurant Week.** June 9-14 is your opportunity to try as many [great Ann Arbor restaurants](#) as your schedule allows for low fixed prices: \$15 for lunch or \$28 for dinner, with many restaurants offering 2-for-1 pricing. Simply make reservations at the restaurant of your choice, and enjoy!

 **Ann Arbor Summer Festival.** Its 36th season runs from June 14 through July 7, six nights each week starting at 5 p.m. The festival features music, comedy, film, spoken word, contemporary circus, street arts, and

Indoors, Melissa Etheridge headlines the paid Main Stage program on Wednesday, July 3, at 8 p.m. at U-M’s Power Center. A rock visionary, she’s chalked up 14 albums, 15 Grammy nominations (two wins), and an Academy Award. Her bittersweet songs connect listeners to what she calls “personal healing, national healing, and human healing.” Tickets start at \$48.50.

Check the Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar for more local events:

<https://www.visitannarbor.org/splash/events>

Four Tips for Smarter Travel

[Know How to Find us at DTW’s McNamara Terminal.](#)



 [Download Our Free Smartphone App to Track Your Bus in Real Time.](#)

 [Change Your Own Reservations Online, Sometimes.](#)

 [Buy an Affordable Travel Insurance Policy.](#)

Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

Please use the review sites below to let others know about your Michigan Flyer-AirRide experience and help them to understand how our service might meet their travel needs.



On Memorial Day, We Salute Those Who Gave Their Lives in Our Armed Forces

It didn't start out as the unofficial start of summer with picnics, parades, and department store sales.

Originally called Decoration Day in 1868, it began as a way to remember the 620,000 people killed during the Civil War by decorating their graves. The first national celebration of the holiday took place at Arlington National Cemetery, where both Confederate and Union

soldiers were buried.

At the turn of the century it was renamed Memorial Day. A federal law enacted in 1971 designated observance of the holiday on the last Monday in May, and extended the honor to all soldiers who died in American wars. Today, national observance of Memorial Day still takes place at Arlington National Cemetery with the laying of a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the decoration of each grave with a small American flag.

Why Drive?

Booking is easy, [click here](#) to view schedules on



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