



New Hampshire
Destination ImagiNation®
Press Release

www.NH-DI.org



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NH Destination ImagiNation Teams Advance to Global Finals!

In less than two months, the top New Hampshire creative problem solving teams will be competing with the best of over 300,000 students from over 20 countries at Destination ImagiNation Global Finals at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Over 300 teams started the journey in the fall working on Team Challenges that pair core school subjects with teamwork, creativity and a focus that is technical, mechanical, based in science, math, the arts or international studies – or a combination. And the tough part – only the team of up to seven students could generate any part of the solution to the Challenge.

“New Hampshire has such a strong program, that Destination ImagiNation has invited us to bring our first and second place teams”, according to NH Destination ImagiNation Executive Director, Jill Schoonmaker. “The team results this year are just outstanding – the team members understand how to build on each others skills, stay on budget, manage project results to the points, and innovate without interference from others”.

Each year, some 2,300 New Hampshire students from nearly 200 schools and community organizations take part in the world’s largest creative problem solving competition, Destination ImagiNation®. There are over 300,000 DI® participants in more than 40 countries, and all 50 states.

[Ed note: Not all international teams send representatives to Global Finals]

A: Obstacles, Of Course!, Elementary Level

1G Appleton Elementary New Ipswich 130-17885

2G Windham Center School Windham 130-76959

3G Lincoln Street School, Exeter 130-15421

A: Obstacles, Of Course!, Middle Level

1G Strafford School Strafford 130-09174

2GT Cooperative Middle School Stratham 130-25653

2GT Hollis Elementary Schools Hollis 130-92533

A: Obstacles, Of Course!, Secondary Level

1G Londonderry High School Londonderry 130-55714

B: Hit or Myth, Elementary Level

1G Auburn Village School Auburn 130-39554

2G Hollis Elementary Schools Hollis 130-67411

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B: Hit or Myth, Middle Level

1G Jaffrey Rindge Middle School Rindge 130-29663
2G Nashua Catholic Regional Jr. Hig Nashua 130-32821

B: Hit or Myth, Secondary Level

1G Concord High School Concord 130-63681
2G Pinkerton Academy Derry 130-67484

C: DI've Got a Secret!, Elementary Level

1G Jaffrey Grade School Jaffrey 130-06863
2G Pelham Elementary School Pelham 130-40467

C: DI've Got a Secret!, Middle Level

1G Rundlett Middle School Concord 130-26931 (This team has opted out of Global Finals)
2G Hollis Elementary Schools Hollis 130-12767
3G Cooperative Middle School Stratham 130-60869

C: DI've Got a Secret!, Secondary Level

1G Mascoma Valley Regional High Sch Enfield 130-37591
2G Pinkerton Academy Derry 130-92073
3G Conant High School Rindge 130-41503

D: Chorific!, Elementary Level

1G Chester Academy Chester 130-00608
2G Bow Schools Bow 130-37582

D: Chorific!, Middle Level

1G Hampstead Academy Atkinson 130-04690
2G Academy of Science and Design Nashua 130-74672

D: Chorific!, Secondary Level

1G Manchester West High School Bedford 130-76069
2G Londonderry High School Londonderry 130-49969

E: SWITCH!, Elementary Level

1G Hollis Elementary Schools Hollis 130-28926
2G Windham Center School Windham 130-12470

E: SWITCH!, Middle Level

1G Bryant Academy Claremont 130-73431

E: SWITCH!, Secondary Level

1G Monadnock Regional High School Swanzey 130-68180
2G Keene High School Keene 130-53260

NHICC: New Hampshire's Incredible Creativity Connection SCHOLARSHIPS

Two scholarships were awarded to seniors Laura Desmarais of Pinkerton Academy and Kristin Johnson of Manchester West High School. These seniors have long distinguished themselves as true and extraordinary creative problem solvers.

The NHICCY Award (Outstanding Volunteer, usually for many years)

Jerry Kuhn of the Monadnock Regional School District is this year's recipient.\

According to Executive Director Jill Schoonmaker, "the NHICCY was made to honor members of the NH Destination ImagiNation community who have given tirelessly and unselfishly of themselves in a volunteer capacity".

"Jerry Kuhn has promoted creativity in his school district for over 15 years -- serving as School Coordinator, as well as Team Manager, Site Director, Regional Director, and serving with DISC, an group which provides scholarships for DI participants. Each year, this individual tirelessly recruits and organizes order to ensure that the Destination ImagiNation program endures."

COMPETITION AWARDS

The DaVinci Award for Outstanding Creativity.

This award is given for having a unique approach to a solution, for risk taking, and/or for outstanding creativity (not skill or talent).

Cooperative Middle School 130-25653 Obstacles, Of Course! Middle

This team STUNNED us with the creative engineering of their solution that was as intricate as it was elegant. We saw an innovative gravity powered elevator triggered by the vehicle bumping various surfaces. The slalom obstacle was overcome by using a series of carefully engineered pivoting platforms that were put into motion by the vehicle's arrival. Then, the vehicle amazed us by switching to fan power while suspended from above; crossing yet another obstacle. We were thrilled to witness this performance.

