

# Creative Programs of New Mexico Newsletter



Creative



## Fall 2007

CPNMI/ImagiNM

Two sides of the same coin. We are Creative Programs of NM, Inc. but our nickname is ImagiNM, which is also the name of our web site.

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### T-SHIRT AND PIN CONTEST

Hey team members! Send in your designs for our 2008 New Mexico ImagiNM State T-shirts and pins. If yours is chosen, you win \$50 plus a free T-shirt and pin. Submit your ideas by **December 19** to Donna Asher (e-mail [dasher.swcp.com](mailto:dasher.swcp.com) or call 299-8047).

**Welcome** to the 2007-2008 Destination ImagiNation® Program. The Challenges look exciting, New Mexico DI volunteers are already at work, and hopefully you and your team are ready to get started. I have been involved in creative problem solving competitions since the 1980's. As a teacher, Team Manager and Appraiser, I've seen the growth that comes from kids being involved in Creative Problem Solving (CPS). In this day of school standards and conformity, I believe that hands-on, experiential, creative learning is more important than ever. Many of the jobs that today's school children will be doing when they graduate haven't even been identified yet! Our future depends on citizens who can think on their feet, who can work with others to find solutions to complex problems, who are trained to think outside of the box. This year, the CPNMI Board of Directors is focusing on promoting and growing the program. We need to get the word out there about DI and its many benefits. It is my hope that together we can offer as many New Mexico children as possible the chance to become involved in CPS and the Destination ImagiNation program. I truly do believe it is, The Most Important Course in Education.

Sincerely,

Midge Nichelason  
NM Affiliate Director

Pin Design by Melissa Asher

## DI Information

If you or someone you know is just starting out or wanting information about DI, go to [www.idodi.org](http://www.idodi.org) website. You'll find out more about the What? Where? When? And How of the Destination ImagiNation program. There's a short video clip, questions and answers about the program, Challenge Summaries, and information about how to register for the Most Important Course in Education! You can either send in your downloaded registration form or go to [www.shopDI.org](http://www.shopDI.org) and join immediately using a credit card. They'll send you Program Materials and membership numbers that you will use later to register your team(s).

Your next step is the [www.imaginm.org](http://www.imaginm.org) web site for lots about what's going on in New Mexico. Watch for training opportunities for you and/or your team.

**December is still not too late to get your team going!**

## Tournament

This year's State Destination ImagiNation Celebration of Creativity will be on **Saturday, March 15**. It will be held at Sandia High School throughout the day. Let your parents, team

members, and other interested people know as soon as possible to keep that date open!

## TRY DI

In order to encourage new team managers to Try DI, ImagiNM is offering a special promotion.

Elementary aged teams can sign up to Try DI as Rising Stars teams for \$30. Teams still have access to training and other DI perks. The only stipulation is that the team will be showcasing instead of competing at the State Tournament on March 15. See the [imagnm.org](http://imagnm.org) web site for further details.

## ***Danger:***

### ***Fundraising Fatigue***

Fundraising fatigue is a real problem, especially for those teams who opt to go to Global Finals. Don't get us wrong – **Global Finals rocks**. But not if the consequence is Team Manager and Parent burnout! What to do? Consider the following options:

**Showcase** your team's Central Challenge to appreciative Appraisers. This is also a great option for a team that doesn't feel "ready" and wants to reduce stress. No points, no competition, no fundraising!

### **Savor being State Champions**

You won! Guess what, you're done! Take your trophies and medals and return home victorious. Celebrate with your team and don't worry about going to Globals.

**Be realistic:** Unless you have a parent or two that *want* to head

up the fundraising and have a group of parents excited from the get-go to sell candy, wash cars, etc., save your sanity and go back to option 2, **Savor being State Champions**.

The Bottom Line: We want and the kids **need** YOU back next year!

## Opportunities to Get Involved

It definitely takes a village (or group of village idiots) to run Destination ImagiNation in New Mexico. We need your help! Here's some possibilities, or create your own!

**Appraisers** - (those important people who evaluate team performances) Do you know someone who is great with kids who can do this job? Training will be provided.

**Publicity** – Do you know someone in the media? Destination ImagiNation is about creative kids doing positive things and people need to know about it. If you have any contacts, please send them to us. Or better yet, would you be willing to be part of our Board and take on this vital task?

**Fundraising and Sponsorships** – There's money out there that would help make DI in New Mexico a better program. Think grants for buses, training, etc. Sign up to be part of the Treasure Hunt. Or if you know a group that might be interested in knowing more about DI, let us know!

**Tournament helper** – registration, concessions, runners, score people, we need you all. Whether you have an hour or five, please let us know if you can help on Friday, March 14 (site set up

from 4-9 PM) or Saturday, March 15.

