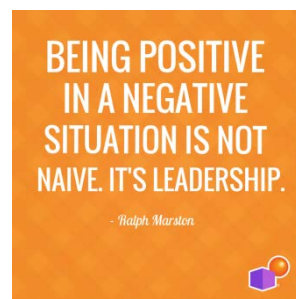


DI Ontario October 2019 Newsletter (GTA & Western Ontario)

MISSION of Destination Imagination:

"To engage participants in project-based challenges that are designed to build confidence and develop extraordinary creativity, critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills."



Wow. What a great start to our DI Season - we already have over 30 teams registered in the GTA & Western region! Many of you have already started forming your teams & choosing your Challenge for the year, and have teams full of enthusiasm and excitement! For those who have yet to start, there is still time to get your team organized and start your 2019-20 DI journey! We hope this Newsletter will provide you with some helpful hints and resources, along with loads of encouragement.

DI NEWS

- GTA/Western Ontario Instant Challenge Workshop, Mini Tournament & Team Manager Support Day - We have unfortunately had to postpone this event until the New Year. We will keep you posted about a new date for this event.
- Don't forget to check out our new DI Ontario videos! Please share these with all of your friends, fellow teachers & school administrators. We would love to make 2019-20 our biggest & best year yet!
 - Parent's Guide: <https://youtu.be/k9-KBEKJcmA>
 - Teacher's Guide: <https://youtu.be/aMCW0jkBXQ0>

TO DO

- For those who may have missed our first newsletter of the year that focused on How to Start a Team, How to Register & How to Pick a Team Challenge, it has been posted on our DI Ontario website at: <https://www.diontario.org/team-managers>
- **YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY** - An important reminder that **All** Team Managers & Team Volunteers in Ontario who work directly with DI Team Members will be required to have a Vulnerable Sector Check. If you have not already done so, Please send your Vulnerable Sector Check documentation to us at gta@diontario.org as soon as possible. If your school or organization has already done this on your behalf, you still must provide documentation of this for us.

If you require us to provide a letter documenting your volunteer status with DI Ontario, have submitted your Vulnerable Sector Check & are waiting for your documentation, or have any questions about this policy, please email us gta@diontario.org

- If your team has already selected their Team Challenge, it is **VERY important that you log back into the RESOURCE Area of the main DI website & select which Challenge your team has chosen.**

TEAM DEVELOPMENT

Team Building

Whether your team has never met each other before your first meeting, or has worked together for years, there are some great team-building activities to help your team get to know each other better. The goal of these activities is to make them feel comfortable around each other, to learn more about each individual team member, and to have some fun!

On the main DI Website, click on the BLUE “Team Resources” Button on the first page & then Click on “Free RESOURCE LIBRARY” where you will find the link below, along with lots of other great tips:

- Team Building for Students - <https://www.destinationimagination.org/files/downloads/Destination-Imagination-Team-Building-for-Students-Download.pdf>
- Tips on helping your team become a “DI family” - <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/how-to-build-team-chemistry/>
- Team Building Activities - <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/7-team-building-activities/>
- Team Building Games - <https://www.teachthought.com/critical-thinking/10-team-building-games-that-promote-critical-thinking/>

Parents

You will want to have a meeting with team parents as soon as possible to provide information about meetings, any team or location rules, the DI Interference policy (see below), and how they can reach you. You will want the team parents to provide their contact information as well as information about food allergies and other needs of their child. Ask parents or volunteers to help with snacks, Instant Challenge or other aspects of managing a team. For more tips on how to involve parents as part of your team’s DI journey, here is a link to the DI Blog: <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/tm-tips-how-to-involve-team-parents/>

If you are looking for a Resource to help explain the DI program to parents, including tips for how parents can help their child’s team, direct them to the main DI website, have them go to the dropdown titled, “Get Involved” & then Click on “Parents Start Here,” and also encourage them to watch the video listed below. <https://www.destinationimagination.org/parents-start-here/>

Interference

We can't wait to see your team's innovative solutions take shape over the next few months. But remember—a team’s solution is the team’s alone! Our “No Interference” policy is one of the most valuable components of the DI Challenge Experience. **All Challenge solutions are kid-powered**, meaning that no Team Managers, parents, or any other non-team members may contribute to a team’s solution in any way. Check out the following blog - <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/what-is-interference/>

See also pages 58-61 of the 2019-20 ROADMAP for Teams (see Resources for TMs below) to discover the definition of **Interference** and learn what you can and can't do as a DI Team Manager. Although part of your team's DI experience includes working with no outside Interference on a Challenge solution, as a Team Manager, you will find that you have great freedom to assist the team members as they learn skills and processes. It also has a great Interference Quiz that TM's can review with their team members to ensure everyone understands Interference.