Winnacunnet High School 130-71720 Switch! Secondary

This team impressed the appraisers with their exceptional creativity in every aspect of their presentation in which they used many varied recycled materials. This took a considerable amount of time and effort which they committed in an effort to persuade their high school to start a recycling program that works. Their sets and costumes showcased outstanding DI ingenuity.

Rundlett Middle School 130-26931 DI've Got A Secret Middle

In a Broadway-worthy rendition of The Little Mermaid meets The Island of Misfit Toys, this team transported the appraisers and audience to a delightful "Under the Sea" performance. The high caliber level of original rhyming lyrics, choreography and creative fish costumes flowed seamlessly from the exact beginning until the they had to serve his "time!"

These misfit sea creatures (such as the peanut-butter jellyfish, silver goldfish and spoon swordfish) wove a creative fish "tail," integrating a clever checkerboard optical illusion and moveable underwater set pieces.

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Time held still when this team performed!

The Renaissance Award for outstanding Design, Engineering, Execution, Performance

This award is given for outstanding skill in the areas of engineering, design, or performance.

Londonderry High School 130-87442 Switch! Secondary

The appraisers were captivated by a rhythmic, light hearted script from beginning to end. Recycled materials, particularly the glue bottle and pencil props, helped to make their presentation even more impressive. The effort to product there two particular props became even more apparent talking to the team after their performance. From the back of the room it was hard to see everything that was incorporated to make these props look amazing.

James Mastricola Elementary School 130-40082 Obstacles, Of Course! Elementary

This team fully appreciated the possibilities of the vehicle challenge. They collected a plastic chassis, motors, gears, erector set pieces, a power pack, and radio control components from a variety of sources. They managed to coerce this collection into an attractive and high performing vehicle. To integrate this vehicle into their story, it was decorated as Santa's sleigh, complete with gifts, snowflake wheels and Santa Claus himself. The design and effort in reefing this vehicle brought it to a level surpassing our expectations.

Jaffrey Rindge Middle School 130-29663 Hit or Myth Middle

This team impressed the appraisers with the design and performance of their investigative device. After researching and drawing a blueprint, this team decided to learn the tools and acquire the skills to actually build it. The careful attention to detail in construction resulted in a functional and attractive investigative tool. The demonstration was well integrated into their skit. Additionally, this team's myth-o-logical replica showed the same thoughtful design and attention to detail. Towering columns of soda cans that could be assembled and disassembled seamlessly creating a monument was nicely integrated into the skit. The appraisers were truly impressed with the construction and performance of the Pachinko and Sudoku monument.

Auburn Village School 130-39554 Hit or Myth Elementary

This team wowed the appraisers with their many fabulous props and the integration into their skit of the aboriginal culture. They created two audiences of many figures and an aboriginal hut which looked very realistic. The team created didgeridoos which they integrated into their performance. There were two different scenes going on, which were brought together by a remote control crocodile which was designed

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and engineered to enable them to also conduct a scientific experiment. This team's all around attention to detail and well integrated solution show a lot of hard work and design skill.

Strafford School 130-09174 Obstacles, Of Course! Middle

The appraisers were struck with the overall aesthetics of this performance. The magnificent costumes and well-crafted props were carefully integrated with the theme and story, entertaining us all. The careful craftsmanship showed a lot of talent and effort. The team's work and comfortable stage presence tied their music-themed performance into one of the highlights of our day. From a foam rubber finger character to both treble and trouble clefs, this team wowed us.

Mascoma Valley Regional High Sch 130-57591 DI-ve Got a Secret Secondary

This team's delivery was seamless, the solution was unique, and the laughs kept coming. With multiple secrets, refreshing clean toilet, and exciting action phrases, this performance elevated junk to the level of art.

Spirit of Discovery and ImagiNation Award (Spirit of DI)

This award is given in recognition of those who act as superior role models in the areas of spirit, sportsmanship and volunteerism.

Pelham Elementary School 130-64315 Switch! Elementary

This team embodies the "Spirit of DI"! They demonstrated incredible teamwork particularly in their support of each other. Their camaraderie and respect for every member of the team was evident to all the appraisers throughout out interaction with them. For example, they conveyed friendship and encouragement to each other by holding hands. We were touched by their inclusiveness and their Spirit.

Oliver Mednick from 130-53260 Switch! Individual/Secondary
Keene High School

An individual Spirit of Destination ImagiNation award is rare.

One of the Switch Appraisers witnessed the true spirit of DI. A Senior level student, while waiting for their structure to be weighed-in, spent some time with a younger 1st year DI structure team and their structure. He patiently explained about structures and testing. He was polite and an awesome teacher. This is the kind of spirit we want all our DI team members to learn and practice.

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Teams of up to seven students solve Challenges that incorporate core school subjects with a focus that is based in **Technical and Mechanical Design, Structural and Architectural Design, Science, Theatrical/Literary/Fine Arts, Improvisational, Research, or International Studies** – or a blend of several disciplines. They choose one of five Challenges that seem interesting to the team. They also learn and practice “think on their feet” skills for the Instant Challenge portion of the competition.

Destination ImagiNation, or DI® as many kids call it, is unique in that it is the **ultimate “kids hands-on; adults hands-off” program**, as the Team Manager may help facilitate the team, but cannot give direction to solving the complex Challenges that the team will use in competition, which begin in March.