



FOREST HILLS FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION



Dear Parents,

Destination Imagination (DI) is an international, educational program that gives kids an amazing outlet for their creativity, while teaching them leadership, teamwork, positive thinking, project management and more. The tournament takes place in the spring, and teams work through the winter on their solutions. Coordinated by the Forest Hills Foundation for Education (FHFE), teams will be forming at the beginning of the school year in all Forest Hills schools. DI is for ALL children, no matter what their perceived abilities may be.

Rising Stars!

Students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade form Rising Stars teams that focus on a noncompetitive challenge, giving them the opportunity to express their creativity, explore new ideas and work as a team.

Challenge Teams

Teams of 2 to 7 kids from 3rd grade through university level solve one of six open-ended Challenges (Scientific, Structural, Fine Arts, Service Learning, Improvisation, or Technical) in their own unique ways, and present their solutions at Regional Tournaments in the spring. Teams also solve on-the-spot Instant Challenges at the tournaments, where they must think on their feet and work together to solve a problem in around five minutes.

Parent Commitment

Teams meet once a week at their own convenience with an adult volunteer (parent/ faculty) Team Manager, making it easy to work around other activities. Teams usually meet through the winter months for about two hours each week, with time commitment increasing for extra practice and preparation time as they draw closer to tournament, much like other competitive teams.

All teams need at least 3 adult volunteers.

- Team Manager – This person will handle team paperwork, registration, and receipt tracking (each Challenge has a budget, and an expense report must be provided at competition.). Many teams have co-managers, making it easier to organize meetings, etc.
- Appraiser – This person will be an appraiser (judge) at the regional tournament (and subsequently at State and Global competitions if the team advances). Appraisers are trained at a day-long seminar in late winter.
- Tournament Volunteer – This person will help make the regional tournament day run smoothly. Tournament volunteers will assist as needed to keep the day running smoothly.

Parent participation and support is necessary. Please make sure your family is dedicated to being a part of the team.

Student Commitment

Students must be prepared to work actively with their team in order to create their solutions for tournament day. Students should understand that they are fully committed to their team until all competitions are completed.

Financial Commitment

There are costs associated with DI – however, the Forest Hills Foundation For Education is committed to assisting teams with those costs. All registration and tournament fees will be covered by the Foundation. Fees for solution materials, instant challenge practice, and team building are the responsibility of the team—coming up with creative ways to pay for these things can be part of the learning and the challenge!

Ready to Learn More? Contact FHFE DI Coordinator Colleen Berliner at colleen.berliner@gmail.com. For more info about DI, visit www.DestinationImagination.org.

Here are some answers to questions you may have about being a Destination Imagination Team Manager

Q1: Where do I even start?

A: Start by getting excited! The Destination Imagination (DI) experience is one that your child will never forget. You are not only facilitating this once in a lifetime experience for your child, but other students as well – so thank you!

Once you've given yourself a pat on the back, start by looking around the DI website (<http://www.destinationimagination.org>). This comprehensive resource will give you a good idea of what the program is all about and why they provide this programming for students. You can also see the challenges for next year's tournament—this should get your creative juices flowing!

Lastly, head to YouTube and search “Destination Imagination Globals 2018.” Check out some of the teams that competed in the most recent global competition that takes place each May in Knoxville. Seeing what kids are aiming for, and capable of, can help you visualize what your team could be presenting come tournament time. Forest Hills had our first team go to globals this past year and we hope to send more next season!

Q2: What about training?

A: FHFE will host a potential team manager workshop in September to answer questions and help you get started. There is also a mandatory team manager training for those new to the DI program in November (usually in Mariemont). We will provide that date for you when it becomes published.

Q3: When should I start practices?

A: You might want to have your team just get together for some fun first. Forging bonds between teammates early will foster future success. Younger teams could go to a park and try some team building activities together (here are some ideas: <http://www.ventureteambuilding.co.uk/team-building-activities/>). Older teams could try a breakout room together.

After you receive your team manager manual in the fall, then just get familiar with it. Schedule your first practice when you understand your team's long range goals.

Q4: What do team practices look like?

A: Practices look like what you envision them to be. Each team is different. Some teams meet once a week for two hours. Others meet less frequently, some more frequently. Some teams meet for longer periods of time, others for shorter periods of time. As you plan, consider the age group you will be leading. Younger students may need to meet more often but for shorter periods of time.

With regards to what you need to do at practice, the Team Manager manual you will receive lays out a very detailed set of activities that you can use and/or modify. You will probably find that as you become more familiar with the program, you tend to rely less on the team manager manual. Instead, you will plan your practices more around where the kids need to go to achieve the various goals they have set for themselves.

Q5: What about program costs?

A: The Forest Hills Foundation for Education (FHFE) takes care of costs related to registering your team, providing you with the team manager manual, and FHFE also pays for tournament registration.

As team manager, you would be responsible for making sure the students have the resources needed to prepare the central challenge solution and to be able to practice instant challenges during team practices. We suggest collecting about \$200 (divided among by the number of team members) for materials at the beginning of the season—which should cover most of what you may need. The students can practice budgeting for and tracking spending of the money related to their central challenge solution. Usually central challenge solution budgets are approximately \$150. Any money left over can/may be used for other expenses like a team cheer in the tournament program, tournament t-shirts, or a party when the season is over! This money could also be saved for expenses if your team advances to the state tournament.

Q6: When is the tournament?

A: This year's tournament will be on March 2nd, 2019 at Nagel Middle School.

Q7: How much do I help the team solve their problem?

A: Solving the problem is up to the students. In fact, many teams won't even discuss their problem with parents because they don't want “suggestions”. However, you can teach your team skills that are necessary to accomplish the solution they have decided upon i.e. they want to make a costume that requires sewing, so you can teach them to sew. You will learn more about the adult interference policy as you get into the program.

FHFE will host a team manager workshop on September 17th to discuss these topics and more. If you are interested in attending or have other questions about DI, please contact the FHFE Program Initiatives Team leader, Megan Ossenbeck (Meganmo@fuse.net) or our DI Coordinator, Colleen Berliner (colleen.berliner@gmail.com).