



Congratulations!!

TEAM ILLINOIS!!

Dear Parents,

When your child's team placed first or second at the Illinois Affiliate Tournament, they accomplished something that very few teams ever accomplish. They earned a highly coveted spot on TEAM ILLINOIS and the honor to compete at the Destination Imagination Global Finals in Knoxville, Tennessee May 24-27. They will be among almost 1400 teams from around the globe participating in the largest ever Global Finals held by the world's largest problem solving organization. This will truly be an exciting experience for their team!

We are sure that most of you have been very supportive of your Team Manager(s) during the year, but the Team Manager needs your support now more than ever. We know you have an idea of the amount of time that your children have put into this program. For every hour that the team meets, their Team Manager has probably put in that much additional time looking for materials, preparing instant challenges, organizing, and arranging schedules. To maintain that support we would like to share some guidelines that Illinois Destination Imagination expects parents to follow during the preparation for and the participation in the Global Finals Tournament.

PREPARATION for KNOXVILLE:

- Try to adjust your child's and family's schedule for time remaining so that the Team Manager can schedule team practices.
- Offer to help setup and/or run Instant Challenge sessions. The Team Manager can give you a list of instant challenges and a list of supplies. At Global Finals, it is often the Instant Challenge competition that makes or breaks a team. Global Finals challenges tend to be more hands on and larger in scope than the challenges typically seen at the regional or affiliate tournaments. This may have to be organized as an after school activity in the cafeteria in order to have room to solve the challenges.
- Many teams will try to coordinate their apparel to match each other with different 'outfits' for each of the days in Knoxville. Please try to be cooperative with this request. It helps to identify your team members in the large crowds and is often being done in consideration for your child's safety.
- Help organize and run fund raisers: I don't believe that teams should spend their entire time fundraising but it is important that teams participate in some fund raising activities (car washes, candy sales, etc.) so that they have ownership in the trip. Please do not expect the TM to run and/or organize all the team fund raisers in addition to holding the meetings, working with the team, and making arrangements for Global Finals. Team Parents should also be responsible for fund raising activities.

IN KNOXVILLE:

- **MOST IMPORTANT!** Until the team has completed both their Team Challenge and their Instant Challenge competitions, ILDI considers the team manager to be in charge of the team and all of its activities. This is much like a teacher in charge of their class on a field trip. As a parent you may be helping to chaperone, but the TM is the person in charge of the children. The team's schedule is under the control of the Team Manager. When the team Manager asks you to be some place with your child, we ask that you be there and on time. Never leave with your child without making sure the TM is aware of what you are doing, where you are going and that you have their permission to do so.
- Unless the Team Manager specifically tells you that you do not need to stay with the team, plan on staying and helping to supervise – this applies more to Elementary teams than older teams. Offer to help supervise the TM's children.
- This is not a family vacation. This is a time for your team to focus on presenting in an international competition and to celebrate the team's accomplishments. There may be time for outside trips but those trips need to be scheduled around, or after all team activities. We recommend that the team goes to see other teams perform, and especially to support teams from Illinois. It is impossible to tell which teams will be the 'knock your socks off' teams, but if you stay and watch, you will see some pretty amazing performances. Check out other teams in your challenge as well as teams in other challenges.
- Please remember that this is the team's solution and there is to be NO outside interference. Parents cannot help with suggestions, solutions, or help assemble scenery, props, or costumes. Parents are also not allowed to apply make-up. Do not jeopardize your team's chances by interfering. Take a 'Hands-Off' philosophy. When in doubt, don't do it!
- Please be positive! Maintain a PMA (Positive Mental Attitude) for your entire trip. Try not to complain. Yes, the team's practice schedule may be hard. Yes, it may be difficult to be there on time. Yes, it interrupts your normal meal time, it's hot, it's cold, etc., etc., etc. Whatever the disruption or distraction it causes, it is happening with the Team Manager's family even more so, and they are doing this for your child.
- This is a competition but do not emphasize the placement of the team. If you focus on the competition aspect of this tournament, you will be disappointed. There were over 10,000 teams competing internationally to be one of the 1400 teams participating in Knoxville. Only around 45 of these teams will have trophies to carry away from the Closing Ceremonies. Please be proud of what your children have learned, and accomplished. Share in their excitement, and know that they are making memories that will last a lifetime.

The trip to Knoxville will be a wonderful experience. THANK YOU for allowing us to work with your child this year and to provide them with this opportunity.

Please feel free to call us if you have questions about anything!

Sincerely,

Jan Darnell jan.darnell@pekin.net and Diana Dignan ildi.dignan@gmail.com

Illinois Destination Imagination NFP, Inc.