

Team Number: 750-45888

Affiliate: Texas

Organization: Fort Bend ISD

Team Challenge: Thrill Ride - EL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: Expertly using popsicle sticks and rubber bands to boost the golf ball with strategic slaps.

Text:

This team designed a simple and elegant solution to boost the speed of their golf balls and to give gravity a helping slap. The team incorporated three strategically placed 'boosters' along their track that were triggered as the ball passed to optimize speed and ensure the golf ball reached the end line as quickly as possible. The Appraisers were wowed that popsicle sticks and rubber bands could have such a powerful impact on the team's solution.Â

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Team Number: 119-18880

Affiliate: Massachusetts

Organization: Westborough

Team Challenge: Flip The Script - EL

Award Kind: DaVinci

Recipient: Team

For: Taking a bold approach to teaching compassion with their Flipped Tale about the British Royal Family.

Text:

This teamâ€™s moving portrayal of the familiar story of the life and death of Princess Diana from the perspective of her son, Prince Harry, was a tasteful tribute told with astonishing maturity. The risk taking in handling this sensitive topic was most impressive. Every element of the story was executed with well-researched intention, and the Appraisers were moved by the relevant and urgent messaging behind the story. This team taught everyone in the audience an important lesson about compassion and humanity. We want this team to go save the world, and they showed us that theyâ€™re ready!

Team Number: 750-54658

Affiliate: Texas

Organization: Independent

Team Challenge: High Stakes - SL

Award Kind: torchbearer

Recipient: Team

For: profoundly enhancing educational opportunities for students in India.

Text:

The Torchbearer Award honors teams whose solutions have an extraordinary impact in and beyond their local communities.

This team spent 1,000 hours (and counting!) making a profound difference in the lives of children who live at the Corp Shelter, and we can only imagine the ripples that will result. For 18 months, this team has taught weekly enrichment programs to the Mumbai students via Zoom -- everything from Python programming, to piano classes, to dance, to math. If that weren't enough, while leading these enrichment courses, the team realized that the children at the shelter were unable to pursue higher education because of enormous financial obstacles. They then raised over \$20,000 to make college and career training programs attainable for the 12 high school seniors at the shelter. Because of this team, 12 students are now able to pursue their aspirations and fulfill their potential: as a lawyer, a beautician, an air hostess, a fashion designer, a tailor, a psychologist, and more.Â

This team will continue to support these students and teach enrichment classes even after the DI season wraps up. They inspire us with their dedication to opening up profound opportunities to students who live thousands of miles away.Â

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Team Number: 750-29700

Affiliate: Texas

Organization: Katy ISD

Team Challenge: High Stakes - SL

Award Kind: DaVinci

Recipient: Team

For: a unique and risky approach to demonstrating a very serious bike safety problem.

Text:

This team's approach to sharing about bike safety awareness was unique in its integration of several components that emphasized the life-and-death importance of addressing this topic. A pivotal scene in the team's Presentation set up the dire need for more bike safety awareness by showing a student who was riding a bike getting hit by a car when not wearing a helmet. The drama of this moment was enhanced in several unique and risky ways. The team had made an entire bicycle out of PVC pipes and then constructed a car with a built-in sled on wheels. The car could lift the full weight of a person using a winch controlled by a drill motor. When the character riding the PVC bike was "hit" by the car, the action went into slow motion as the bike rider was very slowly raised by the winch, all while

maintaining the look of someone just hit by a car. The team further added to the effect of the scene through a unique use of scenery to utilize perspective and depth to emphasize and highlight the car hitting the bike as a focal point. Following from this pivotal bike crash, the audience, along with the characters in the story, anxiously anticipated finding out what happened to the rider who was hit--not seeing, but instead hearing the details of what happened in the hospital where the rider was taken. The suspense left the audience wondering what did happen to the bike rider in the end, and thus fully engaged in the importance of raising awareness about bike safety.

