

Destination Imagination (DI) Tournament Event Guide Louisiana Affiliate / 2025-2026

This guide is designed to help you plan for and navigate the event with confidence, with information to support a wide range of access needs and experiences. We believe that there's no better way to understand the *Destination Imagination Challenge Experience* than to see it in action.

Date & Time: Saturday, March 21st from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Elm Grove Middle School, 4301 Panther Drive, Bossier City, LA 71112

What is a DI Tournament?

A *Destination Imagination* (DI) tournament includes two main components: the **Team Challenge** and the **Instant Challenge**.

Each team presents its **Team Challenge** solution at a scheduled time and location. The Team Challenge falls in one of seven categories: *Technical, Scientific, Fine Arts, Improvisational, Engineering, Service Learning, or Early Learning*. These presentations are about eight minutes long and may include loud sounds, flashing lights, or quiet dialogue, depending on the team's approach. Each Presentation Site varies in size, seating, and acoustics, and audiences may come and go between teams. Spectators are welcome at the Team Challenge sites.

The **Instant Challenge** is a surprise activity that teams complete in a private setting. Instant Challenge areas are quiet zones. No spectators are allowed at the Instant Challenge sites.

At the end of the tournament, we have a **Duct-tape Parade** and the official **Award Ceremony**. Teams are invited to participate in the celebration of creativity and duct tape by creating costumes, props, backdrops, signs, and anything else they would like, using duct tape, newspaper, and other common items used in DI.

The **Awards Ceremony** is usually a high-energy event with lots of crowds and noise. Audience members are welcome to clap and cheer. Feel free to use ear defenders or ear plugs if the noise gets too loud. The top teams who have successfully solved their challenges and recommended by the appraisers will be invited to advance to the **Global Finals Competition**.

Spectators are Welcome!

During the tournament, **teams** and **spectators** are encouraged to watch the *Team Challenge* competitions and cheer for teams from their school or from other schools or organizations.

Anyone observing a team challenge is reminded that **good sportsmanship** is expected at all times and are encouraged to cheer on other teams in the most positive, supportive manner possible! All Team Challenges require that the **doors remain closed** during the presentation, so spectators may be asked to wait to enter the Presentation Site until the doors are reopened.

Photos/videos of a team's Presentation may only be taken *if the team has given permission*. This information will be announced before the team begins their presentation.

To get the most out of your day at this tournament, here's what we suggest:

- **Attend at least one Presentation in every Team Challenge.** Each Team Challenge is unique and has open-ended requirements, allowing teams to create totally different solutions from one another. Read through the Points of Interest so you know what you can expect to see. Each Presentation is around eight minutes in length.
- **Look at the props, costumes, sets, technical devices and more that the teams have created—but please don't touch!** Remember that everything you see was crafted by the team members with no adult Interference.
- **Talk to teams, parents and volunteers about their experience with this season of Destination Imagination.** Tell them you're considering starting a team and ask them to share their favorite thing about DI—you'll be amazed by the different answers you hear.

Have fun, be inspired, and imagine the possibilities!

