

## What is Destination Imagination/DI?

Destination Imagination (DI) is open to all kindergarten through university level students worldwide. Students form teams of up to 7 members, select their preferred Challenge and work together to develop a solution to the Challenge. Each team has at least one Team Manager (often a parent or teacher) who helps keep the team on track, but does not assist or interfere with the team's solution. Each season takes place during the school year. Teams typically spend 2 to 4 months developing and rehearsing their Challenge solutions. Our DI teams will first compete with their solutions at the regional level called the Texas Gulf Coast Region. All teams first compete at the regional level. The top teams from the regional competition will then be invited to participate in the Texas DI competition which is called the Lone Star Finals and the winners from this competition will be invited to the DI Global Finals.



## What is a Team Challenge?

A Team Challenge is a "problem" that requires each team to work collaboratively to creatively solve. Team Challenges are open-ended problem-based learning experiences that enable students to learn and experience the creative process while fostering their creativity, curiosity and courage. The Team Challenges this year are : Engineering- Roll With It, Technical- Daring Escape, Scientific-Up Close , Fine Arts- Tricky Tales, Improvisational- Festival Frenzy, Service Learning- For The Future, and Early Learning (Kinder-2nd grade)- Monsters Manner. The Early Learning Challenge is noncompetitive and does not compete beyond the regional level.

## What is a Destination Imagination (DI) team?

A DI team consists of up to 7 students with a parent/team manager(s). The students may be from different grade levels and/or different schools. The team will compete in the division of the **oldest** student on the team. The student team members are responsible for coming up with any and all solutions for their chosen challenge. The parent/team manager(s) are there to assist as guides in the process and to ensure the team works together and stays on task. If the team is putting on a play then it is up to the team members to come up with the ideas, write a script, assign roles, design and create costumes, sets and props. None of these activities are done by the parent/team manager(s) or the other parents. There can be no parent/adult interference in that process, unless a safety issue comes into play. Parents are allowed to help demonstrate how to use a particular tool, demonstrate how to sew or incorporate a particular technique, but they may not do the work themselves.

## What is a team manager?

A team manager is an adult that will act as a facilitator for the team. Teams may have a co-team manager. The team manager helps their team to interpret the requirements of the challenge, build team camaraderie, maintain safety for the team and keeps the team on target with the requirements of the challenge they have chosen. The team manager(s) are the liaison between the DI team, the local school district DI coordinator(s) and the Di Gulf Coast Region member group. There are Team Manager trainings held locally and additional resources available.

## How often does a team meet and where?

A team usually meets once a week. During these meetings the teams work on solving their chosen Team Challenge, and practicing for the 'Instant Challenge'. Teams may need to meet more than once a week closer to the time of competition. Teams generally meet at a team member's home. Practices generally last from 1 hour – 1 ½ hours.

## What is an Instant Challenge?

Each team will be asked to solve an Instant Challenge for their DI tournament. The team must think on their feet to produce a solution in a short period of time. Instant Challenges are performance-based, task-based, or a combination of the two. Although each Instant Challenge has different requirements, all Instant Challenges reward teams for their teamwork. Instant Challenges are kept confidential until it is time for teams to solve them. The Team Manager(s) are not allowed to actively participate in the Instant Challenge. Each team is scored based on a combination of team work and their creativity at solving the Instant Challenge. The score from the Instant Challenge makes up 25% of the team's total final score.

## **Is there any cost involved in participating in DI?**

There are registration fees for each team, background check fees for each team manager and tournament fees for each team who attends the competition(s). Friendswood ISD generously pays the registration fees and tournament fees for each team.

Team members and their parents are responsible for providing the background checks for each team manager, their own challenge solution materials for sets, displays, costumes, props, etc. and for any technology needs relating to the challenge solution. Teams are strongly encouraged to use 'garage sale' and recycled items to keep costs to a minimum. Each Team Challenge sets a maximum budget (typically \$150-200) for materials/expenditures allowed and teams are responsible for keeping an itemized budget that must be presented to officials at the competition. Team members and parents are also responsible for travel expenses.

## **How do I get started?**

Once you have a group of students that can meet together and at least one adult willing to be a team manager, please contact the DI coordinator for each school:

**Bales Intermediate- Marianne S.-Harner** [msmietanaharner@fisdk12.net](mailto:msmietanaharner@fisdk12.net)

**Cline Elementary- Jen McCray** [jmccray@fisdk12.net](mailto:jmccray@fisdk12.net)

**Westwood Elementary- Danyelle Moreno** [dmoreno@fisdk12.net](mailto:dmoreno@fisdk12.net)

**Windsong Intermediate- Ann Moetteli** [amoetteli@fisdk12.net](mailto:amoetteli@fisdk12.net)

## **INTERESTED??**

Please join us for a district-wide meeting to answer your questions about Destination Imagination, go over the Team Challenges, and to help solidify teams and team managers. This meeting will be held at Zue S. Bales Intermediate on Thursday, September 23 at 5:30pm.

### **Dates:**

Gulf Coast Regional DI Competition- TBD, usually a weekend in Jan.-Feb.

*Top Scorers are invited to Texas DI/Lone Star Finals. (Early Learning level teams do not compete beyond Regionals)*

Lone Star Finals- March 25-26, University of Texas, Arlington, TX

*Top Scorers from Regional are invited to Global Finals.*

Global Finals- May 21-24, Kansas City, MO

## **Friendswood ISD Destination Imagination Informational Meeting**

**Zue S. Bales Intermediate School**

**September 23, 2021**

**5:30pm - 6:30pm**

**Cafeteria**

### **Links:**

National: [www.destinationimagination.org](http://www.destinationimagination.org)

State of Texas: [www.texasdi.org](http://www.texasdi.org)

Regional: [www.gulfcoastdi.com](http://www.gulfcoastdi.com)