

## Ideas to celebrate your Team!



- ❑ Schedule your own awards ceremony with dinner at a local restaurant for 5:30 or so. While they eat, recognize the kids individually, giving them their own trophies, and saying something special about what each one has done this year. Emphasize that the kids are ALREADY winners, even before they walk into the tournament awards ceremony, and nothing that happens at the ceremony can ever change that.
- ❑ AFTER the tournament awards ceremony, have a fun party to celebrate everything. Do fun/silly awards here.
  - Dollar Store Toys - "For the person most likely to injure his teammates - the Velvet Hammer" "For the person most likely to pull the team back together when everyone is shouting out opposing ideas - the golden megaphone", etc.
  - Rock and Roll tunes -- take well-known rock & roll tunes and change them slightly for each team member.
  - Use Candy - Milk Way bar for the kid who reached for the stars, Nerds for the one who spent literally hours in the university library researching fairy tales (and can now tell you all sorts of arcane facts about them), Snickers bar for the boy who always got a laugh, Whoppers for the boy who always told tales, etc
  - The Tools of DI - duct tape for teamwork or bonding the team together, paint brush(artist), glitter(sparkle or pizzazz), rubber chicken(humor), mask (drama or theatrical), screw driver/hammer/saw (for the techy) and reward each of their individual talents.
  - Paint the items gold and turn them into trophies - golden batteries, golden Velcro, golden bricks etc.
  - You could have DI's of Texas (eyes of Texas) awards.
- ❑ Write letters to the team members, and mail them the day before the tournament so that they receive them on Monday, telling them that no matter WHAT had happened, the TMs are still thrilled with what they had accomplished.
- ❑ A variation on that is to have the Team each write comments for each of the other Team members to keep.
- ❑ Have a Team Photo taken on tournament day and get 5x7s or 8x10s made and frame them (you can get cheap frames at the dollar store and add paint or glitter or stickers or miniatures that go with your challenge or your solution theme to decorate if you want to – your chance for your own personal "side trip")
- ❑ Write up a certificate on the computer recognizing very specific contributions, including talents and teamwork contributions...always a quick thinker, great peace keeper, humor good at breaking the tension, looks out for others, makes sure everyone is included. Funniest moment is good to add. Proudest moment.

*Congratulations!*

A decorative graphic featuring a ribbon that loops under the word "Congratulations!". The ribbon has a small bow at the end.