



Presents

**THE TOP 7 SECRETS TO A
SUCCESSFUL TOURNAMENT
EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR
TEAM**

SECRET # 7

- Make sure you download and read the **TOURNAMENT TRAVEL GUIDE for Teams** from the resource pages.

It tells you what to expect at your tournament. Inside this Guide you will find information that includes what will happen at your Presentation Site and tips from teams and Team Managers on how to have a great tournament experience.

SECRET # 6

Make sure you **FAILURE PROOF YOUR TEAM FOR SUCCESS**

A great tournament depends on your ability to plan for the unexpected and be ready to adjust to any circumstance.

1. List all the things that could go wrong!

Use team brainstorming to think of all the things that might go wrong!

Write everything down!

Ask open ended questions to prompt ideas!

Do not edit ideas at the time.

2. Determine how the potential problems are related to each other!

Group the problems from the brainstorming e.g. props, people, equipment

3. Add new things to your list!

Look for additions to your list

Combine items the team thinks are really the same

Do not delete anything unless the team is UNANIMOUS!

SECRET # 6 CONTINUED

4. Rank the problems for the trouble they could cause!

Rank the potential problems for the seriousness of the result

Remind the team that small things can sometimes have disastrous results

Review each group and make any adjustments

5. Think of all the ways to prevent the problems or minimize them!

For each problem ask "if this happens we could....?"

Discuss problems that cannot be prevented, e.g. weather, crowd noise, etc.

Encourage your team to HAVE FUN, and be creative with their ideas...

improvisation always scores well!

6. Prepare a plan of action!

Include who, what, when, where and how!

Review the "disaster plan" periodically

Cause spontaneous mishaps during practice to allow your team to practice the plan!

A good example is deliberately leaving the batteries out of the tape player,
or knocking over a prop during a rehearsal.

DO IT!! As with everything in DI practice...Practice....PRACTICE!!!

SECRET # 5

Make sure your team has a
COMPLETE TOOL KIT
with them at the tournament!

If there is any chance something might break, tear or disconnect be sure to have everything you need to repair it.

SECRET # 4

Plan to attend lots of performances
and cheer on other teams!

Every team likes a big enthusiastic audience for its performance,
the best way to assure this for your team is to be it for another
team!

Teams learn a great deal from seeing how others have
approached the same Challenge.

You should do this because it's FUN!

SECRET # 3

Prepare the parents!

Be sure all team parents know:

- When the team is meeting to go to the tournament
- Where the tournament is and how to get there
- Where the team is meeting at the tournament
- There are Tee shirts and pins for sale at the tournament that support the DI organization in your area – please make sure parents are aware of this.
- Make sure parents know if flash photography is allowed by the team.
- Reinforce the INTERFERENCE rules
- What time the teams performance and Instant Challenges take place
- TOURNAMENT RULES OF BEHAVIOR and SPORTSMANSHIP
- What, if any, jobs you are asking them to take on at the tournament
- ***NO ONE TALKS TO APPRAISERS EXCEPT THE TEAM MANAGER!***

SECRET # 2

MAKE SURE YOUR FORMS ARE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY, CORRECTLY AND TO YOUR TEAMS BEST ADVANTAGE!

- ✓ All Team tournament forms are available from the Resource Area as Interactive Forms – its easier to fill them out and makes them easier for the Appraisers to read! USE THEM!
- ✓ Make sure you have extra copies of Tournament Data Forms, Expense Reports, Declarations of Independence and any other paperwork required by your Challenge.
- ✓ Bring blank forms in case you need to make changes.
- ✓ Stop at the Checker Table at your Tournament to be sure you have all your forms!
- ✓ Make sure your forms are worded to the team's advantage!
 - ✓ If you want the Princess Costume scored for a Team Choice Element be SPECIFIC – don't say Costumes if you really mean the Princess Costume... And don't say the Princess Costume if what you really mean is the use of unexpected materials in the Princess Costume!

SECRET # 1

THE TOURNAMENT IS A CELEBRATION OF EVERY TEAM!

Be an advocate for your team

Be supportive of every team

Emphasize how much they have learned & how much fun they had rather than scores and placement.

HAVE FUN WITH YOUR TEAM!

***Remind your team (and parents) that the simple act of
bringing a solution to show the Appraisers at a
Tournament makes your team a winner!***



