

**Your guide
to all things
DI**

Region ONE DI Doings

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December/January Calendar

- December 6—Instant Challenge Play Day at Eureka School. See page 3.
- December 13—CPS Tools training for TMs. See page 3.
- December 20—Last day to purchase a DI membership for California. See page 2
- January 10—Skills Workshop at Eureka School
- January 10—Region ONE Tournament Registration Deadline without penalty
- January 17—Region ONE Tournament Registration Deadline with Late Fees
- January 31—Walkthrough & Appraiser Training at St. John's School, Roseville

Discover InDIana Jones and the Fountain of Creativity— Region ONE Tournament 2009!

He's found the Lost Ark, escaped from the Temple of Doom, joined the Last Crusade, and returned the Crystal Skull. Now, InDIana Jones is trekking to Region ONE to unearth the best in creativity.

Veteran participants eagerly await the announcement of the annual tournament theme, which we hope does justice to the kids' tremendous efforts with their teams. New TMs and kids wonder what all the fuss is about. Trust us—it's worth it! You'll enjoy a full day of Indy-themed activities. "What venue themes," you ask? Awww, that would be telling!

InDIana Jones is an extra special theme for us this year, because it was suggested and planned by Chandler Dale, a four year team member from Olympus Junior High

School in Eureka Union School District. Chandler did a phenomenal job, thinking up not only Indy venue themes but also participant medals and even games. When told that his idea was selected, Chandler said, "This is one of the best days of my life!"

We at DI Base Camp were so tickled by the idea of a kid-planned theme that we decided to open up the 2010 tournament to other kids in the region. Besides, kids have the BEST ideas! Do any of your children have tournament themes they'd love to see us do? We're putting contest ideas together now. Watch future newsletters for more information about this exciting opportunity.



Dust off your fedoras, bomber jackets and bullwhips—InDIana Jones is coming!

Welcome to Our Newest Resource for You!

Welcome to the very first issue of Region ONE's e-newsletter! In a region as large as ours, making sure everyone has access to important news is a challenge. Region ONE stages a number of events and training forums to help Teams and Team Managers prepare for the Tournament in March.

There are vast amounts of resources available to TMs, both in our region and

on the web. Look inside to find out about a few of them. Each month, we'll pass along helpful tips, techniques and activities to enhance your DI experience.

We are all part of the same team, so we invite you to submit your questions and tips, and tricks of the trade to share in future issues. Email your ideas to Louise Czopek, blissfullight@surewest.net.

Volunteerism—It's How DI Works by Jim McCarthy

Volunteers – we couldn't live without them, especially at Destination ImagiNation. From the grandfather who directs traffic for four hours at a regional tournament to the parent who became the Team Manager because their child looked at them with "those eyes" that can never be said no too. Each year hundreds of people volunteer for something they had no previous exposure to. Each year, hundreds of people come back because it was the most rewarding time they have ever spent nurturing the next generation of leaders and great thinkers.

This happens not only in our local area but also around the

world. We don't call it Global Finals for nothing.

My own involvement began like many others, watching my daughters talk about this project they were doing after school. They were rather secretive because, "No, you can't help. It's not allowed." Then a few weeks later came the big request. "We need you to be an appraiser so our team can go to the regional tournament." **Those eyes.** So I trudged out of bed early one Saturday morning to go to the training I had to attend. At this point I started to learn just what Destination ImagiNation was all about. A little bit *Apollo 13*, *MaccGyver*, and *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* – all

rolled into one. We learned about the Challenges, how to evaluate the team solutions, and a little more about this thing called interference that enabled our children to tell us to keep our mouths shut. Tournament Day arrived a month later and it was the most beautiful piece of organized chaos I have ever seen. Our kids did well; they placed third. However, since I was busy working I have only seen the video. The teams I did see in performance did good jobs. The closing ceremony capped a very long day, and we were done.

