



**SUPER
SECRET**

THE OCTAGON VALLEY SOCIETY

EVENT KIT



^{SUPER SECRET} GETTING READY TO CELEBRATE THE OCTAGON VALLEY SOCIETY

PREP YOUR OCTAGON VALLEY EVENT SPACE

Make sure to go the EXTRA! mile to celebrate the arrival of *The (Super Secret) Octagon Valley Society* (OVS) for readers to ensure your event isn't just *ordinary*, it's EXTRAordinary!

DECOR

To prepare event attendees for their grand reading adventure and set the stage for the novel's setting, introduce readers to the mysterious high-tech institute of the uber-famous, ultrabazillionaire genius recluse Onasander Octagon. The OV Institute is set in the rugged Montana landscape yet surrounded by forests, so be sure to introduce it into your space by creating backdrop scenes of the rugged mountain with looming towers to help get attendees into the Octagon Valley series spirit. Begin by using butcher paper to create your backdrops, and for added book-related fun, create copies of faux OVAEO titled "tests" and question cards for question 108 ("Do you see this question?") being sure to either post #108 or scatter them throughout the entry of your event space. For additional book-related connections and some visual clues of the events to come, within your event space, draw a body of water with swimming scary-looking fish, a maze, doors, and even an outline of a lab to build excitement for the novel.

FOODS

No matter which version of the multiverse attendees are reading the novel in, no party is complete without snacks! Your event attendees are sure to be hungry after reading about all of those "assessments" (no worries—no tests here!) and adventures, so be sure to offer Octagon Valley Society-inspired refreshments. In addition to serving a variety of beloved kid-favorite party snacks, be sure to have some fun and yummy book-inspired refreshments on hand to entice your partygoers. Consider offering:

- Bowls filled with Smarties candies
- Smartfood popcorn snack bags
- Fruits, veggies, and cheese cut into out-of-this-world shapes
- Cookies in a variety of creative shapes inspired by the novel's events or the interests and passions of the characters—umbrellas, musical symbols and instruments (including the violin), gaming devices/joysticks, water, surfboards, and planets
- Water bottles labeled "H2O/Property of OVI"



EXTRA-ORDINARY ACTIVITIES TO GET THE *OVS* EVENT STARTED!

Get your *Octagon Valley Society* event started right by using the following activities and crafts to get your gathering of the country's best and brightest, the next generation of EXTRAordinary readers into a celebratory spirit for the novel's arrival.

READER MINGLE AND MEET!

While your readers won't be Octos gathering for a three-day summit at the Octagon Valley Institute for a series of lectures and workshops like the kids in the OVS, having them jump in and get to know one another is still a great way to begin the event's celebration.

For an event icebreaker, have event attendees write out three statements about themselves on large cards. Two of the statements should be fun or silly facts about themselves (for example, "I like to eat radishes" or "Red is my favorite color") with one statement that is false (for example, "I have gone golfing before"), but all three statements need to be plausible. After everyone has had a chance to write their three statements, have attendees walk around the room and introduce themselves to each other. After the instruction, ask them to read each other's statements and try to guess which one is the lie. Give each player stickers they can offer the other player if that player guesses the correct "mislead" statement. At the end of the round, the player who discovered the most fibs wins a prize of your choosing.

TEAMWORK IS DREAM WORK

One of the most important themes of the OVS is that no matter how gifted the individual Octos are, they are so much greater when they work as a team. Use your choice of the following activities to get your attendees moving and working together as a unit.

BUILD YOUR OWN ESCAPE ROOM OR SCAVENGER HUNT

In *The (Super Secret) Octagon Valley Society*, the team must collaborate to work through the challenges created for them by Onasander Octagon while attempting to escape the dangers that challenge them. Using some creativity and online resources, develop your own simple escape room space and allow each team to visit the space or, alternatively, using the novel's events as inspiration, create your own OVS-inspired scavenger hunt. Offer prizes for all successful teams. Inspirational examples for both activities can be found at <https://teambuilding.com/blog/team-building-puzzles>





BLINDFOLD PAPER MAZE

Place teams in pairs and offer each group a blindfold, two large-sized printed paper mazes, and a marker. Have each team take turns providing spoken directions to their blindfolded partner as the blindfolded teammate attempts to work their way through the maze using only the directions of their partner. After finishing the maze, have the duo examine how they navigated using directions by their partner.

