



# CreateME August 2017 Newsletter

## Ready or Not, Here We Come

It's hard to believe, but the 2017-2018 Season kicks off in less than 30 days! Starting on September 1<sup>st</sup> team registrations will be available. Between September and December teams will purchase the registrations and start working on their solutions and, before you know it, it will be time for the regional showcases and the State Celebration. There are some important changes this year, both from National DI and at our local level. We want to share as much as we can prior to the start of the season.

## Challenge Previews

This season's challenge previews are out! There are some exciting challenges waiting for all of us.

The challenge highlights are:

Technical – Maze Craze – design and build a device that will navigate a tournament provided maze; design and build a prop that will transform in the maze; design and build a way to remove an object from the maze; and present a story about a journey through the maze.

Scientific – Unlikely Attraction – explore scientific concepts used in amusement park attractions; design and build an attraction that uses scientific concepts during its operation; present a story that features the attraction in an unlikely location; and portray the unlikely location using sights and sounds.

Engineering – Drop Zone – design, build and test a freestanding structure that can withstand impacts from dropped weights; tell a story about a sudden event with a dramatic impact; and design and create a visible or audible depiction of the story's sudden event.

Fine Arts – Change the Tune – create and design a musical that includes a change in plans; include music and lyrics that enhance the storytelling; create and present a spectacle as part of the musical; and design and integrate a set change into the musical.

Improvisational – Treasure! – research different cultures and famous explorers; create and present an improvisational skit about a quest to return a lost cultural treasure to its owner; and integrate two explorers and a prop into the quest.

Service Learning – Inside Impact – Identify, design, carry out, and evaluate a project that addresses a real need in a real community; create a live presentation that highlights the project and the impact it made on the community; create infographics that include information about the project; and create a storage device that transforms as the story of the project unfolds.

Early Learning – Friends Everywhere – explore how children of different cultures live , learn and play; present a play that tells a story about two different cultures; present similarities and differences between the two cultures; design and build a prop that will transform and be used in two different ways; and create costumes and scenery to help tell the story.

This year, each challenge has a preview video. All videos can be viewed at <https://www.destinationimagination.org/challenge-program/2017-18-challenge-previews/> Due to changes in the registration process this may become an important part of your team's decision making process. I encourage you to watch them all.

## Registration

**Important** - Signing up will be a little different this season. You, or your coordinator will be able to purchase team registration numbers as in the past. Once you have a team registration number you, the Team Manager, will need to log into the resource area of [www.destinationimagination.org](http://www.destinationimagination.org) and create an account. Once your account has been created you will be asked to choose which challenge your team would like to solve. Once you pick the challenge you will be given access to the challenge materials for that challenge. DI received many comments about this new procedure and has revised it somewhat. If your team wants more information you can change the challenge listed in the resource area as many times as you like prior to the deadline (which will be in January). Each time you change you will be given digital access to the challenge materials. Upon request, DI will also provide one written copy of the challenge of your choice. However, any additional requests for written copies will result in an additional fee.

The fees for this season have also changed. The national DI fee for all teams, including rising stars, is \$105. The state registration fee is \$125 for all teams except rising stars. Rising stars do not have a state fee. Both fees are collected at the same time when you obtain your team registration.

More details can be found at [www.createme.org](http://www.createme.org) and [www.destinationimagination.org](http://www.destinationimagination.org).

## State Celebration

The State Celebration will look a little different this year. The University of Maine informed us that the fee for continuing to hold the event at their facility would almost double next year. In order to cover that cost CreateME would have had to double the team registration cost. We did not feel that was a fiscally responsible option for us or our teams, so we are parting ways with UMO. It is not official yet, but we are very close to reserving a new space in the Bangor area. The space will allow us to continue having our theater style closing with lots of

excitement. In addition, one of the big draws of this space is that it is large enough to house all events under one roof. That means once you are inside you can stay inside. No more carrying props between buildings in the rain and snow! CreateME is excited about this change and we are exploring ways that this venue can help us have the best State Celebration yet.

## Team Volunteers

Last year CreateME found a new source of volunteers and did not need many of the volunteers that teams provided. This year we will not be asking teams to provide a team volunteer. Teams **will still be responsible** for providing an appraiser. An appraiser is a vital volunteer who will need to go through training and attend both a regional showcase and the State Celebration. They will not be able to watch the team they represent so this should not be a parent. This is often a difficult task for teams and we often don't get the names of appraisers until just before the regional showcases. The earlier we obtain these names the earlier we can plan the events.

## Team Manager Trainings

Create ME will be holding two general Team Manager trainings this year. One will be in the southern region and one will be in the northern region. The trainings are for Team Managers and those interested in becoming a Team Manager or starting a team.

The trainings will be held at the end of October and beginning of November. This is early in the season for many teams and some team managers will not have registered yet. If you know of anyone who is interested, but has not purchased a registration or registered, please let them know. We look forward to working with all our Team Managers.

## Team Growth

This past year we saw a slight rise in the number of teams. We have been busy attending events and contacting people throughout the summer in an effort to keep the upward momentum going. If you know of opportunities for DI to spread the word, please let us know.

## Instant Challenge Resources

Having trouble with Instant Challenges? Have you been a Team Manager for a while and are looking for new challenges. Check out our Instant Challenge Library at <http://www.createme.org/index.php/instant-challenge-practice-sets-2/> There are hundreds of pages of challenges and you are certain to find something that is just right.

## Calendar

9/1/17 – Team Registrations Available

10/28/17 – Southern Region Team Manager Training from 9-12 (place TBD)

11/4/17 – Northern Region Team Manager Training from 9-12 (place TBD)

3/3/18 – Regional Showcase (tentative)

3/10/18 – Regional Showcase (tentative)

3/24/1/ - State Celebration (tentative)

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.