Have a candid discussion with DI Parents regarding the rules of Interference, the spirit of DI, and the idea that every child deserves the opportunity to fail in order to experience the joy of learning. Also, remind parents that DI is not about victories and advancing to Global Finals, but instead, about students learning lifelong skills necessary for every aspect of their futures.

Providing information about DI and the Interference Contract early in the season really helps to set the guidelines for parents and teams. Supply each parent with the **Interference Contract** which you can copy from page 61 of this year's ROADMAP or you can find it at the following link on our DI Ontario website: https://804c1ace-571a-4b00-af99-e88e8015954.filesusr.com/ugd/1301df_c4631a6b1de34a34b190b75c0db4ec78.pdf

RESOURCES for Team Managers

Remember to visit the **RESOURCE AREA** of the DI website, where you can download &/or print the following important resources if you don't have them already:

- **ROADMAP***
- Rules of the Road

Log in to the **RESOURCE AREA** at <https://resources.destinationimagination.org/resources.php>. Highlight the "Documents" tab, select "View" and then open the "Challenge Materials" folder, where you will find both this year's "Roadmap" & "Rules of the Road."

*In **ROADMAP**, you will find suggestions, activities, step-by-step planning tools for team meetings, questions to better guide teams toward more focused planning and execution of a solution, along with lots of practical ideas. Roadmap is organized into sections to better help you with the task of managing a team. The Guiding Your Team section will guide you through the Destination Imagination Challenge Experience. The other sections contain resources that can be used as needed throughout the season, such as how to prepare for tournaments, how to complete paperwork, etc. See how you can use ROADMAP to help you shape a great DI season for your team - <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/roadmap-planning-for-a-successful-season/>

ONLINE DI TEAM MANAGER & VOLUNTEER TRAINING

We are excited that Destination Imagination headquarters has further expanded their online **Destination Imagination Learning Management System** this year to assist with Team Manager training..... (cont'd)

Team Managers **who have claimed their Team Numbers** will receive an invitation to register for the training system. Team Managers will have immediate access to the following trainings, webinars and videos:

- Getting Started as a Team Manager
- The Roles of a Team Manager - What have I got myself into? (one of my favourites!)
- Rules of the Road
- Understanding Interference
- Challenge-specific trainings - Take a few minutes and review your team's Challenge to ensure that you understand the specifics of the Challenge. Feel free to have your team look over your shoulder while you take the course!

If you have not received an invitation to join the DI training system by email (it could be in your Spam folder), first contact your school or school board DI administrator to make sure that your name & email address has been linked with your Team & Team Number. If you have further problems, you may contact Kris Beisel at kbeisel@dihq.org with any questions.

Check out also the following post by Kris Beisel - <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/getting-started-as-a-team-manager/>

TIPS for Team Managers

You don't have to be particularly creative or talented to manage a team. That's because solving the Challenge is the team's problem, not yours! You may be feeling a little overwhelmed by the amount of information available for you and your team to read and understand. Take a deep breath & check out these tips:

The DI Experience: Getting Started - <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/the-di-experience-getting-started/>

Tips for First-time Team Managers (but I think is helpful for all TMs) - <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/15-tips-for-first-time-team-managers/>

Understanding the Top 10 Duties of a Team Manager - <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/10-team-manager-duties/>

Team Meeting Schedule - <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/team-manager-tips-creating-your-team-meeting-schedule-2/>

Organizing productive team meetings with a tried and true structure (including snacks) - <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/organizing-team-meetings/>

Brainstorming Ideas - <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/brainstorming-ideas-with-your-team/>

TM Tips: DI Dos & Don'ts - <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/tm-tips-di-dos-and-donts/>

Remember WHY you do DI! Team Managers help students learn life-long problem-solving skills, not just prepare for the Tournament. Self-discovery takes time, and IT'S WORTH IT!

