

What does it cost to do DI in Maryland, Delaware and DC?

Every team that participates in DI must own a valid team number, which is purchased through Destination Imagination, Inc. at www.shopdi.org. When purchasing the team number, the purchaser will also pay a fee to Maryland Creative Problem Solvers, Inc to help fund activities. The fees are:

Competitive team - \$105 purchase + \$30 Maryland Affiliate fee = \$135 per team

Rising Stars team - \$105 purchase + \$15 Maryland Affiliate Fee = \$120 per team

Additional costs include –

Team manager training – cost varies but is usually \$15-\$25 per manager. Training is highly recommended but not required.

Team Manager Background Check - \$15 charge for non-teacher managers.

Regional Tournament registration fee – This fee varies from \$25 to \$75, with late fees assessed on late registrations. The fee varies depending on the cost of the site, number of anticipated teams, school system support, etc.

State Tournament registration fee – Teams that qualify for the State Tournament will pay an \$85 registration fee.

Team solution expenses – Depending on the challenge a team is solving, the team can expect to spend anywhere from \$25 to \$300 on its solution materials. DI encourages teams to scavenge for its materials and puts budget limits on each challenge to control expenses. Often, teams can solve their challenges with all donated or scavenged materials.

Team t-shirts – Many teams like to create their own team t-shirts to wear on competition day. This is totally optional. The cost will vary depending on whether the shirts are handmade or commercially produced.

Staffing – Most DI teams are managed by volunteers. However, some schools or systems pay teachers to coordinate the program – recruit team managers and students and handle paper work and finances – or to serve as team managers.

Global Finals Expenses – Approximately 10% of Maryland teams advance to Globals. Those that do will incur significant expenses to cover registration fees, travel and housing costs, trading pin purchases, etc., totaling approximately \$8,000 - \$11,000. Once a team qualifies for Globals, the team kicks into fundraising overdrive. School systems usually help with the expenses, but schools, PTAs, business partners, parents, and communities contribute to make this incredible experience possible for the kids.

Where does the money come from? Every school handles the DI money situation differently. Expenses can be paid by the school, PTA or both. Sometimes team member families pitch in or pay a small fee. Other times school systems help fund the expenses through STEM grants, GATE funding, or other sources. Teams can also fundraise to cover costs.

Manpower Requirements for DI

Team Manager - 1 or 2 parents or teachers supervise each team of up to 7 students from fall to spring. Teams meet once a week at first and increase meeting frequency and length as competitions near. Managers will spend time preparing for meetings, attending trainings, and communicating with team, parents, and DI staff.

Appraiser – Each team must provide a volunteer appraiser (judge) to represent it at the regional tournament. If the team advances to the State Tournament, that person must also appraise there. Appraiser must attend a Saturday training in addition to the tournaments. This person will not see the team perform.

Volunteer - Many MD DI Regions require teams to provide a volunteer to work for 2 hours at the tournament. This person will be able to see the team perform.

www.MarylandDI.org

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