



Destination Imagination Tournament Event Guide

SaYes to Creativity Organization - 2026

About the Event

SaYes to Creativity Organization/West Texas DI

When: February 7, 2026 7:15 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Where: Pebble Hills High School - 14400 Pebble Hills Blvd. El Paso, TX 79938



What is This Resource?

An event guide (sometimes called an access guide, building guide, accessibility guide, or visiting guide) is a resource that highlights details of an upcoming event through photos, descriptions, and other helpful information. This resource is intended to help you plan your tournament day! Tournament questions can be directed to Leslie Akins, Regional Director - westtexasdi@gmail.com.

What to Expect at This Event

Navigating the Venue

Tournament maps are provided at the main entrance and throughout the building. During the tournament, additional assistance will be available throughout the tournament (volunteers and tournament officials).

Photos and descriptions are found later in this resource.

It is normal for spaces to change, especially when they are used by many people! When you arrive, you may notice that there are different things hung on the walls, different furniture arrangements, or even bigger changes. You may notice smells that you didn't expect, or lights that are brighter or darker than our photos. We know that DI participants can use their creativity to adapt to these changes.

Please check at main entrance (information/registration table).

Team Challenges

Throughout the event, Destination Imagination (DI) teams will be presenting their work on a **Team Challenge**. The Team Challenge falls in one of seven categories: Technical, Scientific, Fine Arts, Improvisational, Engineering, Service Learning, or Early Learning. You can learn more about this year's Team Challenges [on the DI website](#). Each Team Challenge has its own Presentation Site, or rooms specific to the Challenge. The size, seating options, and acoustics will vary greatly by Presentation Site.

Each team has an assigned **Presentation** time for Team Challenge. The tournament schedule can be found information/registration table and throughout building. Teams should arrive at the Presentation Site at least 20 minutes prior to the assigned time in order to begin the check in process in the Prep Area. Teams participating in the Engineering Challenge may require extra time to check in parts of their

solutions. In the Prep Area, the team will work with the Prep Area Appraiser to check in all of the props, costumes, and anything else that will be used in the team's Presentation. Only the team members and the Team Manager (their adult mentor) are allowed in the Prep Area. The **Presentation** is when the team members present how they solved their Team Challenge in front of an audience and a team of Appraisers (scoring officials).

A team's Presentation lasts eight minutes or less. The content of team Presentations will vary greatly, but it is likely you will see stories, scenery, costumes, and technical elements created by the team members. It is common for a team's Presentation to include lights, possibly including strobe lights and/or flashing lights. Team Presentations do often include loud noises or music. However, most Presentation sites do NOT have sound systems, so it may be hard to hear the team. Audience members are welcome to laugh or applaud as they see fit.

When the team members are done with their Presentation, the Appraisers will ask them a few questions before they leave. Audience members can remain in the Presentation Site during these questions. After speaking with the Appraisers, the team will take its Presentation materials out of the Presentation Site. At this time, parents and team supporters may help the team remove materials from the Presentation Site.

Instant Challenges

An **Instant Challenge** (IC) is a smaller Challenge that is a surprise to the team on the day of the tournament. An Instant Challenge may involve a task, a performance, or a combination of both. Instant Challenges usually last ten minutes or less.

Teams are given a specific time to present their Instant Challenge. The team, the Team Manager, and the Appraisers are the only people allowed into the Instant Challenge areas.

When a team has completed the Instant Challenge, the team members may be directed to a **Chill Out** room to discuss the experience with one another. Since many teams will utilize the same Instant Challenge at this event, teams **must not** discuss details of the Instant Challenge outside of the Cool Down room until after the Destination Imagination season has ended in May.

Spectators

Spectators, such as friends and family members, are welcome to attend this tournament. Spectators are welcome to view any Team Challenge presentation. Please look for the doors marked "Audience Entrance" at each Challenge Presentation Site.

Please note: At many Presentation Sites, doors will be closed whenever a team is presenting, so spectators may be asked to wait to enter the Presentation Site.

Spectators will **not** be allowed to view any Instant Challenge presentations.

Awards Celebration

The Awards Celebration will take place on February 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. - Rising Stars and Elementary Level, 6:30 p.m. - Middle and Secondary Level in Pebble Hills Gym. These times are subject to change pending final approval from Socorro ISD and Pebble Hills High School. All teams and spectators are welcome to attend. Teams and Team Managers should sit as teams in bleachers and spectators should sit in bleachers.