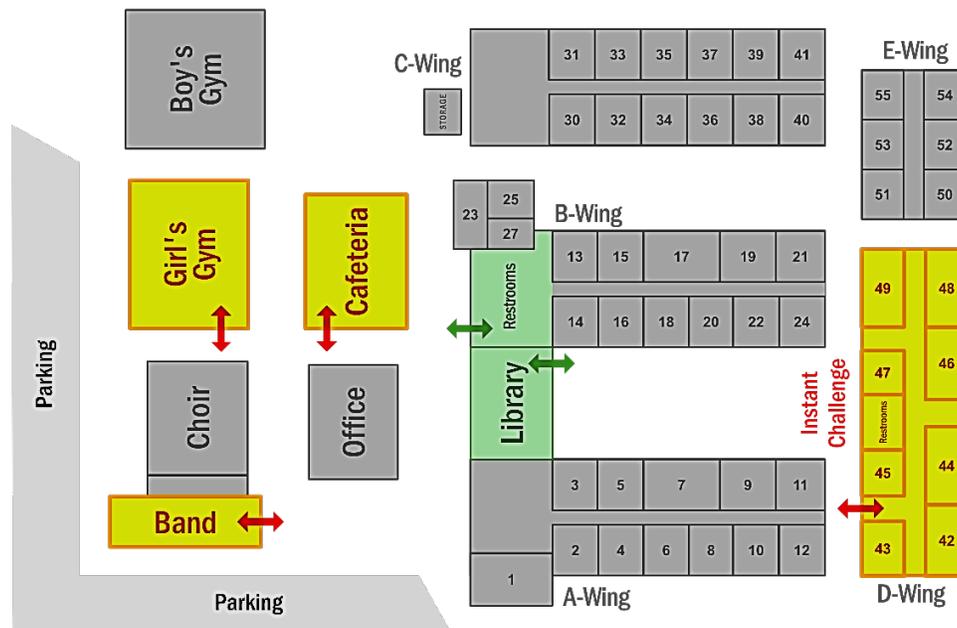
General Schedule

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	NOTES
7:15 AM	Volunteer Check-in	B-Wing Room 13	
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	All Challenges	Refer to Venue Map	Spectators are allowed in team challenges ONLY
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Souvenir Sales	Library	
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Duct-Tape Prep	Covered areas by A & B Wings	Students prepare duct-tape signs and costumes
1:00 PM	Duct-Tape Parade and Awards Ceremony	Girl's Gymnasium	Closing event

Navigating the Venue

- Upon arrival, Team Managers must check in at the **Library** to obtain their team's T-Shirts and pins.
- Main entrances are wheelchair accessible and marked with red or green arrows (see map below).
- All challenge venues are highlighted in yellow, and publicly accessible areas are green. These areas also function as emergency shelters in the event of a tornado or other dangerous weather.
- Volunteers will be wearing blue t-shirts with the LADI logo in front, and the word "OFFICIAL" on the back. They will be available throughout the venue to assist you.

Elm Grove Middle School



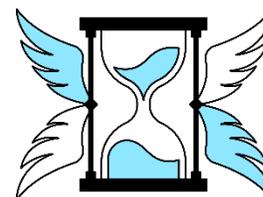
Parking and Unloading Props

- Entrances to tournament parking can be found off Panther Drive, Van Deeman Drive, or Parkway Drive. Please do not park in the "bus lane" adjacent to the Auxiliary (Girls) Gym. Unloading or loading of props is allowed in this space.
- Teams must not block any parking spaces or points of entry while loading, unloading, or moving their props. Props should be returned to the vehicles or placed out-of-the way of traffic for safety after performances. Please do not dispose of any props or materials in the dumpsters on site.

2025-2026 Tournament Challenges

Instant Challenge

In a world with growing cultural connections, increased levels and types of communication, and a new need for real-time teamwork and problem-solving, the ability to solve problems quickly is becoming increasingly critical.



An *Instant Challenge (IC)* is a smaller Challenge that is a surprise to the team on the day of the tournament. All teams have the opportunity to solve an Instant Challenge, which require teams to engage in quick, creative and critical thinking.

Instant Challenges are performance-based, task-based, or a combination of the two. Although each IC has different requirements, they all reward teams for their teamwork. Instant Challenges are kept confidential, which means there are **no spectators allowed** (*only the team members and one team manager*). Since many teams will be given the same IC at this event, teams must not discuss details of the Instant Challenge outside of the Cool Down room until after the Destination Imagination season has ended in May

Scientific Challenge: Unforgettable

Did you see that!? Are you sure? Can you trust your memory, or have your eyes been deceived? Find out in this season’s Scientific Challenge when you explore the science of human memory and misdirection. Bring a memory to life with your memory depiction, complete with a special effect. How will your team be remembered?



- Create and present a story about how a character recalling a memory leads to a realization.
- Integrate your team’s research about the science of human memory into the Presentation.
- Create and present a memory depiction. Enhance the memory depiction with a special effect.
- Include a misdirection in your Presentation.
- Create and present two Team Choice Elements that show off the team’s interests, skills, areas of strength, and talents.

Team Number	Team Name	Organization	Location	Challenge Time	IC Time
118-17009	Memory Makers	Bossier Parish	Cafeteria	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
118-81597	The Fabulous 5	Louisiana Independent Team		10:00 AM	11:30 AM

Technical Challenge: Win It Big

The lights, the glamour, the prizes! In this season’s Technical Challenge, you get to explore game shows. Use your technical skills to design and create your very own game show, complete with a gimmick, a reveal, and an effect meant to dazzle the senses. What challenges might you face, and what prizes are waiting to be won?



- Create and present a game show.
- Include a host character and at least one contestant.
- Build tension with a raising-the-stakes event.
- Design and create a gimmick, a reveal, and a razzle-dazzle effect for your game show.
- Create and present two Team Choice Elements that show off the team’s interests, skills, areas of strength, and talents.

