

Three Gothenburg DI teams earn trip to Global Finals

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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If they can raise the money, three Destination Imagination teams will travel to Knoxville, TN, May 22-25 to compete at Global Finals.

The Dudley Elementary teams qualified last Saturday during DI state competition at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Destination Imagination is the world's largest celebration of creativity, supporters say.

More than 1,100 teams from 45 states, seven Canadian provinces and 13 countries will gather to showcase their Challenge solutions in Knoxville.

Team manager of the "D.I.-Inators," Jenny Daup, said the team is looking forward to Global Finals and added that the win to get there was great.

"This year's team learned a number of things about teamwork and working together and branched out to learn new skills too," Daup said.

For example, all of the team members learned to use a sewing machine and created a costume, a huge stuffed animal prop and background scenes.

The team, she said, is a mixture of veteran participants and those who have never been in DI.

Veteran participants, and veteran managers Daup and Khris Jinks, may have helped with the

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win. Daup and Jinks managed the team that went to Global Finals last year.



When asked what she wanted out of DI, Daup said team member Lauren Johnson said, “I want to stretch my brain.”

Daup said she thinks kids want to be challenged and use facts and skills learned in the classroom to solve problems and be creative.

“It makes what they are learning in school more ‘real’ to them and helps them understand the purpose of all of the concepts they learn in school,” she said.

Daup added that members showed teamwork during the instant challenge portion of the competition that helped win.

The team’s first-place ranking in the instant challenge (where Maxwell Jinks created an original, rhyming rap that included a celebration of this year’s 30-year anniversary of creative problem-solving programs in Nebraska) and their first place finish with artwork, original songs and sewing projects helped pull them ahead for the win.

Khris Jinks, Maxwell’s mother, is managing a fourth-grade team this year, along with Lois Shea.

“I’m so proud of all their hard work and it paid off,” she said. “I’m so excited for the team and can’t wait to have them show the world their incredible creativity.”

Her team members call themselves the “5 Wizards” because of their passion for “all things

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Harry Potter.”

One team member is another son, Weston, who attended Global Finals last year.

“He’s had fun telling the rest of the team members how much fun they will have performing their Central and Instant Challenges, pin trading, meeting other kids from around the world, etc.,” she said.

Another fourth-grade team is managed by Kathy Oliver.

