

THE SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE

The complete independence of the team in choosing the challenge, analyzing the challenge, and preparing a solution for the challenge makes the Destination Imagination program unique. The Spirit of Independence is a campaign to help team managers, team members, and parents understand the DI rules of interference to keep the program fun and fair for the participants.

Parents and Team Managers can be of most assistance to the team before they choose a challenge and start on solutions.

Team Managers should provide the parents with information about the program and the status of the team's challenge. This handout should be provided to parents as soon as possible so parents know their roles and how best to assist. The "Rules of The Road" in the team materials is the reference source on interference.

ADULTS CAN:

- Provide training opportunities for teams to learn how to work with various tools, backdrop materials, fasteners, etc. before they start on the challenge solution. Any training after the challenge work begins must take place with scrap materials and the request for training should come from the team or be initiated by adults only for safety purposes.
- Teach team members techniques to help them determine their strengths and how those talents might provide insight about which challenge would be the best fit for them. Selecting the challenge is a significant part of the team building effort.
- Work with the team to help them clearly understand the requirements of each challenge. Teams can be encouraged to re-read and discuss the challenge materials. Team Managers can also work with teams to utilize the DI Clarification process to direct a clarification question. These can be a public general clarification which will be published for everyone to see or a private clarification which is specific to their challenge solution and will not be distributed to others. Tournament officials will have access to all clarifications – public and private.
- Impart skills and direct the team members about where to garner the information or skills without being specific to a challenge solution.

Throughout the competition year, adults can continue to help in a number of ways:

- Adults may train team members in ways to increase their creative thinking, improve strategies for idea generating, and solution finding.
- Adults may aid in moving the props around the practice site, to and from cars, and to the prop storage area at the tournaments. They may carry props to the staging area of the challenge and help remove props after the officials are through discussing the solution with the team.
- Adults may video tape the team members so the team can observe for their own corrections.
- Adults may ask open-ended questions for the team's consideration and resolution of issues among themselves or for which relate to needed changes in the solution or the performance.

ADULTS CANNOT:

- Help assemble props. Even if an adult breaks the props while moving, that person cannot repair what was broken. All repairs or adjustments to the props, costumes, etc. must be done by the team members - no matter who caused the damage.
- Carry the props beyond the staging area. The adults may not - in any way - assemble any part of the challenge solution.
- Give suggestions that will ease transport, make it easier to carry props, etc. no matter how much they wonder how a prop will fit through the door or in the car!
- Offer advice particular to a challenge or prop solution during shopping trips to hardware or thrift stores.
- Make any recommendations on costume design, hair styles, or make-up nor can they assist the team - even if directed by the team members - in putting on costumes, putting on make-up, or styling hair.
- Provide specific feedback on improvement for performances.
- Ask about the Instant Challenge at the tournaments. To maintain fairness in the scoring, multiple teams across our five regions receive the same instant challenge over multiple weekends. We ask that teams not discuss the challenge in any way, with anyone, until after Global Finals.