



Administered in Iowa by:



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Destination Imagination® Inc?

Destination Imagination Incorporated is 501(c)(3) organization who develops the Destination Imagination program. The Destination Imagination Inc.'s mission is to develop opportunities that inspire the global community of learners to utilize diverse approaches in applying 21st century skills and creativity through teaching the creative process.

Who does DI impact?

Destination Imagination annually impacts:

- 150,000 participants across five age levels
- 38,000+ volunteers
- 1,500,000+ alumni
- 48 states and 30 countries

What is the Destination Imagination® program?

Destination Imagination (DI) is a 21st century learning programming that is cross-curricular and complements K-12 education by fostering curiosity, courage and creativity.

- Our open-ended academic Challenges stimulate curiosity so that kids develop an interest in their world and can imagine opportunities to improve it.
- Courage is gained when they learn their unique strengths and abilities and then step outside their comfort zones to pursue ideas, collaborate, and develop presentations.
- Creativity is increased when they take a novel idea through to fruition.

The DI program teaches participants to walk through a project-based learning system, call the Creative Process.

What is the Creative Process?

The creative process is about thinking and doing in no prescribed order. Some people “do” first and then think about what they have done, while others “think” first, then initiate action. Below are the components of the creative process that our participants experience while solving our Challenges.



Why do students participate in Destination Imagination?

The exponential growth in new technologies and our 21st century global economy is outpacing K-12 education, and students and teachers need opportunities to bridge this widening gap. Through the Destination Imagination Program, students learn higher order thinking, improve in creative and critical thinking, explore their curiosity, build on their unique strengths, and learn the skills needed for the 21st century workforce. Destination Imagination teaches these life skills and expands imaginations through team-based, creative problem-solving Challenges. According to one of Iowa's Team Managers:

"My kids can hardly wait to start every year because they love the challenge and the fact that no adult can input into their solution. They love that they get to use their creativity in a fun and daring way, and the program encourages them to think outside the box."

Who runs the Destination Imagination program in Iowa?

Students for a Creative Iowa, also known as cre8iowa, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that is staffed entirely by volunteers. We are the proud administrators of the Destination Imagination program in Iowa.

Our mission is to encourage Iowa students to develop creative, critical, independent and collaborative thinking skills. Our organization envisions that every Iowa student will participate in a creative problem solving and teamwork building program in a safe learning environment to grow and take measured risks. Our strategy to fulfill our mission and vision is to Offer and promote the Destination Imagination® program, an alternative to traditional extracurricular activities.

Who is eligible to participate?

Two to seven Iowa students can be part of a competitive Iowa DI team, participating within their own age appropriate Level. Most teams consist of 5 to 7 members. Students are grouped by level: Primary, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, or College & University. Students may participate in one (or more) competitive Challenges.

Each team also needs an adult Team Manager and Appraiser. Team Managers help students stay on track and learn new skills, but do not directly help the team develop its solution to the DI Challenge. Appraisers serve at tournaments to allow the team to compete.

There is a non-competitive option for primary-age students. Rising Stars!® for Early Learners Challenge offers a simple creative Challenge where 4-7 years old children learn problem-solving, work together, and make new friends. The Rising Stars!® Challenge includes a showcase (tournament) option.

What does a team do?

Students typically work together for 2 to 5 months during the school year to solve their choice of an open-ended Challenge. Each Challenge is designed to enable students to apply knowledge to novel opportunities through addressing academic areas. The primary areas of focus for each Challenge are:

- Challenge A – Technical
- Challenge B – Scientific
- Challenge C - Fine Arts
- Challenge D - Improvisational
- Challenge E – Structural
- Service Learning Challenge

Teams are encouraged to take creative and intellectual risks, remain flexible, and be creative to devise original solutions that satisfy the requirements of their Challenges by using only their own ideas and hands-on efforts. The team then presents a rehearsed or improvised solution in a 5 to 8 minute skit, and solves an Instant Challenge (on-the-spot problem) at the Sub-state Tournament held in Iowa in late February/early March. If a team advances, it competes at the Iowa Affiliate tournament held in late March/early April in Ames. Iowa teams can earn the opportunity to compete at Destination Imagination Global Finals in May based on competitive distinction and/or merit. With more than 17,000 attendees, Global Finals is the world's largest celebration of creativity

How often do teams meet?

Once a team is formed, team members determine their goals and decide how often they want to meet. Historically, teams meet once a week, but as they approach tournament, they may meet two or more times a week. This is entirely dependent on a team's

work style, other activities that compete for students' time, the goals the team sets, and the availability of the Team Manager. Some teams meet frequently for short periods, others get together less often but for longer periods, and other teams use a combination of these approaches.

Who manages the teams?

Any adult 18 or older may manage a team, although Assistant Team Managers may be younger. Generally speaking, one to two adults manage a team—typically teachers, parents, or interested adults. Adults act as facilitators, helping teams stay focused on student-generated goals, ideas and solutions. This places the burden of solving the Challenge on team members' shoulders, not on the adults who manage the teams. Team Managers need no special talents or skills—simply an interest in young people, a sense of humor, a willingness to help students stay focused—and the ability to read program materials that provide step-by-step instructions for how to manage a team.

