



Creative Problem Solving Program Heart of Texas CPSO

What is Destination ImagiNation? Destination ImagiNation is an extracurricular, school-sponsored program that fosters creativity and team-based problem-solving skills and life skills for students. Leander ISD DI is open to all students in third through twelfth grades. The goal of Destination ImagiNation is to cultivate the creative problem solving process and make it an unconscious part of students' everyday lives.

Teams will showcase their solutions at a **DI Regional Tournament on February 18, 2017 in Georgetown, Texas.** Teams may advance to state and international competitions later in the spring. Teams participate in both the Team Challenge and Instant Challenge portions of the competition. The "Team Challenge" solution is developed by the team over a *5-7 month period*. The team designs and creates, without adult assistance, all props, costumes and other artistic technical elements necessary to bring the presentation to life. But the team's solution is not complete until they receive the final improv prop from the judges just before their presentation!

Instant Challenges are designed to teach students how to think quickly, creatively and strategically. At competition the team is given an Instant Challenge they have not seen before. For example, a team may be asked to tell the judge about a mouse's happiest day, create a team story using a given set of items, manipulate materials to build a structure, or develop a non-verbal communication system with team members to complete a given task. Team members have a few minutes to think and develop strategy and a brief period of time to respond to the challenge. Both the Team Challenges and Instant Challenges provide and promote opportunities to develop life-long skills that are essential in our ever-changing world.

What does it take to form a team? A maximum of seven students is placed on a team. At least two parent volunteers are also necessary to be the Team Managers. The Team Manager helps the students stay on schedule and gather materials and also guides them through the problem-solving process. Time outside of school is about two hours each week, gradually increasing as competition time approaches.

What is required of a Destination ImagiNation parent? Parents must make every effort to have the student at every practice or work session. Parents must not contribute ideas or help

prepare any part of the solution, but are expected to contribute time to the program. There are many ways to make your contribution. In addition to team managers, we need appraisers, organizers, and workers for workshops, competitions and our awards ceremony celebrations. **(See the registration form for details.)** Parent volunteers make this program possible.

Is there Team Manager training available? Yes, absolutely! Consider volunteering as a Team Manager, it's a great way to get *your* creative juices flowing! Training resources include the Team Manager's manual, regular Team Manager training sessions, workshops and helpful, experienced school coordinators who can guide you through the entire Destination ImagiNation program! No special skills are required to be a Team Manager other than your willingness to work with a great, creative group of kids! Each year, sadly, we have kids who want to participate but can't because we need more Team Managers. Please consider taking this on or sharing it with someone you enjoy working with.

Team Manager Trainings: Cost – small fee

Oct.1 at 8:30, Naumann Elementary, Beginners & Advanced

Nov.6 at 8:30, location TBA, Beginner & Advanced

IC training, TBA location

Tournament Procedures & Forms Training, TBA location

How do students sign up to participate?

Turn in the completed student registration form to the campus QUEST teacher by **FRIDAY, September 23.**

Every attempt will be made to place each student who registers on a team. Only the number of adults who are willing to be Team Managers and appraisers limits us.