

MEDIA PRESS KIT • 2026–2027 SEASON | NH-DI.org

NH Destination Imagination Teams Start to Form for a Creativity-Filled Year

NHICC NH-DI proudly celebrates its 45th year empowering New Hampshire students through creativity, collaboration, and STEAM.

NH Destination Imagination (NH-DI) is a non-profit program that empowers K-college students with creativity, collaboration, and critical-thinking skills through hands-on, STEAM-based Team Challenges. Administered by the New Hampshire Innovation and Creativity Connection (NHICC), a registered 501(c)(3), NH-DI serves over 600 students across schools and community groups statewide each year. For more information visit NH-DI.org.

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WHY IT MATTERS

The emerging economy requires a flexible workforce that can summon creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving. The hands-on Destination Imagination STEAM-based Challenge program helps students grow — and sharpen — exactly those skills.

Destination Imagination Challenges are open-ended prompts and guidelines for what a team creates. Teams express themselves creatively and take full ownership of their solutions, learning to:

- ◆ Collaborate effectively as a team
- ◆ Think critically and develop innovative solutions on time and within budget
- ◆ Communicate ideas with confidence
- ◆ Embrace creativity and risk-taking

AT A GLANCE

WHO: NH Destination Imagination (NH-DI), a non-profit program of NHICC that annually engages approximately 600 K-college students statewide, backed by 120,000+ NH alumni.

WHAT: A project-based STEAM educational program where student teams tackle open-ended challenges across technical, engineering, scientific, fine arts, improvisational, service-learning, and early-childhood tracks. Each team also participates in "think on your feet" Instant Challenges.

WHERE: Across public, private, charter, and home-school groups throughout New Hampshire. Events take place at local host sites, regional tournament venues in Northern and Southern NH, the NH State Affiliate Tournament, and the international Destination Imagination Global Finals.

WHEN: Running in New Hampshire for over 40 years, the season spans the academic year: from registration and challenge release in late summer/fall, through team formation and building in fall-winter, to Regional Tournaments in March, the State Affiliate Tournament in February-April, and Global Finals in May.

WHY: To empower youth to embrace complex challenges through perseverance, innovation, and teamwork, building lifelong technical fluency, creative problem-solving skills, and self-confidence.

HOW: Through a strict Non-Interference Policy: students conceptualize, design, construct, script, and perform 100% of their challenge solutions on their own. Adult team managers provide logistics and supervision but are strictly prohibited from contributing ideas, building props, or directing solutions.



From New Hampshire competitions to Destination Imagination Global Finals, as one of our alumni put it, "Destination Imagination isn't something you explain; Destination Imagination is something you DO!"

NHICC / NH-DI AT A GLANCE

45 Years of Innovation in NH	600+ K-College Students Served Annually	120,000+ New Hampshire Alumni
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NH Destination Imagination is a non-profit that empowers K-college students with creativity, collaboration, and critical-thinking skills through STEAM-based challenges. Administered by NHICC, a registered 501(c)(3) organization, NH-DI serves over 600 students across schools and community groups in the Granite State each year. Through hands-on, student-led problem solving, participants build lifelong competencies in technical innovation, scientific inquiry, fine arts, and team leadership.

Alumni Impact: over 120,000 Granite State alumni and more than 1.5 million global alumni across 30+ countries, as part of the larger Destination Imagination community.

2026–2027 CHALLENGE LINEUP

Each year, Destination Imagination presents seven open-ended academic challenges spanning technical, scientific, engineering, arts, improvisational, service-learning, and early-learning tracks.

FOCUS	CHALLENGE	NARRATIVE PROMPT & DELIVERABLES	CORE STEAM SKILLS
 Technical	Get Sorted	Teams design and build a sorting system that categorizes team-provided items, integrating the mechanism into a creative story about a character who unexpectedly arrives in the wrong place.	<i>Mechanical engineering, sorting system design, strategic planning, research, narrative storytelling, and theatrical integration..</i>
 Engineering	Under Investigation	Teams construct a freestanding weight measurement system to accurately weigh mystery objects while presenting an investigative story about an unusual occurrence, complete with a dramatic scene freeze effect.	<i>Structural engineering, measurement physics, load testing, investigative research, stagecraft, and scene design.</i>
 Scientific	Lab Legends	Teams tell a high-stakes story of two fierce rivals competing toward a shared goal, featuring a live-action montage.	<i>Applied scientific research, experimental design, scientific demonstration, theatrical direction, and narrative pacing.</i>
 Fine Arts	Act Natural	Teams write and present an original fable with non-human characters and a moral lesson, incorporating natural materials, interactive scenery, and an animated prop to bring the performance to life.	<i>Scriptwriting, prop animation, environmental material usage, set design, and dramatic performance.</i>
 Improvisational	Just Duet	Teams improvise a two-act story about a famous duo encountering a ridiculous situation, using a single randomly selected tool, background music, and rapid-thinking skills to resolve the chaos.	<i>Rapid research, spontaneous problem-solving, character research, musical scoring/integration, and live improvisational theater.</i>
 Service Learning	Game Changers	Teams design and execute a real-world community service project, framed within a theatrical video-game storyline.	<i>Project management, community needs assessment, resource tracking design, video game worldbuilding, and public presentation.</i>
 Early Learning	Feeling Wild (Pre-K–2)	Teams create a play about animals using sensory traits (e.g., whiskers, echolocation, smell) to explore a mystery object in their habitat.	<i>Animal sensory biology, model design, environmental set construction, and early collaborative teamwork.</i>

Instant Challenge Component: In addition to their main challenge, all teams receive a “think on their feet” challenge on tournament day that must be solved in 5 to 10 minutes.

SEASON CALENDAR & KEY MILESTONES

Late Summer / Early Fall: Team registration opens statewide and globally; official challenge briefs and practice tasks are released. In late July, Challenges are released to registered teams.

Fall – Winter: Student teams form, conduct scientific/technical research, build prototypes, fabricate sets, write original scripts, and practice instant problem solving. Team Manager training sessions begin.

March: NH Regional Tournaments hosted across Northern and Southern New Hampshire.

March – April: NH State Affiliate Tournament, where top-performing teams compete for placement to advance to the global level.

May: [Destination Imagination Global Finals](#), uniting top teams from around the world.

August: Camp Gottalikachallenge, one of the nation's oldest creativity camps, run by NHICC, right here in New Hampshire. It's like a year's worth of creative problem solving packed into one week sessions!

Details are updated on our calendar at nh-di.org/calendar. Dates will be added as sites are confirmed.



MORE ABOUT NHICC AND NH DESTINATION IMAGINATION

New Hampshire Innovation and Creativity Connection (NHICC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to fostering teamwork, creative problem solving, and innovation in New Hampshire. Working with students from preschool through college in its 45th year, NHICC sponsors programs such as New Hampshire Destination Imagination® (NH-DI) to help New Hampshire's youth become the leaders and innovators of the future.

Destination Imagination (DI) is a US-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the vision to ignite the power of ALL youth to be the creative and collaborative innovators of tomorrow. The program has over 1.5 million alumni — graduates who were on teams as students, many of whom now volunteer with the program. NH-DI engages over 600 students each year from schools and community groups in every part of New Hampshire. Teams start in the fall, compete in March and April, and try to advance to the Destination Imagination Global Finals scheduled for May 2027.

NHICC's other programs include Camp Gottalikachallenge, one of the nation's oldest creativity summer camps. For more information about our programs visit nh-di.org, campgottalikachallenge.org or nhicc.org.