## ***Advisory Board*** -

We have some of the hardest working folks in New Mexico that help make the State Tournament possible. It is a huge event, and we always need help. In fact we're often so busy with the details of tournament that we don't have time to look at the bigger picture, the non-tournament side of Destination ImagiNation. We need some volunteers to be part of an Advisory Board to look at issues such as growth, marketing, fundraising and sponsorship, publicity, and how we can offer CPS to students throughout New Mexico. If you or someone you know would be willing to make a commitment to serve on the Advisory Board (4 evening/weekend meetings this year with a discussion of further commitment for the following year), please e-mail Midge ([janiche52@msn.com](mailto:janiche52@msn.com)) with the name and contact information. We'll start meeting in January.

## ***Recruiting opportunities***

Where have all the teams gone? In 2001, 76 teams competed in New Mexico. This year 28 teams came to competition. We need your help getting the word out that Destination ImagiNation is an opportunity **every** child should have. We have brochures and other materials ready to be distributed. Let us know if you would like some materials to pass out or if you have contact

information for someone who might be interested in DI.

## **Destination ImagNation® Training Workshops 2007- 2008**

**Saturday, 12/01 9:15-12:15  
Creativity 101**

What is Creativity?  
How can it be taught?  
*For DI kids and team  
managers*

**Saturday, 1/12 9:15-12:15  
Beginning Team  
Managers' Training**

You can do it! We can  
help!  
*Team managers and  
other interested adults only*

**Saturday, 1/12 1:00-3:30  
Technical Designs Skills  
Workshop**

Motors, Construction, and  
Structures – Oh My!  
*Team managers and other  
interested adults only*

**Saturday, 1/19 9:15-12:15  
Creative Drama and  
Playwriting**

Using Drama to Develop  
Stories that Work and Getting  
Them Onto Paper  
*For DI kids and team  
managers*

**Saturday, 2/2 9:15-12:15  
Instant Challenge  
Training**

Hurry Up and Be Creative! It's  
not as hard as you think!  
*For DI kids and team managers*

**Saturday, 2/9 9:15 – 12:30  
Stage Craft and**

**Performance Skills**  
9:30-10:15 Performance Skills –  
Governor Bent Elementary Library  
(then we will walk over to Del Norte  
High School Theater)  
10:15-12:30 Del Norte High School  
Theater (tech, make-up, lights, etc.)  
*For DI kids and team managers \$1  
each (pick up 12:30 at Del Norte HS)*

**Saturday, 2/16 9:15-12:15**

**Improv Training** – Ways to  
fake it until you can make it!  
(teamwork, creativity, spontaneity for  
DI teams) A great way to prepare for  
NM's Celebration of Creativity!  
*For DI kids and team managers*

**All sessions except for February 9  
are to be held at Governor Bent  
Elementary School  
5700 Hendrix NE, Albuquerque  
All workshops are free, but you  
need to register by contacting  
Midge Nichelason at  
[janiche52@msn.com](mailto:janiche52@msn.com) or by calling  
298-5238 (home) 280-8543 (cell)**

### ***Teams Outside of Albuquerque***

Bring DI training to you! Just  
contact Midge Nichelason and  
she'll come to your district for a  
day (during the week or even on a  
weekend) of training adults, kids,  
whoever.

### **What's New**

Check the ShopDI link at  
[www.idodi.org](http://www.idodi.org) to find out new  
materials that are available. There  
are also many great books on  
drama, technical skills, and so on  
that can be found in a school or  
public library.

### ***Team Manager Suggestions***

Have each team member keep a  
*spiral notebook* to record ideas as  
they move through the DI process.  
The team looks through magazines  
and cut out photos of strange/weird  
ideas they see. For example, a face  
made entirely out of vegetables  
should be taped into the spiral. The  
kids share what they found and talk  
about what made these ideas so  
unusual.

Put together a *snack schedule* for  
times when your team is meeting.  
Have parents of your team members  
sign up to bring food and/or drinks  
at that time. Parents want to help  
and this is a great way they can.  
Field trip idea – take the team to a  
Home Depot and/or Thrift Store.  
Have them look around and see the  
kinds of things that are available.  
It's not so important that they figure  
how each item is used, but discuss  
many ways something could be  
used. This helps get rid of  
functional fixedness.

Teach your team to *think of the  
normal way* of looking at or doing  
something so they can then think of  
other ways to go. For example, if  
the kids are to create a zoo, discuss  
what a normal zoo would be like  
(full of unusual animals, etc.) and  
then think of other ways to explore  
the concept of "zoo." How about a  
microscopic zoo? Zoolander? A  
zoo of people that animals might  
visit? Thinking about the "normal"  
or "typical" answer will help kids  
branch away and move into the  
**CREATIVE ZONE!!**  
(please contact us with any ideas  
you'd like to contribute to this  
column)