Team Number	Team Name	Organization	Location	Challenge Time	IC Time
118-14136	DI Dreamworks	Bossier Parish	Cafeteria	10:30 AM	9:30 AM
118-01720	The People of Darryl	Shreveport Homeschoolers		11:00 AM	10:00 AM
118-96099	The Real LA Cruisers	Shreveport Homeschoolers		11:30 AM	10:30 AM

Fine Arts Challenge: Becoming Super

Some are destined for great good, others for great evil. In this season's Fine Arts Challenge, you'll have the chance to show how one hard choice can set two characters on two different courses, as one becomes a superhero and the other becomes a supervillain. Use stage makeup and a technical costume to enhance some of your Presentation. It's time to decide your fate!



- Create and present an origin story that shows how one character becomes a Superhero and a different character becomes a Supervillain.
- Use theatrical methods to portray a difficult decision, situation, and/or event.
- Use stage makeup on at least one team member.
- Design and create one technical costume.
- Create and present two Team Choice Elements that show off the team's interests, skills, areas of strength, and talents.

Team Number	Team Name	Organization	Location	Challenge Time	IC Time
118-34298	The Dream Team	Bossier Parish	Girl's Gym	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
118-42121	South Bossier DI Team	Bossier Parish		9:30 AM	11:30 AM
118-64786	Solar Heroes	Bossier Parish		10:00 AM	12:00 PM

Improv Challenge: Casting Shadows

Bright and dark, young and old, many and few...the world is full of opposites. Explore opposing themes while telling a story based on an inciting incident. Include a resolution trope and a random setting. Don't get lost in darkness as you use a shadow screen and shadows to enhance your story! Get ready to step out of the shadows and into the spotlight in this season's Improvisational Challenge!

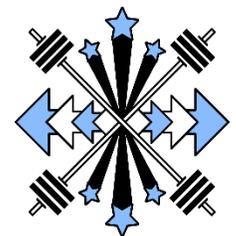


- Create and present an improvisational skit based on an inciting incident.
- Research pairs of opposing themes and incorporate a pair into the skit.
- Include a randomly selected setting.
- Research resolution tropes and incorporate one of them into the skit.
- Use a shadow screen and a box of materials to enhance the skit.

Team Number	Team Name	Organization	Location	Challenge Time	IC Time
118-14810	Bellaire Blue Team	Bossier Parish	Band Room	9:00 AM	10:00 AM
118-06102	B.S.I.W.	Bossier Parish		9:30 AM	10:30 AM
118-27659	Bellaire Red Team	Bossier Parish		10:00 AM	9:00 AM
118-90464	B.I.R.B.A.	Bossier Parish		10:30 AM	9:30 AM

Engineering Challenge: Above and Beyond

We invite you to dive right into the middle of the action! With this season's Engineering Challenge, you'll tell a story that starts with an in medias res scene. Make sure to include something important that expands, extends, or goes above and beyond. Defy gravity as you load up your structure with weights placed as far away from the base as possible. We can't wait to see how you'll go above and beyond!



- Test how much weight a team-created structure can hold by placing weights onto the Structure as far from the center as possible.
- Create and present a story in which something important expands, extends, or goes above and beyond.
- Begin the Presentation with an in medias res scene.
- Include an expansion effect.
- Create and present two Team Choice Elements that show off the team's interests, skills, areas of strength, and talents.

Team Number	Team Name	Organization	Location	Challenge Time	IC Time
118-90369	The Loose Screws	Bossier Parish	Girl's Gym	11:00 AM	9:00 AM

The Cure Starts Now

Louisiana Destination Imagination honors the memory of Emilie Gibson, a spirited and creative elementary school DI team member who was diagnosed with DIPG brain cancer while participating in DI. She practiced and competed with her team between treatments at St Jude Children's Research Hospital and competed in Global Finals 5 months before her passing.

In her honor, her family created the **Fight Like Emilie Foundation** and later founded the *Louisiana Chapter of The Cure Starts Now* (501c3 Federal Non-Profit) to raise awareness and support the families of pediatric brain cancer patients. They also remain active in Louisiana DI. Emilie's spirit lives on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her and we invite you to visit the following URL to learn more about Emilie's story and this organization's important work.

<https://thecurestartsnow.org/who-we-are/chapters/louisiana/>

Red Tie Alumni

Louisiana Destination Imagination participants receive a **Red Tie** when they graduate from High School and wear their ties, along with their appraiser/official T shirts when volunteering at tournaments. When you see an official with a red tie, you know that they have experienced the DI program as children and/or teens and enjoyed it so much that they return to volunteer year after year!

Duct-tape Parade

Teams are invited to participate in the celebration of creativity and duct tape by creating costumes, props, backdrops, signs, and anything else they would like using duct tape, newspaper, and other common items used in DI. Team members who want to participate in the **Duct Tape Parade** should meet outside the entrance to the Auxiliary Gym by 12:45 to gather and parade into the gym together. Parents and other supporters may be seated in the gym ahead of time in order to cheer and welcome all of our creative team members as they enter.

