

PRAIRIE POSSIBILITIES

South Dakota Destination Imagination



A Note from Our President:

Welcome to the 2026-2027 South Dakota Destination Imagination Season! There are so many different activities for families to choose from, but I promise you - DI offers an experience like no other activity! Executive function skills are basically the “secret sauce” to long-term success. DI builds these skills in really unique and long-lasting ways. Most organized youth organizations don’t celebrate failure, but DI views failure as a risk that was taken and a lesson that was learned. There is nothing wrong with failing, as long as that failure leads to learning!

Over the course of a DI season, each team will work on a solution to a chosen challenge. Our challenges are purposely designed to be open-ended to encourage out-of-the-box thinking. Innovative ideas tend to impress our appraisers, even when they don’t work as planned.

There are just a couple of golden rules in DI:

1. The team can do it themselves - no interference!
2. If the rules don’t say you can’t . . . you can!

We encourage you to check out other teams to inspire your own thinking. You can find lots of examples of DI team performances posted on YouTube. We will also be hosting regular Zoom Q&A sessions for team managers, so please join us to connect with other team managers and to learn more about the challenges.

DI is probably one of the most fun, frustrating, rewarding activities you can lead! Thanks for getting involved in SDDI. Please reach out anytime with questions or new ideas. - **Jenn Brist**

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD

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Destination Imagination has a fun tradition: each state creates its own set of five trading pins based around a theme—movies, music, South Dakota culture, or just about anything creative!

At tournaments, kids can only buy pins from their own state. To collect pins from other states, they have to trade with other DI kids. It's a fun way to meet new people, start conversations, and practice social skills.

Where does South Dakota get its pin ideas? From our kids! Look at some past designs for inspiration, then get creative and design your own set of five!

- 🎨 Choose a theme and design coordinating pins
- 👕 Include an idea for a matching T-shirt
- ✏️ Rough sketches are perfect—no finished artwork needed
- 💡 Designs must be original—no copyrighted characters, parodies, or crossovers
- ✍️ Teams can submit more than one idea
- 📅 Submit them to Maria Kendle by **November 30th**.
- 🏆 The winning team gets FREE T-shirts and pins for the entire team!

**Have DI pins collecting dust?
Put them back to work!**

If you or a DI alum has a pin collection you're ready to part with, donate it to South Dakota DI!

We'll gladly give those pins new life through fundraising opportunities that support our DI kids.

Contact a board member to donate your pins!

Submit them to maria.kendle@k12.sd.us by November 30, 2026



Save The Date

November 15, 2026 - Ornaments due

November 22, 2026 - ICY Day in Pierre

November 30, 2026 - *Pin submissions due*

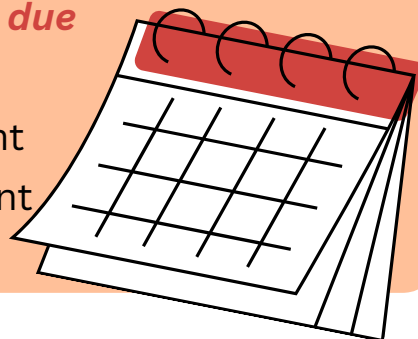
February 15, 2027 - *Team registrations due*

March 6, 2027 - East River Tournament

March 13, 2027 - West River Tournament

April 3, 2027 - State Affiliate Tournament

May 20-23, 2027 - Global Finals



Gingerbread Challenge!



Destination Imagination teams from across South Dakota are invited to help us decorate a Christmas Tree at the Capitol celebrating **250 Years of Christmas in America: 1776–2026!**

Your Challenge: Should you choose to accept, your team will receive a set of ten (10) 5" wooden gingerbread people. You choose an era in American history and use your team's creativity to transform your gingerbread people into characters from that time! Think about clothing, hairstyles, jobs, inventions, popular culture, Christmas traditions, or other details that help tell the story of your era.

Use your imagination! Paint, fabric, yarn, felt, paper, ribbon and other craft materials are all welcome. Your gingerbread people don't have to match—give them personalities and let each team member contribute ideas.

There is no single right solution—be creative, work together, and have fun! **Sign up by October 27, 2026** so your team has plenty of time to receive and decorate your ornaments.

Return your completed gingerbread people by mail so they **arrive by November 15, 2026**. We'll combine creations from DI teams across the state to build one amazing tree that travels through 250 years of American history and imagination!

Questions? Contact Michele Beeler at
mbeeler8503@gmail.com or 605-999-8503.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



Spotlight on DI Teams!



Meet the Spiky Balloons from St. Thomas More High School, part of Rapid City Catholic Schools!

Over five years together, their DI journey has led them to Global Finals five times and has included two Technical Challenge championships, two third-place finishes, a fourth-place finish, and a Da Vinci Award.

Their favorite parts of DI are building their ideas, working through trial and error, and celebrating those 'aha!' moments when something finally works. Performing their final solution for family and friends in the end is also their favorite. They love to see what they can accomplish together and build off each other's ideas, and love being with their friends, Nerf fights, and traveling to new places as a team.

Between school, sports, music, and other activities, they plan ahead and rely on dividing up tasks to work on their solution between group sessions, not just during group sessions.

Stay informed!

We have a website - disouthdakota.com

Check us out at facebook.com/di.soda.ad

We would love photos of your teams in action - submit them to Ashley at ashley@disouthdakota.com