The following special awards may be presented: DaVinci Awards, Renaissance Awards, Spirit of DI Awards.

Place awards will be given for each Team Challenge, based on their Competition Level:

- Elementary Level (EL): Grades K-5
- Middle Level (ML): Grades 6-8
- Secondary Level (SL): Grades 9-12

Please note: Early Learning/Rising Stars teams (PreK-2nd grade) are in a noncompetitive division, and are not eligible for Challenge-based awards but will receive recognition medals.

The Awards Celebration is usually a high-energy event with lots of crowds and noise. Audience members are welcome to clap and cheer as they see fit.

Photos and Videos

Photos/videos of a team's Presentation may only be taken if the team has given permission. This information will be announced before the team begins its Presentation.

What to Wear

All tournament participants and spectators are welcome to wear comfortable, weather appropriate clothing. Our volunteers often wear vibrant, colorful clothing and hats to celebrate the event. It is also highly likely that you will see team members in costume for their Presentations.

Scent Free Policy

Out of respect to those with sensitivity to scent, please avoid wearing perfumes or colognes.

Inclement Weather

If inclement weather will have any impact on the tournament schedule, teams will be notified via email, text messaging, social media.

Emergency Procedures

The fire alarms in the building have flashing lights and loud repetitive sirens. Emergency exit information can be found throughout building.

Fire extinguishers are located in the following locations: Throughout Building.

First aid kits are available at challenge sites and in Nurse's Office.

If a medical emergency should occur, we will immediately call 911. Please notify the nearest tournament volunteer for assistance.

Accessibility Information

Destination Imagination is committed to being as inclusive and accessible as possible. If there are questions that extend beyond the information provided in this guide, please contact Leslie Akins at westtexasdi@gmail.com. We are eager to meet your needs!

If accessibility needs arise on site, the day-of point of contact is Leslie Akins - westtexasdi@gmail.com.

Immunity Precautions

Our event will adhere to local health and safety restrictions. At this time, masking and vaccinations are optional.

To be respectful of those with compromised immune systems, please do not attend this event if you are experiencing an airborne or contagious illness.

Mobility Information

There are numerous accessible parking spaces available at this event. They are located at the front entrance of the campus and also at the gym entrance (for Awards Ceremony). From the accessible parking, the best entrance is main entrance of building.

Elevators are available in the following locations: Main Hall near the cafeteria.

The following event spaces are on upper floors: Instant Challenges.

The following event spaces have alternate access for visitors utilizing wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids: All event spaces are accessible for wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids

Presentation Sites are located throughout the venue. If you use a mobility device, please consider bringing it with you to help manage the distances between sites.

When You Arrive

Entrance to the tournament is the main entrance to the high school.

Upon arrival, Team Managers should check in at the front table (information/registration).

Teams arriving with props should use the main entrance. Teams must not block any parking spaces or points of entry while loading, unloading, or moving their props.

Restroom Information

Restrooms divided by gender can be found in the following locations: Main Hall throughout the building.

All-gender restrooms can be found in the following locations: Nurse's Office.

Menstrual products are available in the Nurse's Office.

Food/Drink

Food and drinks will be available during the tournament in the cafeteria. The cost of these items is \$1.00 and up. We have asked our vendors to post any allergens alongside their signage.

Teams and spectators are welcome to bring their own food and drinks. We ask that you enjoy your food and drinks in the cafeteria. Anyone seeking an allergen-free space may utilize a requested location.

Quiet Room/Regulation Room

A Quiet Room/Regulation Room is available in the Nurse's Office. This space is reserved for attendees who may need a quiet space for tasks like taking medication, prayer, addressing sensory needs, or just a moment away from the busy tournament!

While using the Quiet Room/Regulation Room, please use a quiet voice and silence all devices. Attendees under the age of 18 should be accompanied by an adult.

A private space exclusively for nursing parents can be found in the Nurse's Office.

Thank You!

Thank you for attending our tournament! We are looking forward to an event fueled by creativity, collaboration, and camaraderie. Throughout your experience, if you need to ask questions, offer feedback, or request accommodations, you are welcome to contact us at westtexasdi@gmail.com.

Disclaimer: We offer this resource as an accommodation to help people know what to expect and to prepare for this tournament. The organizers of this event are not the stewards of the building, meaning we cannot guarantee nor are we responsible for meeting ADA standards, ABA standards, Section 504, etc.. Even so, we do our best to advocate, accommodate, and choose sites that are as accessible as possible!