What are the proven results from DI?

Dr. Mark A. Runco, Professor of Educational Psychology for the Torrance Creativity Center at the University of Georgia and Board Member for the Center for Childhood Creativity, recently completed a study measuring student engagement and creative attitudes and values among students who participate in DI and students who do not. According to the statistically significant results, students who participate in DI were found to be:

- More imaginative when completing given tasks
- More creative than students who have not participated in the DI Challenge program
- More self-confident, tenacious and collaborative
- Able to elaborate on and carry more ideas through to fruition.

The top five lessons that Iowa students cite they have learned from DI include teamwork, how to prioritize, learning that anything is possible, patience, and not being afraid to fail.

Who does cre8iowa impact?

During 2014-15, cre8iowa fielded about 65 teams, 13 of which qualified to represent Iowa at Destination Imagination Global Finals in Knoxville, Tennessee on May 20-22, 2015. Among the success stories was Special congratulations go out to Attack of the Retreating Invisible Cows from Kuemper Catholic for earning the Top Instant Challenge score for their Challenge and Level and to Reverse Destiny from Maharishi for earning a Renaissance Award for their Team Challenge Solution.

Who evaluates teams at competition?

DI in Iowa is a volunteer organization at every level. Appraiser teams are assembled from trained volunteers to score student teams at Sub-state and State tournaments in Iowa. In order to participate at a tournament, every team must provide one annually-certified Appraiser who is trained to serve at both tournaments.

What is an Appraiser's commitment?

Appraisers commit to three days of participation—one full day of training on one of three different Saturdays in January or February (Appraiser's choice of dates), one full Saturday at the Sub-state tournament, and one full Saturday at the Iowa State tournament in Ames. Training is provided by a team of experienced cre8iowa volunteers.

What costs are involved?

Official participation costs include a Destination Imagination® Challenge Program Team Number purchase and Iowa membership fee, which total \$180 for a single competitive team¹, or \$125 for a non-competitive Rising Stars!® team. Often a sponsoring organization such as a school, a school district, a parent/teacher or other civic organization, or a business will fund a team, but an individual or group of families can also split the cost. The cost of a single competitive Iowa DI team for an entire year breaks down as follows:

3 students = \$60.00 per person
4 students = \$45.00 per person
5 students = \$36.00 per person
6 students = \$30.00 per person
7 students = \$25.71 per person

¹ If a team registers by the Iowa Membership Early Bird deadline.

A price break occurs if a purchaser buys five or more Challenge Program Team Numbers at a time. The price for a volume Team Number is \$95 each. Each team needs their own distinct Team Number. The Iowa membership early-bird fee for a competitive team is \$75 and \$50 for a non-competitive team.

Other costs are dependent on a team's work style and the Team Challenge it selects. Team Managers will usually request that parents of team members contribute a working materials fee to cover the cost of items used to practice Instant Challenges and to develop a solution to the Team Challenge. Parents may also be asked to bring snacks to meetings, gather working materials, and help transport students and props to practice and tournament.

How do I get started?

Follow the 5 steps below to get started.

1. **Purchase the DI Challenge Program Team Number(s)** you need by visiting DI's shopping portal at www.ShopDI.org.
2. **Explore your program materials** by downloading them for the Resource Area at www.destinationimagination.org or wait for DI to ship them to you.
3. **Recruit your team:** 1 Team Manager, 2-7 students, & 1 Appraiser. Download recruiting materials at www.cre8iowa.org.
4. **Register for Iowa membership and pay your fee** when registration opens in October. Cre8iowa provides activities, programming, and support to its members through blog posts, e-mails, phone calls, online Team Manager training, in-person training workshops for volunteers, an Instant Challenge Library, Member Only content, and tournament opportunities—all for one Iowa membership fee. You also have exclusive access to other training opportunities where participation is offered for an additional fee.
<http://www.cre8iowa.org/current-season/iowa-membership-registration/>
5. **Take advantage of training opportunities and team resources** offered by cre8iowa. We offer both online and in-person training opportunities as well as team resources (activities, tips, and more) throughout the season on our website, <http://www.cre8iowa.org>.

Where can I find more information?

Contacts

E-mail us at: cre8iowa@gmail.com

Call us at: [515-650-8949](tel:515-650-8949)

A dedicated team of volunteers are here to help. This team includes:

- Alisha Day, Iowa Affiliate Director
- Bruce Antion, Co-Affiliate Training Director for Coordinator, Team Manager, and Team concerns
- Sam Hapke, Co-Affiliate Training Director for Coordinator, Team Manager, and Team concerns
- Keith Kutz, Co-Affiliate Training Director for Challenge Master and Appraiser concerns

Web sites

- Students for a Creative Iowa (Iowa's Destination Imagination program): <http://www.cre8iowa.org>
- Destination Imagination, Inc.: <http://www.destinationimagination.org>
- DI Store Portal (for purchase of Challenge Program Team Numbers): <http://www.ShopDI.org>