

DIaLOGUE

**Hot Destination ImagiNation News from Dee Urban, Affiliate Director
Gearing Up for 2009-10
18 August 2009**

Another wonderful Destination ImagiNation season is behind us and the new one is just around the corner! While you are hanging around the softball fields, or the beach, or pool, or otherwise engaged in summer rest and relaxation give some thought to the exciting year ahead as we flip the page and begin DI 2009-10!

Our website (<http://www.nydi.org>) has been updated and you will find the previews of the new Challenges located at <http://www.nydi.org/2010ChallengeSummaries.pdf> You will also find the combined NY/International Membership Application on our website at <http://www.nydi.org/2010MemberAppNY.pdf> For those of you in our Western Region we have updated the website to include the Western Region Membership Application which includes an EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT for memberships that are paid before 9/1 – you will find the Western Region form at <http://www.nydi.org/2010WregionFORMearly.pdf> We will be adding the Central and Eastern Region forms as soon as possible so if you are in one of those regions please be on the look out for them as well. Don't worry if you lose these links – you can always easily access updated material from our website by going to the homepage (<http://www.nydi.org>) and looking in the NY LATEST NEWS SECTION or in the WEBSITE MENU.

Also in the LATEST NEWS SECTION of our website homepage you will find links to the 2009-10 Challenge Connections to the Learning Standards at http://www.nydi.org/2010connecting_standards.pdf The Learning Standards piece is one that you should share with the faculty and Principal of your school to illustrate to them how DI helps address those all important Standards.

We are beginning to see the dates for the 2009-10 season come into focus at this time of year – you can always find the dates by going to the website homepage and scrolling down to the IMPORTANT DATES section of the homepage. So far the dates for the Eastern Regional Tournament (March 6, 2010), the Western Regional Tournament (March 13, 2010), the Central Regional Showcase (March 12, 2010) and the State Tournament (April 17, 2010) have been determined. We will be adding dates for all Regional trainings, presentations, workshops as they become available so check back to our website often! Global Finals will be held at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville from May 26th through 29th 2010. At this time I would advise that every team keep the approximately \$600 per person room & board cost of going to Global Finals in mind as you plan your funding and fundraising for 2009-10.

The Destination ImagiNation Program Overview

Educational Goals of the Program

Destination ImagiNation is a community-based, school-friendly program that builds participants' creativity, problem solving, and teamwork in enjoyable and meaningful ways. The goals of Destination ImagiNation are for participants to:

- ☆ Foster creative and critical thinking
- ☆ Learn and apply Creative Problem Solving method and tools
- ☆ Develop teamwork, collaboration, and leadership skills
- ☆ Nurture research and inquiry skills, involving both creative exploration and attention to detail
- ☆ Enhance and apply written & verbal communication and presentation skills (both impromptu & sustained)
- ☆ Promote the recognition, use, and development of many and varied strengths and talents
- ☆ Encourage competence in, enthusiasm for, and commitment to real-life problem solving

Methods

- ☆ Young people of similar age work on teams of up to 7 members over an extended period
- ☆ No Interference is allowed from anyone outside of the team
- ☆ Adult Team Managers act as facilitators to a team
- ☆ Team Manager training is provided by experienced trainers for all Team Managers

- ☆ Problem solving skills are cultivated by using Tools
- ☆ Teamwork is developed by using the eight building blocks for successful teams
- ☆ Creativity is appreciated by *Team-* and *Instant Challenges* that are open ended
- ☆ Individual and team strengths are promoted by *Side Trips*; based on Multiple Intelligence Theory
- ☆ *Instant Challenges* engage participants in rapid-fire critical thinking
- ☆ *Team Challenges* engage participants in sustained problem solving

Assessment

- ☆ Tournaments are a celebration of what the team HAS accomplished and the PROCESS learned
- ☆ Solutions are evaluated and Reward Points are a component of *Instant* and *Team Challenges*
- ☆ Appraisers are trained to reward the PROCESS that the team has experienced
- ☆ *Tournament Data Forms* provide opportunity for teams to culminate their experience
- ☆ Special Awards are given for exceptional creativity, teamwork, and innovation
- ☆ At the end of the Destination ImagiNation season, teams have an active reflection time

The Two Components of the DI Program

The Destination ImagiNation program asks teams to creatively solve two different kinds of Challenges, each with its own purpose and educational focus. The two Challenges, or components, are called the *Team Challenge* and the *Instant Challenge*. Teams present their solutions to both Challenges at a Tournament where the solutions are evaluated by friendly people we call "Appraisers."

Team Challenge

The Destination ImagiNation *Team Challenge* is a Challenge teams work on over a long period of time, usually several months. This year, Destination ImagiNation presents seven *Team Challenges* (five competitive Challenges and one Rising Stars!® non-competitive Challenge, and one projectOUTREACH Community Service based Challenge), and each team generally chooses one Challenge to solve. The *Team Challenge* is made up of two parts, the *Central Challenge* and *Side Trips* (except for a yearly Improvisational Challenge, which does not include *Side Trips*).

