

December 2015

Happy Holidays

December tends to be a very busy month for all of us and it is no different for DI and CreateME. Although registration does not close until January 22, 2016, December is the month that many teams buy their registrations from national DI. I know that many of you receiving this newsletter do not yet have registration numbers. Although you can wait until January, I would 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. Purchasing your registration now helps CreateMe prepare for the Regional Showcases and State Celebration.

You can purchase your registration at www.ShopDI.org. This year's registration costs are \$195 for the first team and \$180 for each additional team. Rising Star teams are \$60.

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

We want to make this a great year for DI, so get your registration number today and don't get left behind.

My Team has Picked a Challenge – Now What?

As teams begin meeting and moving forward in the DI process, one of the most exciting things - and sometimes the hardest

thing - is picking the challenge. Your team has already decided on a challenge? Now what?

Make sure you and your team read the challenge closely at the start as well as several times through the season. It is appropriate for you to do the reading with younger teams. Each challenge has a detailed description of what is required to successfully complete the challenge. Don't forget that if the team has a question they can request a clarification at <http://idodi.org/>

In addition, at the end of each challenge is a table and pie chart showing reward points. This can be a helpful tool to show your team where points can be accumulated, how different parts of the challenge can affect the outcome, and how all the pieces fit together.

Now that your team knows what they need, they can begin working. Have your team find a way to keep track of what needs to be done. Many teams create a list, often on poster board, that can be brought out each practice. Team members take great satisfaction in crossing off items on the list as they are completed.

Remember that each team is different. Some may work on one section each practice and others might work on several pieces each time. Whatever works best for your team, even if it might seem haphazard to you, is okay. Your job as a team manager is to remind the team of deadlines, teach

If you know of someone who is thinking about DI or if you have any personal contacts at other schools or organizations that could help us spread the word about DI, please let either Chad or Tim know. We want to help make it possible for everyone to experience Maine DI and become a DIMAINIAC!

them about time management, and guide them when they need help.

Watching the team and their solution evolve over the next several months will be an exciting and frustrating process. Whether you realize it at the time or not, the team members often put more pressure and higher expectations on themselves than you ever could. Make sure they take time to enjoy the process and you will be surprised at how everything comes together at the end.

Don't forget to mix instant challenges into the practice. These can be a great way to give the team a break from the central project.

If your team is having problems working together don't hesitate to take a break and work on some team building. Every team, especially new teams, needs refreshers in teamwork.

If you are feeling overwhelmed or just need to talk, you are welcome to reach out to Lorrie, our Team Manager Resource Contact at managerresources@createme.org

Don't be afraid to reach out. We want you and your team to have the best experience possible.

Team Extras

Even though your team wants to get the central challenge completed, don't forget about some of the fun stuff.

- Team Name – Teams come up with wonderful and wacky names each year. Have your team spend some time coming up with a name that is right for them. This can also serve as a good team building exercise.

Visit our Website at www.creatme.org
Or visit us on Facebook for the latest news.

- Team Flag – The morning of the State Celebration teams are introduced and parade across the stage. Each team is invited to make a flag (approximately 2x3) to carry during the parade. The flags may be related to your team challenge, or may show team personality. It is a time to have fun and show some additional creativity.
- Team Shirts – Although not mandatory, many teams come up with team shirts. This can be as simple as having the team name on it, or as complicated as the team would like. It is amazing to see all the amazing colors and designs. It can also be a good way to keep track of your team if they pick a bright color no one else picks. 😊

Working on these items gives the team a chance to interact in different ways other than just working on challenges. They also give the team a “change of scenery” which can help the overall process in the long run.

2015-2016 Dates

Below is a list of dates for the upcoming season. A complete list can be found on our calendar at www.createme.org

- January 2016 – Deadline for registration (but don't wait, register early)
- 2/27/16 – Southern Regional Showcase
- 3/5/16 – Northern Regional Showcase
- 4/9/16 – State Celebration at UMO
- 5/25/16 – Global Finals

Questions: contact Chad at affiliatedirector@createme.org or any of the CreateME team at <http://www.createme.org/index.php/get-involved/contact-us/>