Team Number: 147-14644

Affiliate: Washington

Organization: Mercer Island Schools

Team Challenge: Flip The Script - SL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: integrating the pencils, cup, and paper in a way that created astounding stability to achieve maximum height.

Text:

This team punctured their paper cup with three pencils in an unusual, but extremely effective, way. This configuration of cup and pencils created such a strong base that the team was able to add many more materials and blocks on top to achieve maximum measurable points. This team's razor-sharp understanding of the Instant Challenge and positive teamwork exemplified not only how a challenge can be aced, but also how fun Instant Challenge can be. The Appraisal Team thoroughly enjoyed watching this team work.

Team Number: 141-27128

Affiliate: South Dakota

Organization: Rapid City Catholic Schools, St. Thomas More

Team Challenge: Piece By Piece - ML

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: An outstanding mix of natural & recycled materials used to craft bold desert costumes that are bright, squeaky & pointy.

Text:

The team used pine needles and tumbleweeds to create the natural elements of their costumes, which added realism to these fantastical elements of their Presentation. The team used mixed materials

including felt, feathers, pool noodles, and balloons to make the characters "pop" out of the desert. Each character was identifiable by their unique combination of natural and manufactured materials while still presenting a cohesive theme. The Appraisers were awed by the risk of balloons so close to the spikes of the cactus. Truly, this was a good inspiration and integration of the team name.

Team Number: 147-14644

Affiliate: Washington

Organization: Mercer Island Schools

Team Challenge: Flip The Script - SL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: Presenting a show-stopping musical rendition of Ratatouille that was Broadway worthy!

Text: Broadway came to Kansas City with this team's rousing original musical rendition of the Disney Pixar film, Ratatouille. When the food critic Anton Ego comes to review the restaurant and takes a bite of food, he is poisoned and dies...6 times...flipping the story from an emotional journey into an intense courtroom drama! From the well-composed musical score to the flashy choreography, to the fabulous rotating stage, to the noteworthy flashback of a literary device, this story was cohesive and really did have it all. They even had a singing oven! The Appraisers were on the edge of their seats with this team's Presentation. Not only do they deserve the Renaissance Award, but they should get a Tony Award as well!

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Team Number: 750-25338

Affiliate: Texas

Organization: Midland ISD

Team Challenge: Flip The Script - EL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: A Rolodex-inspired Scenery Flip that depicted the maturity of apple trees in a unique way.

Text: This team combined the artistic idea of a flip book with an original technical mechanism that mimicked a rolodex. The time lapse, designed with the assistance of an old-school overhead projector, propelled their story forward in a creative way by depicting the incremental growth of apple trees. They "flipped"

technologies of the past into a design that was impressive by modern standards. The tree-mendous engineering was unbe-leaf-able!Â

Team Number: 129-29071

Affiliate: Nebraska

Organization: Sheridan Elementary

Team Challenge: Thrill Ride - EL

Award Kind: DaVinci

Recipient: Team

For: Fusing six ideas into a seamless trip through the sewers.

Text: This team took the Appraisers on a solo tour of the surreal, starting with a flush. The team transformed 6 different ideas into one cohesive performance that started seamlessly, without a clog, and continued on a journey through the pipes to land in a scale model of the bathroom. This team knocked integration out of the park--the art, the stage craft, the roller coaster design, and off beat sense of humor and decorations all came together to flow seamlessly throughout their Presentation, culminating in an unexpected ending. The Appraisers will be talking about this for years to come.

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Team Number: 164-87430

Affiliate: Mexico

Organization: Euroamericano Valle

Team Challenge: High Stakes - ML

Award Kind: torchbearer

Recipient: Team

For: this team's impactful work to amplify stories of immigrants to Mexico and combat prejudice in their community

Text: This team collected stories of the immigrant population from countries such as Venezuela to their city in Mexico by talking, dancing, and listening with residents of Casa Nicolas, a refugee house.Â They developed relationships and used the power of storytelling to foster compassion over negative stereotypes. Through this work, they aim to minimize discrimination and persecution, calling attention to the lack of available opportunities and resources. They amplified these stories through a presentation to over 450 of their peers, in an effort to humanize these immigrants as individuals.