Central Challenge

Purpose: Encourages development of creative problem solving techniques, teamwork, and creative process over a sustained period of time (usually several months).

Educational Focus of Central Challenge: The project undertaken by the team is academically based and focuses on one or more of the following areas:

- ☆ Technical/Mechanical Design, Structural/Architectural Design, Science, Theatrical/Literary/Fine Arts Elements, Improvisational Techniques.
- ☆ Each of the five competitive *Central Challenges* involves a research component.
- ☆ One or more of the five competitive *Central Challenges* involves an improvisational component.
- ☆ One or more of the *Central Challenges* involves an international and/or intercultural theme.

Side Trips

Purpose: Encourages participants to discover and showcase their collective interests, strengths, and abilities as a team and as individuals, and allows them to develop that showcase over a long period of time.

Educational Focus of Side Trips: Based on the educational theory of multiple intelligences, which in part emphasizes allowing participants to find their own best ways to present what they have learned.

- ☆ Allows teams total freedom to develop elements of their own choosing.
- ☆ Allows teams to highlight areas of strength that are not brought forth in the *Central Challenge* requirements.
- ☆ Allows and encourages teams to recognize and make the most of each individual's abilities/interests.

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Instant Challenge

The Destination ImagiNation *Instant Challenge* is a Challenge which 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.

Purpose: To put team's creative problem solving abilities, creativity, and teamwork to the test in a short, time-driven Challenge.

- ☆ Educational Focus of *Instant Challenge*: The team's use of creative problem solving strategies, assessment and use of available materials, and teamwork under tight time constraints.
- ☆ Encourages teams to develop creative problem solving and time management strategies, performance and improvisational techniques.
- ☆ Develops the ability to quickly assess the properties of provided materials, and learn how to creatively manipulate materials for a unique solution.

2009-10 Destination ImagiNation Team Challenge Previews

Challenge A: Direct Deposit



Educational Focus: Engineering, Cost/Benefit Analysis, Innovation & Design Process, Experimentation, Mathematics, Communication, Theater Arts, Teamwork

The Destination: Where This Challenge Will Take You!

You can deliver a pizza. You can deliver the news. In the field of construction, you can be delivered from the brink of disaster or deliver important materials that build towards a goal. But can you deliver construction materials to targets you cannot see? Each piece of construction material has value, and some more than others. To become rich you need to decide how to effectively deliver them to the current construction project! Your team will have to consider which choices will earn the most reward as you try to deliver your construction materials over a barrier to the optimum targets on the construction site. Whatever you decide, you'll have to work quickly, because the clock is ticking!

Points of Interest! Your team will: Present a team-created story about making a decision: design and build a piece of equipment that delivers supply Objects over a Barrier to Targets; consider risk versus reward to increase your Object score through strategic delivery to job site Targets.

Challenge B: DI®-Bot



Educational Focus: Structural Engineering, Robotic Technology, Research, Technical Design and Construction, Science, Theater Arts, Teamwork

The Destination: Where This Challenge Will Take You! Robots – doing our chores and serving our every need! What could be better? Robotic Technology has changed our lives and made our dreams a reality. Gaming systems, cell phones, cars and factories all use Robotic Technology. What will Robotic Technology accomplish next? How will our lives change because of it? You get to decide and use your knowledge of Robotic

Technology to show us what may happen

Points of Interest!: Your team will: learn about Robotic Technology and the changes it creates; create an original Story which envisions and shows how at least one character's life may be changed by Robotic Technology; design, create, and integrate a device called DI-BOT, which completes a motion or task, into the Story; create a method to change at least one prop or set piece, or part(s) of the prop or set piece, into DI-BOT, or a part of DI-BOT; create a scene change that enhances the Presentation by providing an effective transitional link from one scene to another.

Challenge C: You're Gonna Flip!



Educational Focus: Teamwork, Storytelling, Puppet Design, Construction Design, Puppetry, Theater Arts, Visual Arts

The Destination: Where This Challenge Will Take You! A man lives only for money. Flip! After a visit by three ghosts, he discovers how to love people. That's Ebenezer Scrooge. A young Kansas girl feels so unloved at home that she wants to run away. Flip! Over the rainbow, she learns to appreciate the love she has in her own

backyard. That's Dorothy's story. Our understanding of the world can Flip from one view to another. Theater, books and art are full of such turnabouts. Now your team gets to create your own Story with a Flip! What's better than using a team-created puppet and a piece of Live Visual Art to help tell your Story? You're Gonna Flip over this Challenge!

Points of Interest!: your team will: present an Original Story dramatizing how a Character experiences a Flip, or a change of point of view, about someone or something; design, construct, and feature at least one Puppet as a character in the Story; create a piece of Live Visual Art that is to be completely produced during the Presentation; create two Side Trips and integrate them into the Presentation.

Challenge D: Do or DI®



Educational Focus: Improvisational acting, story development, teamwork, research skills

The Destination: Where This Challenge Will Take You! Going... Going... Gone? A Threatened Thing is in danger of extinction, and YOU are its only hope for survival!

