

February 2016

Regional Showcases are almost here!

Regional Showcases will be held February 27th and March 5th. We are looking forward to seeing all of the teams and the imaginative solutions they have found to their challenges. The showcases are the first opportunity DI offers for teams to share their solutions on a larger stage.

To help you prepare for the day we have answers to some frequently asked questions.

Q. My team is not ready should we attend?

A. Yes! Even if your team has not completed its entire challenge they should still attend. Attending will give them a chance practice what they have completed in front of an audience and to see what works or what does not. It may also give the team that little extra push to focus on their task. Remember, all teams go onto the state celebration, so it is to your team's advantage to attend the showcase.

Q. When will we get a schedule?

A. We will create a schedule as soon as possible. However, some teams have not completed registration and we need to wait for all teams.

Q. Where do I go when I get there?

A. There will be a person for the Team Manager to check-in with. They will be able to direct your team to the holding area.

Q. Can parents watch the performances?

A. Parents, family, and friends are welcome to watch the central challenge, but not the instant challenge. They are also welcome to watch other central challenge solutions.

Q. Does the team need to have all of its tournament paperwork done?

A. Yes. All of the tournament paperwork needs to be completed and the correct number of copies provided.

Q. What should I expect at the showcase?

A. We will try to make the showcase mirror what will happen at the state celebration. This means that your team will present their Central Challenge and participate in an Instant Challenge. The only difference is that teams will receive sticky notes, but not scores.

Q. What are Sticky Notes?

A. Sticky notes are notes the appraisers provide to teams with positive comments about things they really liked in the team's solution. You can check with the head appraiser for your challenge about half an hour after your team's performance to pick them up.

Q. If there are no scores, why is there a regional showcase?

A. CreateMe feels it is very important to give every team a chance to perform in front of appraisers and an audience prior to coming to the state competition. The teams put in a great amount of effort and this gives them a chance to try out their ideas without the pressure of a

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!

competition. For example, one team last year learned that their background would not fit through the door. They were able to fix that prior to the state celebration. In addition, the showcase gives us a chance to provide on the job training for our appraisers. This gives them an understanding of what is expected so they are better prepared for the state celebration.

Q. Does my team's appraiser have to attend?

A. Yes, your team's appraiser will need to arrive at the site early to obtain some training and remain throughout the day.

Each of the schools hosting the showcases has the opportunity to use this as a fundraiser for their DI programs. This is a fantastic opportunity for these programs and your support is appreciated. Stay tuned for more information regarding the fundraising that will be happening at each site.

Hopefully, this answers some of your questions. If you have additional questions, please let us know. If you have not signed up for a regional showcase and would like to, let us know as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you at a Regional Showcase!

My Team has hit a wall! What do I do?

There comes a time in every season when the team seems to hit a wall. They either can't seem to get moving or they can't solve a problem that is holding everything else up.

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Don't worry, this is a normal problem. Your job as a team manager is to help the team move past it. Here are some tips:

- Work on a different part of the challenge. Sometimes walking away and looking at the problem later with fresh eyes is the best medicine.
- Ask open-ended questions that allow the team to think about the problem.
- Brainstorm – accept every idea. Sometimes the crazy ideas lead to the most reasonable solutions.
- If the team is working on different parts of the challenge have them switch.
- Make the problem an instant challenge. Challenge the team to come up with a skit about creating a solution in the next five minutes.
- If this doesn't work, ask the team if they need to move in a different direction.

Remember, they don't need to finish with the same idea they started with. DI is a journey and learning to be flexible is an important lesson that will serve your team well in the future.

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

- 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/>