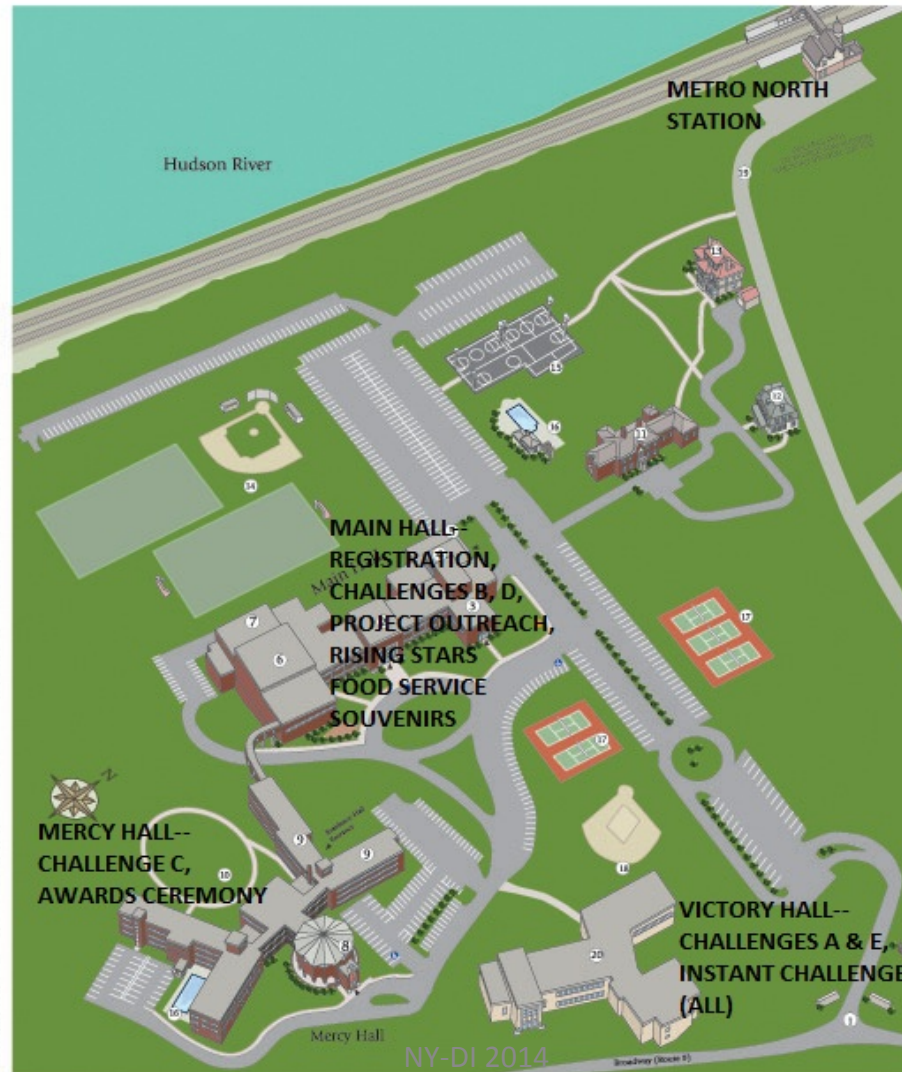
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Main Entrance | 11. Verrazzano Hall |
| 2. Admissions | 12. Maher Hall |
| 3. Lecture Hall | 13. Mahoney Hall |
| 4. Hudson View Cafe | 14. Athletic Field |
| 5. Bookstore | 15. Basketball Court |
| 6. Athletics | 16. Pools |
| 7. Library | 17. Tennis Courts |
| 8. Student Financial Services | 18. Softball Field |
| 9. Residence Hall | 19. Path to Metro North train |
| 10. Residence Hall Courtyard | 20. Victory Hall |

KEY

- Accessible Parking
- Public Transportation

555 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
877-MERCY-GO | www.mercy.edu

MERCY COLLEGE



Main Hall Lecture Hall – projectOutreach



Lecture Hall



Lecture Hall—team entrance



Lecture Hall—team entrance



Main Hall Gym—B and RS



Main Hall Gym



Main Hall Gym entrance and prep



Mercy Hall—downstairs checkin



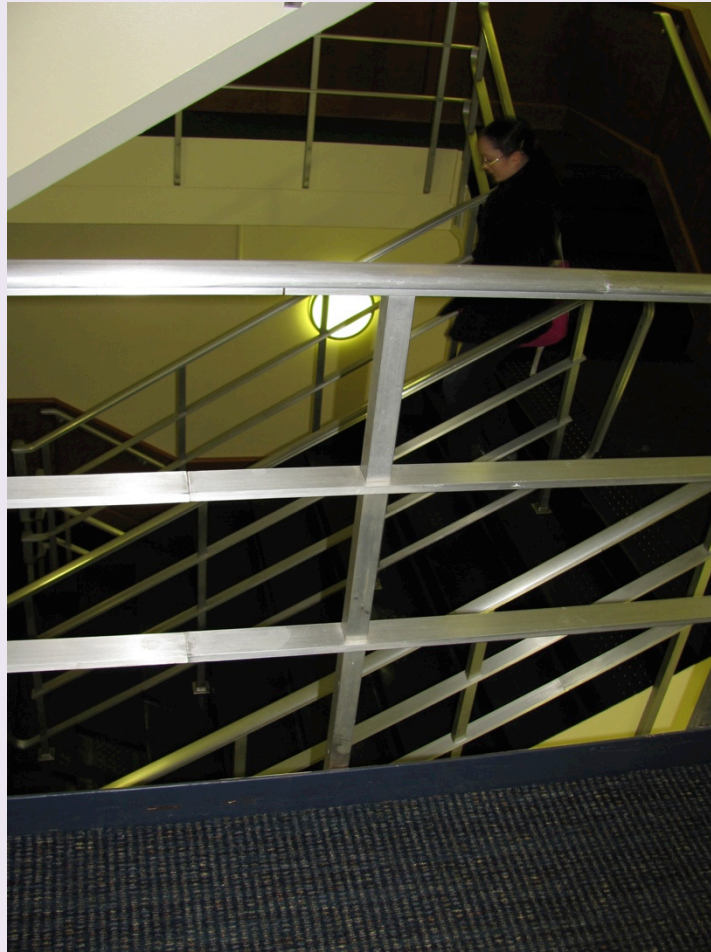
Mercy Hall – corridors and prep – C, RS



Mercy Hall - C, RS - challenging staircase



Mercy Hall staircase



Mercy Hall Rotunda – C, Rising Stars



Mercy Hall Rotunda – C, Rising Stars



Mercy Hall Rotunda



Victory Hall entrance—A, E, I.C.



Victory Hall Gym entrance—A & E



Victory Hall Gym

