

Hi All,

We're in the home stretch before the Destination Imagination Colorado Affiliate Tournament on Saturday 4/02/22 at the Auraria Campus in Downtown Denver. Congratulations on making it here, that in of itself is an achievement!

We wanted to send you a few pieces of information that might make this tournament run a little more smoothly for everyone and to make the day a great experience for your team.

- 1) The Fine Art Challenge, Tricky Tales, is on the second floor of the Arts Building on the Auraria Campus (directly across from the Auraria library which is a large white building with lots of windows). Please see these maps [here](#) or [here](#) for specific details. Elementary Level is in AR 295 and Middle Level, Secondary Level and University Level will be right next door in AR 293.
- 2) There isn't a good place to store backdrops, props, or costumes in the Arts building for long, so we don't recommend leaving them unattended for any length of time. Often the best choice is to bring them into the building around an hour beforehand with the whole team, so they can make sure nothing is missing, fix anything that needs fixing, and then practice once or twice.
- 3) **Prep/check-in:** Your team needs to be to their site (outside of both rooms in the hallway, there will be signs) **20 minutes before your scheduled performance time.** This time is critical for your team to be able to double check what they've got on their paperwork and to make sure the appraisers are going to see what you want us to.
- 4) Review the rules of the road regarding interference. Team members are to be 100% responsible for anything they bring to tournament. 100% encompasses design, choice of materials, cutting, gluing, and even spacing things out in the set-up area...literally everything should be a result of the children's learning and thinking processes. Please help your teams avoid deductions from their scores because a well-meaning parent, sibling, or team manager is doing the decoration, costuming, cutting, gluing, or other construction either before or the day of the tournament. We're not expecting perfectly-made elements, so it's ok if things look like children made them, in fact that is preferred. We too often hear that a parent helped because of safety concerns using some tools or even hot glue guns, this is still interference and could result in a large deduction. We share your concern for safety, but believe it is possible to demonstrate and teach safety, or alternatively, to work with team members to find a different way to build their props, costumes, etc.
- 5) Sometimes it is useful to have the team assemble and bring a tool/repair kit. This kit could contain additional materials and tools to make repairs, adjustments, or if need be, build new backdrops or construct a new illusion if something is broken in transit to the tournament. Remember, this kit should be used at the discretion of the team.
- 6) Have your children read the challenge (with you if they're young) and talk about what all the parts mean and what parts of their performance meet those expectations? Does their paperwork reflect these parts accurately?
- 7) Have the team complete and review their Tournament Data Forms for clarity as well as making sure they have marked down what they actually want appraisers to see. Appraisers can only score what they're asked to, even if they see other elements that would fit into the elements they're scoring. Have the team check that things aren't

being scored twice (sometimes you can score parts of one thing for one scoring element and then score the whole thing for another) as double dipping often results in a “0” score for at least element.

- a. Have them look at their Team Choice Elements (TCEs)? Is this a thing they’re really proud of or something they learned especially for DI? Is it the thing in their presentation that best shows their workmanship and effort? How are they integrated into their presentation? Can they provide some additional detail that will help them score better? For example, rather than a generic “costume”, perhaps it “so and so character’s costume, that we made using x, y, and z....”. Is their description of their Special Effect clear?.
 - b. Check the rules of the road on how to fill out an expense report. Some things like borrowed chairs and tech from a school are cost exempt but a \$300 costume purchased and work for DI is not. Even if everything you’ve used is “exempt”, it still needs to be listed on your expense report.
- 8) The prep appraisers might be reaching out to you on Wednesday or Thursday once they’ve looked through the paperwork if there are any confusing pieces that we’ll need to clarify. Please be on the lookout for this communication and answer promptly so we can ensure your team is properly prepped for their performance on Saturday.
 - 9) Be sure to bring any CLEAN UP SUPPLIES that you may need to leave the performance site in the same condition it was prior to your performance! The Appraisers will not have clean-up supplies available and if your team leaves a mess or damages the site, it will likely result in a scoring penalty.
 - 10) Safety concerns: Helium is allowed if under control. If the team loses control over the balloon and if it cannot be retrieved, then the team will receive a small penalty (like a penalty imposed for a scratched floor). Dry Ice is allowed if proper safety protocol is followed. YOU MAY NOT TURN OFF SITE LIGHTS. If your team’s performance needs darkness, they’ll need to figure out how to make it dark on their own.
 - 11) The Auraria campus has a no tolerance policy toward guns which means no performance can include something purporting to be a gun. If your team’s performance has weapons and killing in it, please make sure they are very clearly fake.
 - 12) Finally, scores will likely be ready for your team to discuss with the Head Appraiser about 1.5-2 hours after your performance. This is a great opportunity for the team to learn how appraising works and why things are scored a certain way plus it humanizes the appraisers for the team and dissolves the separation between the appraisers and the team and can take away any feelings of scariness. (For Fine Arts this year, this will be a person who has rainbow accents instead of single colors like the appraisers will be decorated with).

Good luck to all of our amazing fine arts teams, we’re all so excited to see you on Saturday!

Lindsay and Jes