Each year I and my family have gotten entwined deeper into the

Continued on page 4

Tournament Registration Information

DI registration and tournament registration are two separate processes. Coordinators usually purchase group memberships for schools and districts and distribute passport numbers and program materials to their TMs. If you are self-funded, you'll need to visit <http://www.shopdi.org> to purchase your passport.

Once you have a passport number, you can register your team for the tournament. A registration form was sent through our e-group. You can also download it from our website, www.caldi.org/region/

one.

Print off your registration and return it with your payment to Shelley Larkin Bush, 101 Sophys Ct., Roseville, CA 95747.

You have one last task to complete your registration. Visit the state site above, and enter the requested team information there. You'll need to create an account for yourself to do so.

Earlier Deadline For DI Membership Purchase in CA

California Creativity, the Destination ImagiNation® affiliate for our state, has moved up the deadline for purchasing a DI Membership to **December 20, 2008.**

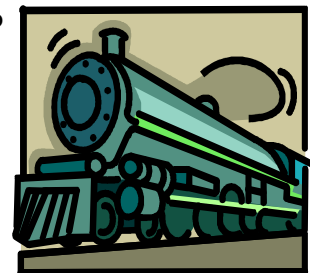
What does this mean to you?

If you're self-funded, scoot your boot over to

www.shopdi.org before the 20th and make your purchase. If you're

school, school district

or charitable funded, make sure that your coordinator has submitted the purchase order request by December 20th.



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

TM Tip: Recycle, repurpose, alternative use, thrift store, and trash are now some of your favorite words! Your team can maximize their solution budget and overall creativity points by finding new uses for old stuff! Make sure your team families save reusable items for the group.

DI Sponsorship—A Hole in One for Companies and the Region

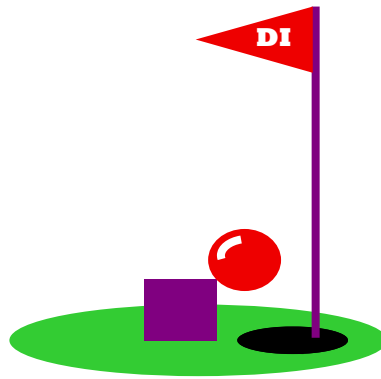
For the first time ever, Region ONE is offering challenge level sponsorship to local companies. Even in challenging times like this, we believe that sponsorship is a “hole in one” for both the region and our sponsors.

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 respec-

tively. 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.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

TM Tip: Try beginning meetings with a “Question of the Day.” It’s a great ice breaker and helps the team learn about each other. The question can be whimsical, thought provoking, or an invitation to share personal information or stories.

Instant Challenge Play Day for Teams December 6

Come play with us! Instant Challenges are a great way to train teams, build teamwork, and exercise creativity. Challenges build time management skills and can be either task based performance based or a combination of the two. Our IC Play Day allows you team to have access to eight different Instant Challenges. Teams will rotate to each challenge where they will complete the challenge and be evaluated.

Teams must be accompanied by at least 2 adults. One will take the team to the IC

stations, and the other will run an instant challenge.

This event takes place at Eureka School, 5455 Eureka Rd, Granite Bay, CA 95746, on Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 am till noon. Cost is \$10.00 per team.

Register for the IC Play Day with Shelley Larkin Bush by December 1 at rdshelleylarkinbush@yahoo.com.

CPS Tools for Team Managers December 13

What’s in your toolbox? Learn creative problem solving skills and enhance your team’s learning and enjoyment. Creative problem solving uses tools such as brainstorming and mind mapping to help analyze challenges or problems. Learn how to focus your team’s efforts.

You use a hammer, screwdriver, drill or saw for different tasks at home. By giving your team a variety of techniques to generate ideas and to focus on the best ones, you help them fill up their CPS toolbox. Your team will be able to work toward their solution more quickly, effectively, and with less group conflict.

CPS Tools takes place at Eureka School, 5455 Eureka Rd, Granite Bay, from 8:30 till noon. Continental breakfast provided. \$10.00 per person. Register with Shelley Larkin Bush by December 10 at 916-782-2304 or by email: wildfluers@yahoo.co.uk or rdshelleylarkinbush@yahoo.com



Give your team a full tool box!