Rising Stars/Early Learners Team Managers

Our Rising Stars for Early Learners Challenge is designed for preschool through second grade kids and is an opportunity for them to be creative, learn simple building and construction, become comfortable working in teams, and learn how to speak in front of an audience. The Challenge is non-competitive, which helps ease pressure and lets kids play and experiment with their solutions.

- 8 Strategies for Rising Stars! Team Managers - <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/8-strategies-for-rising-stars-team-managers/>

Check Out Previous DI PERFORMANCES

Here are some links to videos taken at tournaments of last season's challenges. These videos give teams a good idea about what a DI performance might look like, including stage set-up, props, sets, costumes, etc.

Challenge A: Technical (On Target) - DI-nosaurs - 2nd place - Middle - DI Global Finals 2019

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryRmiwH29_Y

Challenge A: Technical (On Target) - Super Dupers, Indiana - 1st place - Secondary - DI Global Finals 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvpzollUcMc>

Challenge B: Scientific (Medical Mystery) - Team Highly Addictive, California - 1st Place - Middle - DI Global Finals 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oUMB3y32dQ>

Challenge B: Scientific (Medical Mystery) - Scientific'n't Climate Change Awareness - Renaissance Award - Secondary -

DI Global Finals 2019 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOwGWFJTSdU>

Challenge C: Fine Arts (Game On) - Team EIEIOof, California - Secondary - 1st Place - DI Global Finals 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BN1MuXr-Pil>

Challenge C: Fine Arts (Game On) - Team AbsoLOOTley Scrumptious, Washington - Elementary - 11th Place - DI Global

Finals 2019 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paKysrWbQBk>

Challenge D: Improv (Heads Up) - Team Aguaguates, Guatemala - 2nd place - Middle - DI Global Finals 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPaf3UdrJhY>

Challenge D: Improv (Heads Up) - 1st place - Middle - Regional Tournament 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JuvTvSgSjk>

Challenge E: Engineering (Monster Effects) - Team D Inventors, Washington - Middle - 3rd Place - DI Global Finals 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcVefkmgJG8>

Challenge E: Engineering (Monster Effects) - The Bilge Busters - Middle - DI Global Finals 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQ00h1-NvII>

Project Outreach/Service Learning (Escape Artists) - Fairy Board Investigators - Middle - 3rd Place - DI Global Finals 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nwixf2GXH8>

Project Outreach/Service Learning (Escape Artists) - Fabled Five - Secondary - 1st Place - DI Global Finals 2019

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVxt_LAmOW0

Rising Stars Destination Imagination (Pop Up) 2019 Waukesha STEM School

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVZLDEJ1MQk>

Destination Imagination 2018-19 Rising Stars "Rainbow Rocks" - Our Journey!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhTBiMzn9Ig>

Destination Imagination (DI) 2018-19 Rising Stars Pop up Challenge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LO5AbbpZnD8>

Check for CLARIFICATIONS

As teams develop their solutions to Team Challenges, they may run into sections of the Challenges they find unclear. If a team has a question about something stated in Rules of the Road, their Team Manager can submit a Team Clarification on their behalf.

Each team can ask up to 10 questions during the season. Your team's Clarification(s) will not be shared with any other team. Before submitting a question, however, be sure to check for any Published Clarifications for your team's Challenge! We release a Published Clarification when our International Challenge Masters feel there is an issue about a Team Challenge or Rules of the Road that all teams should know about. A Published Clarification supersedes the Team Challenge and Rules of the Road, as well as a Team Clarification.

<https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/understanding-team-published-clarifications/>

The **deadline** for submitting Team Clarifications is **January 31, 2020** (**Note this is 2 weeks earlier than previous years).

<https://www.destinationimagination.org/challenge-program/clarifications/>

Practice INSTANT CHALLENGES

Don't forget to practice Instant Challenges at every meeting! No one starts off as an Instant Challenge (IC) genius. For many, the ability to think critically on one's feet in a very short period takes a lot of practice. Instant Challenge is not only a fun team-building activity, it accounts for 25% of a team's score!

