

## Destination Imagination description

### BrainSport NAME

### **Destination Imagination ("DI")**

"Definition of the 'sport'"

Destination ImagiNation is a community-based, school-friendly program that builds participants' creativity, problem solving, and teamwork skills 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 2-4 months 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

Brief History

DI is the outgrowth of the Odyssey of the Mind program. The program split into two different organizations in 2000, primarily over a dispute regarding level of volunteerism and for-profit vs. not-for-profit status. DI is a not-for-profit organization, making it eligible to be funded locally by the State of WA Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Usefulness/Purpose (the "Why")

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. One of the most important tenets of the DI program is that the students solve the challenges themselves, with no "outside interference" by non-team members. The adult Team Manager (TM) helps facilitate team building and meetings, but is also barred from contributing to the team's solution. Outside "experts" may teach skills to the team members, but only in a general sense, and not specific to solving a certain aspect of the challenge.

### Forming a team(s)

(the "Who") # of recommended participants (minimum to maximum)

A DI team is made up of anywhere from 2 to 7 participants, plus an adult Team Manager. While 2 is a minimum team size, the program is really designed for teams of at least 4-5 members.

"When" to schedule the initial program start

Team are typically formed in the Fall after school has started. Veteran teams will often re-form again late in the summer when the new challenges are out and available.

"How" often should meetings be held

Team meeting frequency is a function of the experience level of the team members. Beginning teams will typically meet once a week for 1-2 hours each in order to kick off the whole process. As the regional tournament date approaches, teams may choose to meet longer or more often depending on their readiness to present their solution.

"Where" to meet regularly, for trial contests, for the real events

Teams meet wherever they can, including the Team Manager's home, another team member's home, a school room if available, etc.

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### Events (list, dates, or periodic offerings, etc)

In Washington State, we are governed by the local DI affiliate organization, Washington Imagination Network (WIN). Through WIN, there are three levels of tournaments available in which teams can participate:

- Regional tournament, available to all participants. For 2007/2008, the Seattle-Metro regional tournament is being held at Interlake HS (Bellevue) on Saturday March 1, 2008.

- State (affiliate) tournament, by invitation only, for those teams qualifying to advance from their regional tournament. (There are 6 regional tournaments across Washington.) For 2007/2008, this tournament is being held at Eastmont JH/Sterling MS in East Wenatchee on Saturday March 29, 2008.

- Global Finals, again by invitation only, for those teams qualifying to advance from their State (affiliate) tournament. For 2007/2008, this tournament is being held at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville) May 21-24, 2008.

### Costs

Bare minimum

There are various fees required for different aspects of the program:

Recommended range

- registration fees to the DI organization, which are \$110 for an individual team, or \$225 for a membership group of up to 5 teams together (a "5-pak").

- registration fees to WIN, the State affiliate, which are \$75 per membership (either single team or "5-pak")

- regional tournament fee of \$25 per team, or \$100 per "5-pak".

- if invited, there is a \$50 State tournament fee per team.

The challenges themselves define a cost limit typically from \$125 to \$175 for the materials brought to the presentation of the solution, however these items may be used items around the house that weren't necessarily purchased specifically for this purpose.

Additional add-ons (e.g, team T-shirts, Party, etc.)

This can be as extravagant or as frugal as any team chooses. Team T-shirts/uniforms are not required. At a minimum, you can expect to need to provide snacks at your longer team meetings.

### Finding Volunteers...

Creating the first teams

The easiest part about forming a DI team is finding students willing to participate. The hardest part about forming a DI team is finding an adult willing to be the Team Manager ("TM"). To help with that recruitment, know that there are local resources to help TMs run a team, including TM training sessions and "coffees" where TMs gather together to share experiences and insights.

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Growing the number of teams

Success breeds more teams. What often happens is a team will grow beyond the 7-member limit, and so that team can split into two teams, often coached by the same TM, although not choosing the same challenge to solve.

Teams can be formed either within a specific school, or can be "independent" teams comprised of students from different schools. Independent teams often arise when friends attend different choice schools from their home school, e.g., a team could be made up of students from ICS, EAS, Redmond JH, and Evergreen JH. Since they don't attend the same school, it isn't necessarily appropriate to form the team based on any one school unless all but one or two attend there.

### Resources

Official Organization(s)

Destination Imagination is the official international organization. It can be accessed on the web at : <http://www.idodi.org/>  
Washington Imagination Network, the Washington State DI affiliate, can be accessed on the web at: <http://www.wa-di.org/>  
This is the best portal for you to use, as the WIN website contains links to the main DI website as well as other resources for you to use.

Website & links

For further information and support, there are the following people available to help with any request:

Other recommended resources (like math materials, places to show for costumes, building materials, etc.)

Additional Resources (books, vocabulary links, people, facilities, etc)

- WIN Executive Director: Barb Sailors, [probsolv@whidbey.net](mailto:probsolv@whidbey.net) , (360) 675-1354
- WIN Board President: Paul Fisher, [fisherfamily1@comcast.net](mailto:fisherfamily1@comcast.net) , (425) 836-9080
- Seattle-Metro Regional Director: Suzanne Zeitz, [szeitz@mail.com](mailto:szeitz@mail.com) , (425) 836-3977
- Any WIN Board member, all of whom can be found on the WIN website at: <http://www.wa-di.org/WINBoard.html>

### Success Stories

Students on DI teams have come from these LWSD schools

Alcott EL  
Blackwell EL  
Einstein EL  
Helen Keller EL  
Lakeview EL  
Rockwell EL  
Samantha Smith EL  
Environmental & Adventure School  
Evergreen JHS  
Redmond JHS  
International Community School  
Redmond HS