



### **What is Destination Imagination?**

Destination Imagination (DI) is a volunteer-led, non-profit organization whose purpose is to inspire and equip students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders. It is a project-based learning program designed to complement K-12 education. Annually, DI offers seven new academic Challenges in the fields of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), fine arts, service learning and early learning. In solving a challenge, students learn the creative process from imagination to innovation and the skills needed to thrive in school, their careers and beyond.

### **What is the goal of DI Challenges?**

The goal of each DI Challenge is to teach students 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that will help them thrive in an ever-changing world. Students learn the creative process and how to take a novel idea and see it all the way through to fruition. They also gain invaluable life and career skills, including creative and critical thinking, collaboration, project management, perseverance, risk taking, budgeting and conflict management.

### **What are the age/grade requirements to participate in DI?**

Students from kindergarten through university level can participate in DI. Applicable to Ben Franklin Academy (BFA) for the 2021-22 school year is as follows:

- *Elementary Level:* Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade (or no student born before June 15, 2010)
- *Middle Level:* 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades (or no student born before June 15, 2007)
- *Rising Stars!®:* (non-competitive challenge) Preschool – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (Created for early learners, teams work together on performances complete with characters, props and scripts. Unlike the other levels of DI, it is non-competitive, but offers a tournament option.)

### **How many students make up a DI team?**

DI teams may consist of two (minimum) to seven (maximum) members and must have an adult Team Manager (often a teacher or parent).

### **What is a DI Team Manager?**

The role of the Team Manager is to facilitate DI team meetings, keep team members on task and provide resources. The Team Manager does not provide solutions or tell team members how to solve the Challenge. It is imperative that the Team Manager allows the team members to solve the Challenge in their own ways. All solutions – including props, costumes, set designs, structures, scripts, etc. – must be team created and student-led. No adult interference is allowed.

### **How long does a team work on a Challenge?**

Teams often start meeting in October or November and spend approximately two to four months planning, designing and building a solution to their Central Challenge. Teams also practice Instant Challenges during their meetings. Teams usually meet at least once a week (but it can increase closer to tournaments, depending on team needs, etc.) to work on their solution.

### **What is a DI tournament?**

All BFA DI teams compete at the South Metro Regional DI Tournament, which is where teams showcase their creative Central Challenge solutions. Team solutions are assessed by a panel of trained Appraisers (judges), ranging from educators to artists to engineers. Solutions are scored on a variety of elements, including originality, workmanship, presentation, teamwork and meeting requirements for the Challenge. In addition, teams are given an Instant Challenge and the materials with which to solve it at the tournament. It is a chance for teams to demonstrate their creative problem solving skills, teamwork and ability to “think on their feet.” (Instant Challenges are kept confidential during the tournament and throughout the end of DI Global Finals.) Teams with the highest scores advance to the Colorado Affiliate Tournament (with the exception of Rising Stars!® teams). The top-tiered teams from the Affiliate Tournaments advance to Global Finals.

### **Where can I find DI's 2021-22 Central Challenges?**

For a preview of this year's DI Challenges, please click here: <https://www.destinationimagination.org/challenge-program/2021-22-challenge-previews/>.

**When are the DI Regional and Affiliate (State) Tournaments scheduled?**

The South Metro Regional DI is usually held in the spring (e.g., late February/early March). The Colorado Affiliate (State) Tournament is usually held in early April.

**How much does it cost to do DI?**

The BFA STEM Committee and Douglas County School District (DCSD) defray some of the costs of DI for traditional in-person teams (e.g., team numbers, tournament fees, etc.). Once your child is part of a BFA DI team, there is a registration fee of \$65 per participant (\$30 for Rising Stars (non-competitive) participants). It is up to Team Managers to determine additional team fees (which can vary depending on the Central Challenge and the needs of the team) for materials, team shirts, etc.

**For more information about DI at BFA**, please contact Jason Sunahara, BFA DI Coordinator, at [jsunahara@gmail.com](mailto:jsunahara@gmail.com).

**For more information about DI in general, please click on the following links:**

Additional general information about DI in Colorado: <https://www.dicolorado.com/about-di/>

DI Colorado FAQs: <https://www.dicolorado.com/about-di/#faqs>