IT'S AN OVS SPEED RACE!

To try to save themselves, their team, and possibly even the universe, the EXTRAordinary Octos must complete the seemingly impossible task of finding eight puzzle pieces offered by Onasander Octagon that just might lead them to an out-of-this-world discovery. Have your attendees work together to get their puzzle piece pieces back where they belong. Begin by dividing event participants into teams. Using foam puzzle pack pieces (available online for purchase), provide each team with a large cutout puzzle piece. Next, if the event is indoors, have attendees stretch themselves out on the ground in a line where the puzzle piece can be passed from hands to feet to hands to feet as the puzzle piece is moved from teammate to teammate being sure to not let the puzzle piece fall again (if the piece is dropped, the team must start from the beginning). Once it gets to the end, have the final person pass it back to the beginning. The first team to return their puzzle piece to the beginning of the line wins!


PASS THAT PUZZLE PIECE!

Divide your EXTRA event participants into relay teams. Provide each team with a large foam puzzle piece. Ask participants to “mix it up” as they race to get their puzzle piece across the way in this adrenaline-pumping relay. First, divide attendees into small groups (4–5) for each group. Next, explain the rules. Players must travel from point A to point B and back again with their team’s puzzle piece, taking turns, until the whole team has participated, but there’s one catch—they have to mix it up! While holding on to their puzzle piece, no one player on the team can travel in the same manner as a teammate (one skips, one jumps, one crabwalks, one runs, one hops, and so on) until you have a winner!

OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD RELAY

In *The (Super Secret) Octagon Valley Society*, readers meet the YAKs, alien-like creatures that seek to capture the EXTRAordinary Octos team before they can finish their quest. For this fast-paced relay adventure, divide attendees into two teams with an equal number of players. Each team gets a box filled with oversized alien costume props (you can even make





your own using images of the YAKs from the novel as inspiration or ideas can be found online). Have each team line up side by side and place the box several feet away from the first person in line. The first player in line for each team runs to the box, puts on all alien props over their clothes, and runs back to the next person in line. The first player removes the YAK props they just put on so the second person in line can put them on. The second person then runs to the box, takes off all the props, puts the props back in the box, and runs to the back of the line. The next player in line does the same as the first player, and the game continues until everyone has had a turn putting on the props. The first team to have all team members finish wins!

GETTING CRAFTY

To get readers excited about *The (Super Secret) Octagon Valley Society* and their introduction to the series, consider the following craft projects or stations for your event.

STAND UP AND STAND OUT! CHARACTER ART REFLECTION

In *The (Super Secret) Octagon Valley Society*, Onasander Octagon and his golden-ticket-winning Octos—Edwin, Li'l Kimmy, Julie, Anton, Ting-Ting, and Dilip—are given the opportunity to discover what their special gifts are as they are challenged to discover what matters most to them and what they stand for (or in some cases, what they don't stand for). For your event, ask each attendee to select a favorite or least favorite character from the novel. Lead a discussion about what character traits they admire or dislike about their chosen character, as well examining what the character's greatest challenges are. Allow event attendees to work their way through your pre-prepped the art station (set up with posterboard, small canvases, markers, paints and other art supplies) so they can create an original poster or art canvas that captures what they believe matters most to their chosen character or, alternatively, let readers choose to make a team poster for their favorite character.

GET INTO YOUR PARALLEL CHARACTER

Incorporating the Octagon Valley Society's introduction to the possibility of us living in a multiverse, encourage your partygoers to develop an artistic rendering of what they might encounter if they were to see themselves in another dimension of time and space. Provide butcher paper and art supplies and challenge them to draw some of the qualities they would expect to see in the versions of themselves in alternate universes. Might they have simple differences in looks like height, hair color, or style of dress, or might they be more radically altered such as having fangs, horns, or a tail? Might they crave foods that they currently dislike? Might they have superpowers?

The possibilities are infinite!