Instant Challenge Tips for Team Managers:

- You can find this season's "Instant Challenge Practice Set" when you sign into the RESOURCES area of the DI website & Click on DOCUMENTS. <https://resources.destinationimagination.org/resources.php>
- <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/instant-challenge-tips-for-team-managers/>
- <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/instant-challenge-exploring-material-properties/>
- ROADMAP is also a great resource for Instant Challenges (IC) - it covers IC Practice Procedures, Team Roles for IC, Idea-Generating & Focusing Strategies for IC, How to Use Materials, and, finally, Reflection questions for after an Instant Challenge. ROADMAP (page 62-85) also includes Mini Instant Challenges, as well as **12** more Instant Challenges for your team to use for practice!
- We have also included a "Bonus" Instant Challenge with this newsletter & will try to include a new Instant Challenge each month. You can also find many sample Instant Challenges online.

TOURNAMENT DATES

We are looking forward to our Tournaments for 2019-20:

2020 DI Ontario PROVINCIAL Tournament

Global Kingdom Ministries

Scarborough, ON

Saturday March 7th, 2020

2020 DI GLOBAL FINALS

May 20-23, 2020

Kansas City, Missouri

Finally, please continue to reach out to any member of our DI Ontario team if you have **ANY QUESTIONS** at all and we will do our best to answer your questions or redirect you to where you can find the answer.

Creatively Yours,

Kim Brown

DI Ontario Communications Coordinator

Regional Director, GTA & Surrounding Area



Destination Imagination - Empowering Students to Change the World!

Contact Us

For questions regarding Tournaments, Training & other activities in the GTA & Surrounding Area:

Email (DI Ontario GTA/Western Region)

gta@diontario.org

Cell (Kim Brown)

905-767-5643

For all other questions:

Email (DI Ontario)

info@diontario.org

Destination ImagiNation *Instant Challenge*

CREATIVITY TRADING CARDS

Challenge: Your **TASK** is to make creativity trading cards and then to present a **PERFORMANCE** in which some of the individuals on the cards come to life.

Time: You will have up to 2 minutes to use your IMAGINATION to make creativity trading cards. Your team will then have up to 4 minutes to choose 4 of the cards, and to plan and practice your **PERFORMANCE**. Finally, you will have up to 2 minutes to present your **PERFORMANCE** to the Appraisers.

The Scene: Trading cards have become very popular.

•**Part One** (2 minutes): Using the blank cards and markers on the table, each team member should make several creativity trading cards. On each card, you should write the name of an individual whom you believe is or was creative and one interesting fact about that individual. The individual may be real or imaginary. He or she may or may not be still alive. You may also draw a simple picture of the individual if you wish. During this part of the Challenge, you **may NOT communicate with each other**.

•**Part Two** (4 minutes): Look at all of the creativity trading cards that have been made and pick 4 to use in your **PERFORMANCE**. You may talk during this part of the Challenge. In your **PERFORMANCE**, the 4 creative individuals on the cards you have chosen should come to life. In addition, during your **PERFORMANCE**, the information that is on the cards of those 4 creative individuals should be shared with the Appraisers.

•**Part Three** (2 minutes): Present your **PERFORMANCE** to the Appraisers.

Materials:

You will have a stack of 25 blank index cards and 2 boxes of colored markers. A piece of paper and a pencil also will be available for your team to use as you plan and present your **PERFORMANCE**.

Scoring: You will receive

- A. 20 points if you include 4 creative individuals and an interesting fact about each of them in your **PERFORMANCE**.
- B. Up to 10 points (40 points maximum) for the creativity of each of the individuals you have chosen to use in your **PERFORMANCE**.
- C. Up to 20 points for the creativity of your **PERFORMANCE**.
- D. Up to 20 points for how well your team works together.

Debrief:

1. *Did you succeed in all the things required in the challenge?*
2. *Creativity is not always important in this type of challenge. Usually the most direct solution is the best. If creativity is included, it is usually in the use of the materials. Did you use the materials in an unusual way?*
3. *Did you make efficient use of the materials?*
4. *How well did your team work together in the planning and during the construction?*
5. *Did one team keep track of the time? Did you finish in time?*
6. *Did one team member keep track of challenge requirements?*
7. *Did one team member keep everyone organized? Did all team members contribute?*

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