Duct tape items may be created ahead of time or created on site, and you may wear them, wave them, carry them, or display them any way you would like for this event! If you want to wear your challenge costumes along with your duct tape creations for this celebration, go right ahead! There are no restrictions on what you create - just use your imagination and have fun!

Food/Drink

Teams and spectators are welcome to bring their own food and drinks. We ask that you enjoy your food and drinks at the outdoor picnic tables under the covered area near A-Wing and B-Wing, and dispose of all trash in the available bins. For large amounts of trash, the dumpster is behind the cafeteria and covered eating area.

If you require an allergen-free eating space, please contact the **Site Coordinator**. Let us know in advance if you follow a specific diet (e.g., plant-based, vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, dairy-free, sugar-free, halal, kosher, etc.)

Emergency Procedures

- Please notify the nearest tournament volunteer immediately for assistance.
- In case of a medical emergency, notify the nearest tournament volunteer. We will immediately call 911.
- Fire extinguishers are located in every hallway and presentation site. First aid kits are available in B-Wing Room 13.
- Fire alarms have flashing lights and loud, repetitive sirens.
- If the need for an evacuation arises, please follow posted exit signage to safety.

Restroom Information

- Restrooms divided by gender can be found in B-Wing and inside the Auxiliary (Girls) Gym
- All-gender restrooms can be found in the B-Wing
- All bathrooms have accessible stalls, meaning they can accommodate people who use mobility aids and have grab bars. One of the all-gender bathrooms in B-wing is large enough to accommodate a mobility device.

Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather, teams will be notified via text message and the website. Tornado shelters can be found in the following locations: B-Wing hallway, Restrooms, or other interior hallways.

Core Accessibility Features

Destination Imagination is committed to being as inclusive and accessible as possible. If there are questions that extend beyond the information provided in this guide, the following individuals are available to assist:

- **Joan Turek** (*Tournament Director*) at 318-286-1122 (text)
- **Cesar Marrero** (*Tournament Director*) at 318-364-9318 (text)
- **Crystal Gann** (*Site Coordinator*) at 318-423-5976 (text)

We are eager to meet your needs! If accessibility needs arise on site, the day-of point of contact is Crystal Gann.

Mobility Information

There are three marked accessible parking spaces available at this event. They are located at the front of the school facing Panther Drive. From the accessible parking, the best entrance is the ramp in front of the office which is approximately 20 feet from the parking area. One additional marked accessible parking space is available behind the cafeteria with a ramp beside the space. Presentation Sites are located throughout the venue. All buildings are one story with concrete sidewalks leading to the doorways. We recommend bringing your mobility device with you to help manage the distances between sites.

Sensory Regulation & Quiet Space

A *Quiet Room/Regulation Room* is available on B-Wing. Please contact the **Site Coordinator** for access to this space. This space is reserved for attendees who may need a quiet space for tasks like taking medication, prayer, addressing sensory needs, or just a moment away from the busy tournament!

While using the *Quiet Room/Regulation Room*, please use a quiet voice and silence all devices, except Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices. Attendees under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

We welcome your self-advocacy and want to support you. Feel free to stand or move as needed, use stim devices, and use your preferred method of communication.

Communication Access

The Awards Ceremony, most Team Presentations, and signage throughout the event will be available in English.

If a team or team member wants/needs to present in a different language or would otherwise benefit from having a language interpreter present, please contact the **Tournament Directors** as soon as possible.

If a team member or spectator needs a sign language interpreter or another type of assistive communication technology (including but not limited to: amplification devices, picture/letter boards, audio description), please contact the **Tournament Directors**.

Other Items:

- **Lactation & Family Room:** A private space exclusively for nursing parents can be found in B-wing. Contact the **Site Coordinator** for access to this space.
- **Scent-Free Policy:** Out of respect to those with sensitivity to scent, please avoid wearing perfumes or colognes.
- **Service Animals:** Service animals are welcome throughout the venue. Relief areas will be indicated on the site map.

Accommodation Requests

We are happy to provide support around physical access, communication needs, visual/sensory support, and scheduling flexibility. If anyone on your team needs specific accommodation, fill out the *Accommodation Request Form* located at <https://share.hsforms.com/1A-1Lir40TLaYK2-QWUPNvA1mraj>

We recommend submitting requests at least 7 days before the event.

Disclaimer: This guide is offered to help attendees know what to expect and prepare for the tournament. While we are not in charge of the building and cannot guarantee it meets specific accessibility laws or standards, we do our best to advocate for access, provide accommodations, and choose venues that are as accessible as possible.