

# TOP 10 Things I Have Learned as a DI Team Manager

By Deb Ellsworth, TM

1. Learn from veteran TMs.
  - Read the DINI list ([www.groups.yahoo.com/group/dini](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/dini)) and ask questions on it if you need to.
  - You can get a lot of answers at [www.idodi.org/disc](http://www.idodi.org/disc)
  - Talk to other TMs, your coordinator, MN DI people
2. No matter how long you've been doing this, it's *still* hard to bite your tongue and say nothing.
3. Kids move at their own pace, which is slower and more meandering than adults. That's okay.
4. They will listen to each other better than they will listen to you.
5. The point of the Central Challenge is not to get the best solution to the challenge. It is to achieve the best possible solution by the kids to the challenge *through the creative problem solving process*.
6. Sometimes, these kids will absolutely blow you away with what they come up with!
7. Sometimes teams have to fall flat on their faces to learn something.
8. It really *is* the process more than the product that counts. When they tell you that every team that makes it to the tournament is a winner, that's not just a "feel good" pep talk. It's true.
9. DI means more to the kids than you realize. For many of them, it becomes a large part of their identity.
10. You will be amazed at what *you* get out of this. Being a DI Team Manager is incredibly rewarding!