

**Your guide
to all things
DI**

Outrageous Region New Experiences

**Volume 1,
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December/January Calendar

- December 20—Last day to purchase a DI membership for California. See page 2
- December 20—Sign up deadline for Skills Workshop
- January 10—Skills Workshop at Eureka School
- January 10—Region ONE Tournament Registration Deadline without penalty. See page 2.
- January 17—Region ONE Tournament Registration Deadline with Late Fees.
- January 31—Walkthrough & Appraiser Training at St. John’s School, Roseville. See page 3.

Pack Your Team’s Toolbox With the Skills for Success!

Does your team have the skills they need to solve their challenge? When you participate in our annual Skills Workshop, your team will learn a variety of skills that they can apply to their challenge solution. Your team will be introduced to simple machines and power sources, basic building skills, dramatic elements, art elements, costume and set design, and script writing basics. All skill sets are taught according to non-interference rules. This hands-on workshop will have your team fired up and ready to create!

The Skills Workshop runs much like the IC Play Day. Each team must provide one adult to travel from room to room with the team

and at least one additional adult to run a workshop room. All materials and directions for the activities will be provided for each of the rooms.

The workshop takes place on Saturday, January 10, 2009 from 8:30 – 12:00 at Eureka School, 5455 Eureka Rd, Granite Bay. Snacks will be provided. **Teams must pre-register by December 20** to Karen Reid at kreid@eureka-usd.k12.ca.us. Make sure to respond to Karen’s interest request email after you register and she will email the skill directions to you in advance of the day. Team fee: \$10 per team to cover the cost of materials.



How many tools are in your team’s toolbox?

Where’s Your Team on the Timeline?

Unique solutions to DI Challenges are limitless. There are also many ways for you to manage your team. Team Managers who attended our training session in November learned one possible timeline from trainer Rick Sale. Is your team moving along in their process? Rick listed the following timeline activities for December and the first part of January:

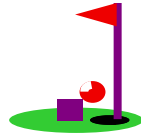
Your team should have chosen their challenge by now. They should be well on their way in

their discussion of the specifics of their challenge solution by month’s end. The team should have an idea of which members are tackling which tasks—scripts, sets, props, etc. They should ready a working script in the first two weeks of January.

Remember to follow the rules of interference as you guide your team. The team, not you, generates the ideas, scripts, timelines and assignments. Your role is as a facilitator, not a participant.



Sponsorship—Score a Hole in ONE!



For the first time ever, Region ONE is offering challenge level sponsorship to local companies. Even in challenging times like this, we believe that sponsorship is a “hole in one” for both the region and our sponsors.

By partnering with local companies, our region will be able to increase our level of funding to offer more programming, an enhanced tournament, and assistance to teams advancing to globals. Companies will have the opportunity to see and interact with their future employees as well as with current customers. Older children will be looking to some of these firms for internships and jobs in the future. Families attending will offer a great opportunity for firms to access

their target markets directly and build brand loyalty.

We chose the golf sponsorship format because it’s readily accessible and understandable to companies. Firms may purchase a partial or exclusive sponsorship for \$250 or \$500 respectively. For full details, please see our sponsorship flyer to be emailed separately—and don’t keep it a secret! If you have, work for, or know a company that would be a good fit with any Destination ImagiNation challenge, please pass along this wonderful opportunity. California Creativity and Destination ImagiNation® are 501c3 charitable non-profit organizations. A flyer for companies is posted on the website, www.caldi.org/region/one.

IC Play Day a Screamin’ Success

by Karen Reid

The teams that attended our Instant Challenge Playday on December 6 thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Eighteen teams participated in this fun-filled day and practiced four building ICs and four dramatic ICs.

Many TMs reported that their teams learned a lot about ICs and made great progress in their teamwork. We offer our sincere thanks to all the parents who ran the IC rooms and offered cheerful feedback that was extremely helpful to the teams. The Eureka School campus was filled with smiles and laughter. We hope to make this an annual event for Region ONE.

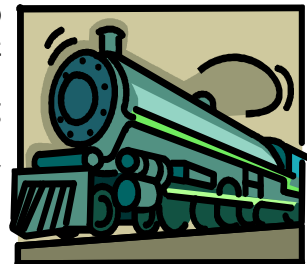
Tournament Registration Deadline Is January 10, 2009

The 2009 tournament registration form was sent through our e-group. You can also download it from our website, www.caldi.org/region/one. **You must register your team for the tournament by Saturday, January 10, 2009.** Late registrations will be accepted until January 17, 2009, with late fee penalties. If you register with a school purchase order, remember to request it this month. Print off your registration and return it with your payment to Shelley Larkin Bush, 101 Sophys Ct., Roseville, CA 95747.

Scheduling the tournament is a complex process, but our region completes the schedule by the walk-through, which takes place on January 31. **If you have a schedule conflict make sure you list it on your tournament registration form.** We do our best to schedule around conflicts including siblings on other teams, and sports or other school events on March 7, but we cannot guarantee special accommodations.

Last Chance for DI Membership Purchase in CA

Your or your school district/charitable organization should have purchased your membership by now. California Creativity, the Destination ImagiNation® affiliate for our state, has set **December 20, 2008** as the deadline for purchasing a DI Membership. If you have not received your passport number yet, please contact your coordinator as soon as possible.



DI season is moving full steam ahead—don’t get left behind!

