



CreateME January 2017 Newsletter

Happy New Year

It is a new year and that means it is time for teams to get into gear. Many teams have met a couple of times and some have not met at all. With two months until the regional celebrations and three months until the state celebration, it is time to get to work.

On that note, I will mention this one last time this season. Although registration for the regional and state gatherings does not close until January 23, 2017, teams need to buy their registrations from national DI as soon as possible. I know that many of you receiving this newsletter do not yet have registration numbers. I urge you not to procrastinate. Get your national registration today. If you do not buy your own registration number please contact the person responsible and ask them to start the process.

If you already have your registration number, thank you and good for you.

Registering Your Team

Team Registration is now open and will close January 23, 2017. Even though you, or your coordinator, have purchased your registration number and challenge materials you still need to register with CreateME. In order to register you will need your registration number. This year CreateME is using a new online registration system. Information and a link to the register can be found at <http://www.createme.org/index.php/tournament-registration/>

In order to help with this new process we have a registration guide, which can be found on the site above. **If you have any questions about registering, please contact us at help@createme.org.**

Appraisers and Volunteers

Each team needs to provide an appraiser and a volunteer. The appraiser needs to learn about challenges ahead of time and attend both the regional celebration, even if your team is not attending, and the state celebration. The appraiser will work all day at both events and will not have a chance to watch their team perform. Many teams find an extended relative or friend of the family for this role. This is a significant time commitment, but we cannot hold these celebrations without them. Please get your appraiser signed up today.

The team volunteer is no less important, but requires a much less significant time commitment. The team volunteer is needed for the state celebration and will be assigned to a two hour shift. The schedules for volunteers are managed so that the volunteer can watch their team perform. This position needs no training and is great for a team parent.

You can sign up your appraisers and volunteers as part of your registration. Thank you for your help.

Instant Challenge Workshop

There will be an Instant Challenge Workshop at Gray New Gloucester High School on Saturday January 21st at 9:00 am. All teams are welcome to come and experience instant challenges in a fun, non-stress environment. If you plan to have your team attend, please contact Tim Terranova at growthdirector@createme.org . **If you do not contact Tim in advance, there may not be enough materials for your team to participate.** The Instant Challenge Workshop is a fantastic and fun learning experience for teams. We look forward to seeing what your teams discover.

Your First Team Meetings

Whether you are a new or returning Team Manager the first meetings of a new year can provoke some anxiety.

First things first, your job is not to control the team. They are in control of their project and how they work on it. That being said, it is your job to guide them and make sure they follow rules and don't do anything that could hurt themselves or someone else. A little chaos is good for the imagination, but when they start jumping on tables it is going a little too far.

Picking a Challenge

Remember that picking a challenge is up to the team. As a Team Manager, there may be challenges that you feel confident in or think would be really fun to try. It is okay if you are not an expert in the challenge that is picked. The team needs to become the expert.

Picking a challenge is different depending on the age of the team. One of the things I have done for all my teams from third grade through high school is to take the summary of each challenge and turn it into an instant challenge. This allows the team to experience the challenge and get a quick idea if they really like it. The ability for the team to try a challenge before they pick it has completely changed the decision they made based on reading the challenges. The difference between the hypothetical (reading) and the practical (doing) allows the team to see the challenges in different ways.

For elementary teams you may not want to have them read the complete challenges. The summary is probably enough. However, you, as a Team Manager, want to read through all the challenges and prepare notes or a table on all of the different requirements of each challenge. The summaries do not cover all the requirements and those might entice or dissuade a team from choosing a challenge.

For early middle school (ours is 5-8) you may want to do the same thing, but as the team members get older and more experienced they should have the responsibility of reading through the challenges and finding the requirements on their own. They may still miss some and you need to be prepared with open ended questions to help them find what they are missing.

At the high school level, I hand them the challenges and ask them to read through them. I still do the instant challenge piece I mentioned above, but everything else is on them. I am there as a resource when they have questions about what something means, but not much more.

These are things that have worked for me. I am sure that there are a million different ways to help teams pick challenges. Use what works best for you and your team. If you are not sure, ask the Team Managers around you. I have never met a Team Manager who was not happy to talk about their team and how they work with their team.

Team Managers – You are not alone!

Sometimes Team Managers feel like they are on their own, with no help in sight. This is not true. CreateME wants to serve as a resource to all Team Managers. These Newsletters are one way we can provide information. Our Team Manager contact Lorrie, managerresources@createme.org is another. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the resources CreateME has to offer and to contact us with questions. We want you to have as great a year as your team.

Calendar

1/21/17 – Instant Challenge Workshop - Gray New Gloucester High School

1/23/17 – Registration with CreateME is due.

2/25/17 - Northern Regional Showcase - Hampden Academy

3/4/17 - Southern Regional Showcase - Gray New Gloucester High School

3/18/17 - State Celebration - University of Maine Orono

5/24/17 - Global Celebration in Knoxville Tennessee

You can find additional details and contact information about these activities and more on our calendar, <http://www.createme.org/index.php/events/>

If you are interested in holding an event, please let us know. We would be happy to help.

