



"I think every child in America should be competing in DI— every single child should become involved, be part of a team, be innovative, and be able to work outside the box."

~Russell Musgrove, Managing Director for Global Vehicles, Federal Express

What is Destination Imagination?

Destination Imagination is a program that promotes divergent thinking and develops problem-solving skills in students from kindergarten through college. We offer students a unique opportunity to participate in challenging and motivating activities both inside and outside their regular classrooms curriculum. Under the guidance of an adult Team Manager, students learn to work with others on a Team. They develop self-confidence by creating solutions, evaluating ideas, and making decisions. They develop their creative skills through problem solving and independent thinking.

Understanding the Parts of Destination Imagination

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 (Central Challenge and Side Trips)* 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 Central Challenge

Purpose: Encourages development of Creative Problem Solving techniques, teamwork, and creative process over a long period of time (usually several months).

Educational Focus of Central Challenge: The project undertaken by the team is curriculum-based and focused on one or more of the following areas: Theatrical/ Literary/ Fine Arts, Technical/ Mechanical Design, Structural Design, or Improvisational Techniques.

Research: Each of the six *Central Challenges* involves a research component.

Global Focus: One or more Challenge each year involves an international 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, *Side Trips* allow participants to find their own best ways to present what they have learned.

Freedom of Choice: Allow teams total freedom to develop elements of their own choosing and to highlight areas of strength that are not brought forth in the *Central Challenge* requirements.

Individualized: Allow and encourage teams to recognize and make the most of each individual's abilities and interests.

Instant Challenge

A Destination Imagination *Instant Challenge* is a Challenge 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 a teams 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 problem-solving strategies, assessment and use of available materials, and teamwork are utilized under tight time constraints.

Time Management: Requires teams to use time management strategies as the problem-solve.



North Carolina Destination Imagination thanks the National Dairy Association for their ongoing sponsorship and support. Contact us today if your organization would like to become a DI sponsor!



Destination Imagination By the Numbers

72,000

The number of children who participate in DI annually.

Over 6,000

The number of schools involved in Destination Imagination.

50

The number of states with DI teams.

More than 30

The number of countries that participate in Destination Imagination.

15,000

The number of teams expected to participate in DI in 2009-2010.

35,000

The number of Destination Imagina-

tion volunteers worldwide.

18,000

The number of Destination Imagination Team Managers worldwide.

16,000

The number of people who attend DI Global Finals.

\$\$\$ Questions– How Much Does DI Cost? Is DI Expensive Compared to Other Programs?

You may have heard wonderful things about Destination Imagination and are wondering how much it actually costs to have a team. Finding out that something costs more than you expected is never any fun. So let's take a realistic look at the money involved in a team going through their DI year.

Your first expense is going to be the cost of the team pak. If you are getting a one-team pak, the cost is \$135. This price registers you with DI, gives you internet access to materials including the Challenges, Rules of the Road, Team Manager Handbook, Practice Instant Challenges, and more. These materials are also shipped to you. The price also covers trainings throughout the year.

Your other definite cost is the NCDI \$40 Tournament Registration Fee. You may register for either or both of our tournaments and the fee is \$40 per team. This fee covers tournament costs including medals, trophies, materials, and site fees such as custodial expenses.

Each Challenge has a cost limit. This limit varies with each Challenge, but is usually somewhere around \$125. This cost limit counts only the items that make it onto the

performance stage. Teams sometimes change themes, costumes, props, and backdrops after they have begun work. They may also go through practice materials as they learn to use a saw or a sewing machine. On the other hand, DI teams are excellent at finding items in their attic or at secondhand stores and at scrounging for items like appliance boxes that can be made into wonderful set pieces. Learning to budget wisely is one of the skills that DI teaches.

So your known expenses, team pak purchase, tournament registration, and materials add up to around \$300 per team. For a team of seven members, this is about \$43 per child. Most teams work for around five months, bringing the cost of participating on a DI team to less than \$9 per child per month. Compare that to the cost of piano or dance lessons or to the expenses involved in being on a soccer team. DI is a great value!

There are other costs to consider which will vary from team to team. Will your team have to travel to the tournament? Will the trip require overnight lodging? These can be added expenses. Then there are things like snacks to consider– DI teams have

been known to consume massive amounts of pizza!

And finally, if your team attends Global Finals, the registration costs are around \$600 per person. This includes all costs, including meals and lodging, for a four-day event. We recognize that this is a major expense, and highly recommend that you consider early in the season whether or not your team will attend this event if they place first at their State Tournament. Participating in Global Finals is an unequaled educational experience that will have an impact on your child that will last a lifetime.

Teams find their funding in a variety of ways. Schools or sponsoring organizations may give teams money or pay for their team paks. Some teams ask each team member to pay a certain amount of money up front to fund the team. Many teams engage in fundraising activities from car washes and spaghetti dinners to wrapping paper and candy sales. One NCDI team raised money by having faculty members pledge to kiss a goat or pig if a certain amount was raised. Teams can be as creative with their fundraising as they are with their Challenge solutions!

NCDI Dates to Remember!

February 15, 2010	Teams planning to participate in DI in NC need to purchase team numbers by this date
February 18, 2010	Last day to register and pay \$40 fee for the NCDI Western Tournament
March 20, 2010	NCDI Western Tournament at Blue Ridge Community College in Flat Rock, NC
March 22, 2010	Last day to register and pay \$40 fee for NCDI Eastern Tournament in Elizabeth City
April 16, 2010	Appraiser Training, Elizabeth City
April 17, 2010	NCDI Eastern Tournament at J.C. Sawyer in Elizabeth City
May 26-29, 2010	DI Global Finals in Knoxville, Tennessee

