

# Destination Imagination Team Manager Information

Thank you for your interest in serving children as a Destination Imagination team manager!

## Overview

Destination ImagiNation (DI) is an international creative problem-solving competition open to all PISD students. The purpose of DI is to develop life-long learning skills such as:

creative problem solving	persistence
decision making	ownership of efforts and ideas
conflict resolution	tenacity
time management	higher order thinking skills
public speaking	risk taking

Competition takes place on a divisional basis. Age-divisions are determined by the oldest member of the team. Each challenge specifies the divisions eligible for competition. Current divisions are:

Primary:	Kindergarten – 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade
Elementary:	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> grades
Intermediate:	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grades
Secondary:	9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grades

DI has regional, state, national, and international affiliates. Tournaments reflect this organization: regional, state, and global (national and international). DI competition guidelines and procedures are published, managed, and updated by the DI organization; the most current information is found on-line at <http://www.texasdi.org/>.

The PISD is one of many area school districts participating in the NExT Regional affiliate. The NExT Region includes but is not limited to Plano, Frisco, Allen, McKinney, Garland and many area private schools. Regional dates, trainings, and tournaments are established and managed by the NExT Regional Board rather than by any member school district. The NExT Region uses a variety of public and private school sites throughout the region based upon availability.

## District Philosophy

The Plano ISD establishes guidelines for PISD staff, parents, and students within the general philosophy and rules provided by the DI organization and the NExT Region. PISD also commits to certain financial support for teams that reflect and adhere to this philosophy.

- Participation in Destination ImagiNation is open to all PISD students. The numbers of students interested in participating on individual campuses and the number of parents willing to serve as team managers will affect the number of teams that can be formed. In addition:
  - Returning teams that competed the previous school year are allowed to remain together and may replace students as needed.
  - New teams will be formed from new participants if parent coaches volunteer.
  - Team members who participated the previous year and who now are enrolled in a different school are eligible to participate on their former team IF space permits and administrators agree.
  - Students from other memberships may join a team if space permits and all involved agree. See current DI guidelines for additional information to determine deadlines.
  - Teams unable to recruit a parent coach may be disbanded.

- The PISD assumes costs for:
  - Team membership in DI
  - All tournament registrations (regional, state, and global)
  - Travel, room, and meal expenses for all student members (rooms are shared)
  - Travel, room, and meal expenses for up to three team managers/parents per team (all with required security clearance – one adult per room with students)
  - Travel, room, and meal expenses for accompanying district employees
- The PISD does not pay for discretionary items such as:
  - t-shirts
  - pins
  - regional training fees
  - supplies and props
  - transportation of props to tournaments
- Unreasonable expenses may limit accessibility for district students. Some discretionary team expenses are unavoidable to prepare for tournaments, however, the PISD expects each team to limit expenses to those that are reasonable and necessary.
- The PISD believes that raising funds to pay for outside coaches violates the spirit of DI and is counter to the purpose of the DI experience for PISD students. DI is a creative problem-solving competition in which students are expected to solve their own problems. Team managers are to facilitate student exploration and assist with logistics. Adults are not to be directly involved in the problem-solving process. Therefore, team managers are not ‘coaches’ in the traditional sense, and students should not be ‘coached’ on their problem-solving. The PISD will not sponsor teams that fail to adhere to this philosophy.
- The PISD requires team managers to provide for student safety and security. All team managers must complete the volunteer security screening process and must sign and return the district security statement prior to hosting team practices.
- Team managers also must become familiar with district guidelines regarding travel for DI events.
  - Students may participate in DI competitions without a parent in attendance, but will not be permitted to participate in any other events and/or activities without a parent present. Team members may not participate in side trips or any other event/activity other than the competition without their parent present.
- The team manager may be required to communicate directly with DI affiliates throughout the experience for challenge clarification and tournament needs. The team manager will communicate directly with the campus sponsor regarding PISD guidelines and expectations.

I accept and will adhere to the PISD philosophy and expectations for team managers.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_