

**ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:  
Announcing the Distinguished Leader Award!**

You are invited to apply for Minnesota's **Distinguished Leader Award**. This honor was designed to recognize the truly committed individual who has contributed to Destination ImagiNation throughout his or her high school career. This is a self-nominated award, and graduating seniors who successfully complete the requirements will receive recognition and an award at the State Tournament.

The Distinguished Leader Award recognizes graduating high school students' exceptional accomplishment, dedication, innovation, leadership and performance in service of Minnesota's Destination ImagiNation program over the course of their four high school years. The award requires that students give considerably of their time, skills, and creative talent to the Minnesota DI program. The Distinguished Leader award is Minnesota's highest recognition of superlative teamwork, leadership, and creative problem solving abilities.

Students may self-nominate in their junior or senior year. In order to receive the Distinguished Leader award, they must complete all requirements by April of their graduating year. Juniors and seniors who are well on track for this award may include it in their college applications.

See our website for an application form! [www.mndi.org](http://www.mndi.org)

Questions? Please contact Pamela Schroeder, Affiliate Director MN DI  
763 550 7212 or [pfschroeder@district287.org](mailto:pfschroeder@district287.org)

**Minnesota Destination ImagiNation**  
**Distinguished Leader 2012**  
**High School Student Achievement Award**

The Distinguished Leader Award recognizes and acknowledges the rare individual who demonstrates exceptional accomplishment, innovation, leadership, and performance in the Minnesota Destination ImagiNation program. The Distinguished Leader Award is Minnesota's highest recognition of superlative teamwork, leadership and creative problem solving abilities.

Applications are accepted September 1 – April 1.

Criteria for Attaining the Minnesota Destination ImagiNation Distinguished Leader Award

Students seeking the Distinguished Leader Award must meet criteria in six categories. These criteria emphasize elements of vision, leadership, mentorship, development, and creativity, dimensions of the pursuit of knowledge and fundamental skills that are the hallmark of the most successful Destination ImagiNation participants.

Destination ImagiNation is the world's largest creative problem solving organization, and Minnesota's largest non-athletic team activity. Teams in kindergarten through college solve one of six challenges which require them to use technical, design, engineering, scientific, and theatrical skills. DI is an international nonprofit program that develops the skills of teamwork, goal setting, planning, organization, marketing, decision-making, project management, and creative problem solving. Teams present their solutions in the form of a skit to appraisers and audiences at eight regional tournaments around the state. Winners at regional tournaments advance to the State Tournament; winners at State advance to Global Finals where they compete with winning teams from around the world.

An essay describing how you have demonstrated leadership in the program, or how the program has affected your leadership abilities and how you have applied that lesson to your life must accompany your application.

Applications will be accepted after examination by a Review Committee, which may include State Challenge Masters, representatives of the MN DI Advisory Board, or the Affiliate Director.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION: \_\_\_\_\_

**The quality of accomplishment and achievement sought in the Distinguished Leader Award is attainable by students regardless of their cultural heritage, their socioeconomic status, the location of the school they attend, or other demographic factors. While these factors will influence the choices students will make in the manner through which they will meet specific criteria, an individual's success will neither be constrained nor facilitated by these factors.**

**Minnesota Destination ImagiNation**  
**Distinguished Leader 2012**  
**Criteria for Achievement**

*Note: Students have four years to complete the requirements.*

*All of the requirements must be completed in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.*

*Requirements may be approved retroactively.*

*Students are encouraged to design new ways to be involved in DI, and may petition to have them replace the requirements listed below.*

1) All applicants must submit **each** of the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ A letter of recommendation from their Team Manager or District Coordinator
- \_\_\_\_\_ A copy of this form with completion dates and Team Manager initials on the blanks
- \_\_\_\_\_ An essay describing how you have demonstrated leadership in the program, or how the program has affected your leadership abilities and how you have applied that lesson to your life  
Minimum: 250 words

2) **Support** your local DI program by doing **one** of the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Participate on a DI team all four of your high school years **OR** team manage a younger team for one year
- \_\_\_\_\_ Compete in at least four DI tournaments during your high school years

3) **Mentor** a younger team by doing **at least** one of the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Offer a training session on an area of expertise at a team practice
- \_\_\_\_\_ Critique younger teams at an IC practice
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with a younger team prior to Regional competition to discuss tournament day

4) **Grow** your community's DI program by doing **at least** one of the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Personally recruit at least two new DI participants
- \_\_\_\_\_ Design your community's DI T-shirt
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work at least one local DI Open House/recruiting night (or your community's equivalent)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Publish an article about DI in your local paper
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develop a community DI website

5) **Serve** MN DI by doing **at least** four of the following (may do multiples from the same category):

- \_\_\_\_\_ Work at a team training workshop (IC, theater arts, technical, improv, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work at a Team Manager training workshop
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work at least two hours at a sales table, information table, or silent auction at any MN DI event
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work at a Regional or State Tournament you are not competing in
- \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer at a tournament
- \_\_\_\_\_ Serve on a DI Advisory Board task force

6) **Show leadership skills** by planning and executing a project or event for MN DI. All projects and events must have prior approval from the MN Affiliate Director. Some examples include, but are not limited, to:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Design and run a fundraising project that benefits MN DI
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan a special program for Rising Stars
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan entertainment at a Regional Tournament (mini-carnival, hat making station, hair decorating, face painting, improv festival, band or disc jockey, slide show, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan and execute a workshop (IC, Improv, Set Building, Technical, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Design a pin for MN DI (check with MN DI Affiliate Director first)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Design the MN DI T-shirt (check with MN DI Affiliate Director first)