



DESTINATION IMAGINATION OF NEW YORK

WHAT IS Destination ImagiNation®?

Destination ImagiNation® (DI) is an international non-profit organization that teaches life skills and expands imaginations through youth-centered, team-based creative problem solving.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN?

Destination ImagiNation is a creative problem solving program for participants from elementary to college levels.

WHAT DOES A TEAM DO?

Teams of 5-7 students, grouped by age, work together during the year to solve their choice of one of 5 challenges. The team then presents their solution to their central challenge and solves an instant challenge at the Regional Tournament.

HOW OFTEN DO TEAMS MEET?

Once a team is formed, the members will decide how competitive they want to be and how often they want to meet. Historically, teams meet once a week until January or February, when they go to two times per week, possibly more, closer to the tournament.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Fill out the registration forms which can be found on our website at <http://nydi.org>

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Contact your Regional or Affiliate Director. Contact information is on the REGIONAL INFORMATION page of our website at <http://nydi.org>

ROUGH SCHEDULE FOR 2005-2006 SEASON

<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>OCTOBER</p> <p>NOVEMBER</p>	<p>INTRO TO Destination ImagiNation® MEETING</p> <p>TEAM MANAGER TRAINING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEARNING TO WORK AS A TEAM • UNDERSTANDING THE TEAM CHALLENGE • INSTANT CHALLENGES
<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>JANUARY</p>	<p>INSTANT CHALLENGE Fiestas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRAINSTORMING IDEAS • RESEARCH & EXPERIMENTATION • CREATING THE PRESENTATION • MORE INSTANT CHALLENGES
<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>MARCH</p> <p>APRIL</p> <p>MAY</p>	<p>REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS*</p> <p>STATE TOURNAMENT*</p> <p>GLOBAL FINALS*</p> <p><i>*TOP 2 TEAMS ADVANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FINALIZING, REFINING SOLUTIONS • PROPS, ARTWORK, COSTUMES, SCRIPTS • “CRUNCH” TIME, REHEARSALS • <u>AND MORE</u> INSTANT CHALLENGES

TIME FLIES...WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN!!!



WHAT IS Destination ImagiNation®?

You've heard of spelling bees, quiz bowls, robotics competitions and science fairs. In fact, there is probably a special event for every subject taught at school. Well, Destination ImagiNation is none of those things – and all of those things! Destination ImagiNation is a place where kids take what they know and what they are good at and learn to apply it to solve challenges, working together and cooperatively with a team and pushing the limits of imagination to best not their competition, but themselves. Destination ImagiNation is a community-based, school-friendly program that builds participants' creativity, problem solving, and teamwork in enjoyable and meaningful ways

Teams of five to seven members work together to apply creativity, critical thinking and their particular talents to solve a Team Challenge.

The Destination ImagiNation **Team Challenge** is a Challenge that is solved over a period of eight weeks or more. There are five competitive Team Challenges from which teams may choose, each with its own educational focus. Each Team Challenge is designed to be open-ended and solvable in many ways and on many levels. There is also one non-competitive Team Challenge, called the **Rising Stars! Team Challenge**, for preschool and early elementary children.

There are two parts to the Team Challenge: the **Central Challenge** and **Side Trips**. The Central Challenge is a set of required elements that all teams must complete. Side Trips are two additional elements teams create and include in their Presentation.

The Destination ImagiNation **Instant Challenge** is a Challenge teams are asked to solve in a very short period of time **at their Tournament**, without knowing ahead of time what the Challenge will be. Teams go into a room and are given a Challenge and the materials with which to solve it. They use their thinking-on-their-feet skills to produce a solution, usually in a period of five to eight minutes! *Instant Challenges* are designed to teach students how to think quickly, creatively, and strategically. At tournaments, each team is given an Instant Challenge they have not seen before. For example, a team might be asked to create a story about a mouse's happiest day, using props provided to the team; or to manipulate materials to build a structure; or to develop a communication system that the team must use to complete a specified task.

Both Central Challenges and Instant Challenges give children opportunities to develop important skills that have life-long value in an ever-changing world. Without any adult help, each team must design and create all of the props, costumes, and other artistic and/or technical elements needed to bring their challenge solution to life. The culmination of their efforts will be presented in a live performance at the Regional Tournament in March 2006.

What does it take to form a team?

Kids often discover hidden talents they didn't know they had! Any eligible student can be on a Destination ImagiNation® team, provided that he or she understands the commitment of time and effort involved, and can fulfill the eligibility requirements for students who wish to participate in co-curricular activities.

Each team can have a maximum of seven students. At least one parent, teacher, or dedicated adult supporter must act as the team manager (coach). The team manager helps the students stay on schedule, gathers materials for the team, and guides them through the problem-solving process. Time outside of school is about 2 to 4 hours each week, gradually increasing as tournament time approaches.

What is required of a DI parent?

NON-TEAM MANAGERING PARENTS may be required to volunteer at one or more Destination ImagiNation® events during the season. This volunteer requirement is one (or perhaps two)-- two to four-hour shifts. Other possible parent/volunteer efforts:

- Running your team's Instant Challenge at a team meeting (warm bodies, not ideas, necessary)
- Working as your team's Regional Tournament volunteer (perhaps as a door monitor)
- Provide timely transportation for children to/from meetings (or arrange for carpooling)
- Provide transportation for children to/from Destination ImagiNation® organized activities & to/from Regional Tournament

Parents should also participate in a snack rotation schedule for the team. This means that each team member takes a turn in bringing snacks (a beverage + munchies) for the entire team (and don't forget team managers) to two or more meetings, depending on how often the team meets.

IMPORTANT! Parents may **NOT** offer ideas, suggestions, or solutions to the team's Challenge. Everything, from ideas to finished products, must be created by team members only.

TIME COMMITMENTS: Team meetings are usually 2 hours per week for most teams. Meetings can be after school, in the evening, or during the weekend. Meeting times are determined by availability of team manager and/or team members and are decided at the first team get-together. Some teams want to increase their meeting time in February in order to accomplish the Central Challenge according to their expectations. Thus, there is a possibility of multiple weekly meetings as Tournament approaches---that decision is one the Team Manager & the Team members make. (Parents are asked to take a flexible & supportive attitude towards this.)

The season runs from team formation in the fall (team meetings usually start in November) to the Regional Tournament. Tournament day is usually an all-day commitment for teams.

First and second place teams at the Regional level will advance to the Affiliate Tournament.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TEAM MANAGER? Your child's participation in Destination ImagiNation® may depend on the availability of Team Managers! Being a Team Manager is a fun and rewarding way to spend time with great kids! (You may consider sharing the responsibility with another parent(s).) Support & training will be provided; first timers are welcome! Team Manager Information Nights and Trainings are Available.

What will this cost?

Your school may cover program memberships, as well as Tournament registration fees! However, parents usually need to help provide the operating budget for the team at the beginning of the season. As an example, an individual team member's contribution for the season might be \$25, depending on how many members are on the team and which challenge they are doing. This money helps the team cover materials needed to solve the Central Challenge, practice Instant Challenges, etc. Team members may volunteer items from their homes, i.e. leftover cans of paint, scrap wood, fabric remnants, etc. Parents are asked to allow this usage of materials. Other small miscellaneous costs might include, the optional purchase of Destination ImagiNation® T-shirts, chipping in for pizza, etc.