A Word About Team Dynamics by Louise Czopek

If the Team Manager training session is any indication, most teams are just getting started during November. That means you and your bright, shiny new group of children are probably still getting acquainted with each other. At this stage in the game, your team is probably pretty well behaved, but they may not yet feel comfortable sharing their wildest, most creative ideas. This is normal! Your team will grow and change as they move through the DI process.

One of the misconceptions new TMs have about managing their teams is that any input on their part is interference. This is simply not true. It is part of your job as Team Manager to help the team interact with each other in appropriate, meaningful ways, just as it is part of your job to teach your team creative problem solving skills.

This month, let's take a look at the first stage of team development: Forming. Forming is that very first, tentative stage of team development. Teams at this stage will avoid serious topics and feelings and may be unclear on goals and expectations. Your team members may talk a

lot, or not. They could feel a bit fearful and anxious, so they might throw out opinions to see how the others react. They're probably pretty polite, and they tend to be optimistic. They're looking for a sense of belonging and acceptance on their new team.

Your role at this point is to give



It is NOT interference for Team Managers to manage their members' interactions.

your team clear directions and to provide a positive atmosphere. One great way to do this is to have your team generate a list of Team Ground Rules. If you have any house rules of your own, this is the time to add them, but keep your rules to a minimum. I have only a couple: no running inside, no going

wild and breaking my stuff, and for older teams, no cussing. When things get tense, having the team refer to the rules they made will allow them to put themselves back on track.

Help your team members get acquainted by using team building exercises. A question of the day or a mini challenge that has no purpose other than working together are wonderful ways to get started. Field trips together are also great team builders.

At this stage, you should give your team simple, straightforward tasks to perform. Keep instant challenges simple—entry level challenges are fine for new teams with older children right now. This is not the time to try out that three part task and performance instant challenge that looks so cool.

Your team won't get a lot of work done at this stage, but you'll be laying a firm foundation for their future success—a foundation that will be important when they blow into the next stage: Storming. I'll cover that exciting stage of team development in the next newsletter.

Volunteerism, continued

program. My girls stopped competing after three years, but the whole family volunteers on tournament day and at other events throughout the year, helping out with merchandise sales, score running, and even appraising. And it's not just my family—there is a long history of

“family”, including friends and neighbors, participating at tournament events. Successfully staging a regional tournament, with sixty to eighty teams competing, requires over one hundred volunteers. We've got five, how many can you bring?

TM Tip: You're not in this alone—your team parents are your helpers! Invite them to participate by providing snacks, organizing field trips, and planning the year end party. Most are willing to help if you provide them direction. Just like the kids, they look to you as their leader.


**California Creativity
Region ONE**

**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

Seriously Seeking **MORE** Board Members

We at DI Central, aka your Region ONE board, are a hardworking, but extremely small group of dedicated volunteers. You could call us the DI Lifers. Over the past several years, we have absorbed two regions, making ours the largest geographical region in California. However, our board hasn't kept up with the pace of the additions, and we've lost members over time as children have grown up and people's lives have taken different directions.

Our board is a mix of current and past Team Managers and Coordinators, but it's only a half dozen or so who attend our monthly meetings and do all the tournament planning, training, and events for the entire region. We pride ourselves on providing a phenomenal tournament experience for the kids and offering extensive training opportunities for team manag-

ers, but the reality is that we are just too few to continue to provide these services at the level to which we've all become accustomed.

If you've ever considered stepping up or wanted to do something more to support DI in our area, now is the time! Meetings are once a month, usually on the second Thursday. We even provide dinner. Everyone is welcome. We'd especially like to see Sacramento, Folsom, Davis, Winters, Dixon and the Grass Valley area represented. Coordinators, current and former TMs, past appraisers, and interested team parents can all be great additions to our team. For more information, contact our Regional Director, Shelley Larkin Bush at 916-782-2304 or wildfluers@yahoo.co.uk.



We need your creativity, ideas, and assistance—please join us!