Once you have your passport, don’t forget to visit the state website, www.caldi.org/region/one. Create an account for yourself in the sidebar at the right. Use the sidebar on the left to navigate to “team registration” and follow the instructions there to enter your team information.



Teambuilder: Have your team decorate cookies or make personal pizzas in specific ways as an instant challenge, with or without talking. The kids will have fun as they can eat them for their snack when they’re done.

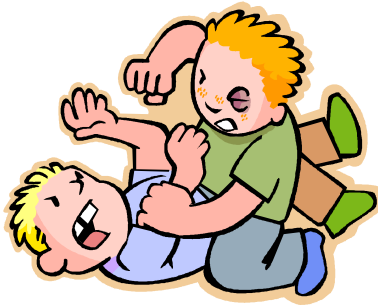
A Word About Team Dynamics by Louise Czopek

Last month, we discussed the Forming stage as an element of team dynamics. Our teams took their first steps into the wider world of creativity. Now that they're acquainted with each other, you may have discovered the Storming stage of team development.

As a team manager, you can recognize the approach of Storming and deal with it constructively. At this stage, conflict surfaces. The team may still be somewhat unclear about their goals. They're probably still organizing themselves. They may exhibit hostility and become defensive toward each other. Your team members now feel comfortable enough to disagree with each other. Some members could vie for informal leadership of the group. Some may resist commitment to the tasks that need to be accomplished. They have begun to feel the demands of the team's work. It's important that you as the team manager take steps to help your team work through this frustrating stage.

Have you encouraged the habit of helping each other be right instead of wrong? Did your

team set a timeline of tasks to be completed before the tournament? You can use it to help the team assume more task responsibility. Did you have your team generate a set of ground rules? If so, make sure that a large copy is posted in your DI area and that the team members have their own copies as well. Taking the team back to



Team Managers can help their teams work past the Storming stage.

their ground rules reminds them of their own accountability to each other.

You should open up the conflict in a supportive way rather than letting it simmer and allowing resentments to build. Honor the opposing sides of the conflict by hearing the kids out, and then help them work toward

negotiation and consensus. Engage the whole team in creating fun, unique solutions to conflict between two members. You can apply creative problem solving to any situation, up to and including team conflict. It's also ok to ask for help with team conflict if you feel you're in over your head.

Obviously, the team doesn't produce much during the Storming phase, which typically lasts a few weeks. Some teams never manage to move past this point and are usually the ones who don't return. They never experience the liberation, joy, and success of true creative problem solving. How you help the team to understand this stage of their process and work through it sets the tone for balance of the season.

Take a deep, calming breath, make a cup of herb tea and relax! By teaching and modeling good conflict resolution skills, you'll breeze past the hurricane of Storming and progress to the next stage of team development, Norming. Norming marks the point when your kids start functioning as a true team. We'll examine Norming next month.

Walk-Through Scheduled for January 31

Each year, Team Managers have an opportunity to visit the tournament site, meet with the Challenge Masters for their respective challenges, pick up their team schedule for the tournament, and receive additional training.

You can measure that doorway to make sure your team's giant prop will fit and take a photo of the actual room your where

team will perform their central challenge.

Mark your calendars for this can't miss morning, and plan to attend even if you live at a distance. The tournament is at St. John's School, 4501 Bob Doyle Drive, Roseville, CA 95747. Watch for additional information in the next newsletter and through the e-group.



TM Tip: If your team has a dominant personality or two and not everyone gets a chance to have their ideas heard, have the team draw numbered index cards or playing cards to decide the order in which to share ideas. It's fast & fair!

T.C. Beier, Granite Bay

**California Creativity
Region ONE**

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**YOUR GUIDE TO ALL
THINGS DI**

How are you creative?

[www.caldi.org/
region/one](http://www.caldi.org/region/one)

How to Reach Us:

- Regional Director: Shelley Larkin Bush rdshelleylarkinbush@yahoo.com
- Secretary: Louise Czopek blissfullight@surewest.net
- Treasurer: Anna Alai two2cute4u@hotmail.com
- Newsletter: Louise Czopek blissfullight@surewest.net
- Jim McCarthy dinojuicer@comcast.net

Share Your "Light Bulb" Moments!

We are especially proud of our dedicated Team Managers, many of whom return year after year with the same team and, later on, with younger siblings. You all have so many wonderful ideas, from the newest manager to the most seasoned of veterans. We'd like to share your successes, "aha" moments, and tricks of the trade with your fellow TMs. One of our tips in this issue comes from T.C. Beier, a new TM from Granite Bay. So bring it on—you are tremendously resourceful, creative individuals. Submit your helpful hints to Louise Czopek at blissfullight@surewest.net, and share your illumination with everyone. (Editor's note: I tried T.C.'s tip with my team—it was fabulous! Thanks, T.C.!)



Have you had a "Eureka!" moment?

Holiday Wishes from DI Central



The Region ONE board wishes you a most joyous holiday season and a happy new year!

We tend to lose ourselves in the rush of our holiday preparations and visits at this time of year. When January arrives with the cold realization that there are only two months left till the tournament, and our teams have already blown their timelines, stress takes on a whole new meaning. There's plenty of time to stress out later. Enjoy this holiday season with your family and friends, and maybe your teams, if they're in town. Relax, have fun, travel safe if you travel. If you meet, do some silly teambuilding activities. Happy Team Managers are the best team managers!

All the best from all of us to you and yours,

Rick

Paula

Karen

Shelley

Anna

Janell

Jim

Louise