

Hello 2025 **This or That?** Teams!

The State Tournament is right around the corner! We are so excited to see your presentations and celebrate your hard work, creativity and positive impact on the world. We'll see you on Saturday, April 5th!

### **Location**

This year our State Tournament will be held at the Auraria Campus downtown Denver (**955 Lawrence Way, Denver, CO 80204**), and both Central Challenge and Instant Challenge will be in the Plaza building. The performance space will be a lecture hall on the Mezzanine Level, and it is important that when you enter the building you take care not to go into the Instant Challenge space. A map and general information about the tournament will be posted here:

<https://www.dicolorado.com/state-tournament/>

### **Prop Unloading and Parking**

You will need to plan enough time to unload props, for your driver to find parking, and walk to the Plaza building.

Please DO NOT bring your props early or leave them in the building all day. There will be a lot of people around, and props not only impede the flow of traffic in the hallways, but they can be damaged if left behind. We also ask that any large trash items are taken with you.

### **Check-in**

As with the Regional Tournaments, your team will submit your forms during the week before state for pre-tournament check in. Please UPDATE these forms for State, especially if you were asked to clarify anything on the day of your Regional Tournament. On the day of the Tournament, your team needs to check-in with the check-in appraiser

**20 minutes before your performance time.** The check-in appraiser will be located in the hallway outside the room where you will perform. There will be signs in the hallway pointing the way to check-in. When you check in, your team needs to be ready to perform with all of your props and all team members. This time is devoted to checking your paperwork, safety regulations and explaining the site procedures to your team. Save yourself stress by making sure you are all ready to perform before this time.

### Rules of the Road

Please remind all of your non-team member supporters about the rules of **interference**. DI is empowering because every little piece of a team's solution--from the first seedling of an idea, to last minute prop repairs--is the work of the *team members*. If a prop breaks in transport, even if it's a parent's mistake, it is the *team's* job to fix it. Quick, creative, problem solving and adaptability is one of the things they are here to learn! Solving last minute problems for themselves is a powerful learning opportunity.

A few more points on interference:

- Non-team members ARE allowed to help the team move their props and scenery to the check-in area and to the launch area before finding their seats in the audience. They are also encouraged to help the team remove their props and scenery from the room when their performance is over. BUT...
- All hair and makeup that contributes to the solution/presentation in any way **must** be done by a team member.
- The **team** needs to talk through where and how they will place their team id sign and props in the launch and performance areas. Non-team members (including Team Managers) **must refrain** from telling them how to do this.

- Any interaction between the team and the audience or appraisers during the performance is considered interference. Do not give the audience prompts for any lines, choreography or staging.

### Challenge Reminders

We recommend re-reading the challenge and looking over your scores from your regional tournament to prepare for the state tournament. Your team is allowed (and encouraged) to keep working on and improving your solution based on what you learned at the regional tournament.

**Expense Report:** Be sure to break down and include ALL elements in your budget. Everything that will be seen during the presentation must be accounted for and given a value. Paint, tape, buttons, and any items used to enhance your story **must** be listed and value applied. Donated items should show the “garage sale price.” **Check the Rules of the Road** (p. 27-30) to understand how items should be valued and what elements are exempt from the budget. If you are unsure about this, please reach out to Yvonne or Jennifer.

### Picking-up scores

Scores will be emailed to Team Managers by the head appraiser as soon as they are ready. Once you have received your scores, you may pick up any physical sticky notes from the Prep Appraiser and speak with the head appraiser if you would like. The team manager and any number of team members can come to discuss the scores with the head appraiser.

### Information to Tell Your Family/Audience Members

We all have folks who love us and want to watch us perform. Please be sure to give your spectators specific information so they can find you. It's very difficult to help people find you if they don't have enough information.

**Challenge:** This or That? (Look for the Cow)

**Level:** Elementary or Middle/Secondary

**Performance Time:** We will NOT allow late entry, so don't be late!

**Location:** Plaza Building Mezzanine

**Team Name/School**

### **Global Finals**

Depending on scores, some teams will be invited to attend Global Finals in Kansas City, May 22-May 25, 2025. Be sure to take care of your props in case you are invited to go. Kate will have information about this at the Awards Ceremony.

Lastly, PLEASE reach out to us with ANY questions about the challenge or the tournament. Our job is to support YOU!

We can't wait to see you at the tournament!!

Jennifer Zakotnik-Gutierrez

307-220-1563 ([jennyzakotnik@gmail.com](mailto:jennyzakotnik@gmail.com))

Yvonne Kellar-Gunther

303-829-0819 ([yvonne.kg@gmail.com](mailto:yvonne.kg@gmail.com))