With a Stock Character and an Unimpressive Superpower, can you save the Great Barrier Reef, the Giant Panda, or even landline telephones? But wait...do all threatened things need to be saved or is it better if some go the way of the dinosaur? You decide to Do or DI!

Points of Interest!: Your team will: create a five-minute Improvisational Skit about a Threatened Thing in danger of extinction. This must be done in a seven-minute Preparation Time period at the Tournament; present a Skit using a Stock Character randomly selected from a list of stock characters that the team has previously researched; incorporate props and/or scenery to enhance the Skit; integrate a randomly selected Unimpressive Superpower that is revealed during the Skit.

Challenge E: Breaking DI News



Educational Focus: Structural Engineering, Materials Science, International Relations, Research, Innovation and Design Process, Mathematics, Theater Arts, Teamwork.

The Destination: Where This Challenge Will Take You! Extra, Extra! Read all about it! DI teams make headlines building a structure that holds the most and weighs the least. Choose this Challenge and your team will reduce your props, reuse a story and recycle a newspaper all to prove that you can do more with less!

Points of Interest!: Your team will: design, build, and test a Structure made only of newsprint and glue; reduce the props and scenery used in the Presentation to fit inside a 30in x 24in x 48in (76.20cm x 60.96cm x 121.92cm) container; reuse a story about a Newsworthy Event in a nation other than your own; recycle newsprint by using it creatively in a costume or prop; create two Side Trips and integrate them into the Presentation.

projectOUTREACH® Band Together



Educational Focus: Service Learning, Research, Youth Empowerment, Teamwork, Marketing, Communication, Project Management

The Destination: Where This Challenge Will Take You! Are you ready to make a difference in your community? Then fuel your passion and ignite your vision! In this Challenge, you'll design and implement a community-centered Project, and you'll use music to help you effect positive change. So band together, select a community need to address, and reach out with music to change our world! **Points of Interest!: Your**

team will: identify community needs and use creative problem solving tools to select at least one need; design and implement a team Project in your community that creatively uses music to address the need(s) you selected; compile an Album to document the Project; create and perform an entertaining Presentation that informs the audience about your Project; include a Multi-sensory Aesthetic Experience in your Presentation; create two Side Trips and integrate them into the Presentation.

Rising Stars!® Weighty News



Educational Focus: Architecture and Structure, News Reporting, Research, Mathematics, Performing in front of an audience, Team problem solving, Teamwork

The Destination: Where This Challenge Will Take You! News here, news there...news, news everywhere! A Structure has been discovered. It is made of newspaper and tape. What could it be? What does it look like? How strong is it? Why is it here? How can it be used? So many questions! Maybe if we see a newscast about it, the reporters will have some answers. Let's watch and see what's new in the news!

Dialogue

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How Much Does NY DI Cost?

2009-10 DI Registration (this includes your NY fees & International Fees:

- ☆ \$212 – for a single team Membership (Printed materials and CD included) – *this is \$30 per student for an activity that begins in September and extends at least through March and possibly through May!*
- ☆ \$492 – 5-teamPak membership allows up to 5 teams (Printed materials & CD included) – *this is \$14 per student for an activity that begins in September and extends at least through March and possibly through May!*
- ☆ \$2852 – 30-teamPak membership allows up to 30 teams from your district - – *this is \$13.57 per student for an activity that begins in September and extends at least through March and possibly through May!*
- ☆ \$ 25 – each additional set of printed materials (1 set included with membership)
- ☆ \$ 52 – each Primary, Rising Stars! team NOT included in your 5-teamPak membership.

Per TEAM Regional Fee:

- ☆ Please check with your Regional Director
- ☆ Regional Fees include ALL training, workshops, presentations and tournament expenses.
- ☆ Regional Payment due with forms – Checks or Purchase Orders accepted

Team Manager Trainings (included in Regional Fees:

- ☆ Please check with your Regional Director
- ☆ NEW Team Manager Workshop – BASIC training
- ☆ Team Manager's Workshop – all experience levels
- ☆ CPS Tools Basic Training
- ☆ Instant Challenge Training and Fiesta... and more!

Team Materials:

- ☆ Each Challenge has a cost limit, but most are materials are scrounged from around the house and are not expensive (although they are assigned a yard sale value).
- ☆ Challenge Budgets usually are between \$80 - \$180 depending on the Challenge.

Hint: Have each team member contribute \$20 for supplies and miscellaneous expenses at the beginning of the season. Team Managers can request more when that is gone!

Miscellaneous Expenses:

- ☆ Resources – great books & creative problem solving materials available through our NY-DI lending library for browsing before you buy!
- ☆ NY-DI Tee shirts and pins sold at tournaments
- ☆ Snacks for team members at meetings and an end of year wrap-up party!

On behalf of the NY-DI Board of Trustees I wish you and yours a most creative and peaceful remainder to the summer.....



Cre8ively Yours,
Dee Urban, Affiliate Director
Destination ImagiNation of New York, Inc.