Team Number: 135-58029

Affiliate: Ohio

Organization: Lakota DI

Team Challenge: Flip The Script - ML

Award Kind: DaVinci

Recipient: Team

For: Making the Appraisers second guess which cookie to chose after watching puppets tell the tale of a crumbling empire.

Text:

Who doesn't love a good story, or milk and cookies? Â The Appraisers were delighted to have both when they heard the story of the Loose brothers who created Oreo and Hydrox cookies.

This team took a big risk when they choose a non-fiction story. Â But their originality, humor, and attention to detail carried the day, Â Their Flipped Tale took us on an elaborate puppet show adventure where Oreo and his sister Hydrox tell the story of how the relationship of the brothers â€œcrumbled,â€• resulting in two separate companies, Sunshine Biscuit and Nabisco.

Using personification, Oreo, Hydrox, Chips Ahoy, Girl Scout, and Nilla Wafer came to life with their â€œtastyâ€• dialogue and detailed costumes adding some â€œsweetâ€• details.

Finally, starting with a party scene, their Scenery Flip was a box that changed five times by folding over itself.Â Â From becoming a table, it changed to a trophy case, a cookie factory and ultimately to a package of Oreos whose intricate engineering was inspired by a paper fortune teller.

The imaginative use of puppets, factual and fun dialogue along with this team's creative engineering left the Appraisers craving more!

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Team Number: 185-64307

Affiliate: China

Organization: Beijing 101 MS Shuangyushu

Team Challenge: Flip The Script - ML

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: Bringing together an 1990â€™s-style elegant manga tale with magical costumes and scenery.

Text:

This teamâ€™s Presentation was simply magical.

Using motors, hydraulics, and electromagnets, their set elegantly inverted, rotated, and flipped into an elaborate, delightfully painted scene.

EVA foam-formed armor was adorned with everyday materials like plastic forks and paper plates to create stunning, anthropomorphized characters.

With lighting, music, and professional theatrical techniques, their beautiful perspective-switched tale truly immersed us into the majestic world of the 1990's manga series Cardcaptor Sakura, turning our feelings of nothing into feelings of hope.

Team Number: 106-09549

Affiliate: Colorado

Organization: Mines and CSU

Team Challenge: Flip The Script - UL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: Using exceptional improvisational skill to make everything in the Presentation go right, even when everything went wrong

Text:

It is the mark of a truly professional team to adapt and succeed in the face of challenges during a live performance. This team was THAT professional. From technical challenges to wardrobe change hiccups, this two-member team brought a significant level of improvisational talent to the stage, incorporating each glitch as a new element of their skit. And while the initial story alone was full of humor, the additional content had the audience and Appraisers rolling with laughter. By blurring the lines between scripted performance and improvisation, this team took their production to the next level, even in the face of adversity.Â

Team Number: 106-09549

Affiliate: Colorado

Organization: Mines and CSU

Team Challenge: Flip The Script - UL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: a straw tower that soared above the table to secure the scoring block, achieving maximum height.

Text:

From extremely effective skill in using materials to lightning-fast, thoughtful teamwork, this team had it all. With an Instant Challenge that required the team to shine a laser pointer through five blocks, with

the smallest block maximizing score at its highest point, this team built a straw-only tower supported at the base with clothes pins. The stability of this structure allowed the smallest block to be securely supported way above the table so that it aligned perfectly with the remaining blocks on the table. The laser pointer beam spanned over 20 inches through all of the blocks with ease. The Appraisal Team was so impressed with this team's solution, we proudly award this team a Renaissance Award.Â

Team Number: 148-54299

Affiliate: Wisconsin

Organization: Algoma School District

Team Challenge: Far-Fetched - SL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: a choreographed Presentation that combined music, body percussion, and lyrics to build up to a shattering conclusion.

Text:

Like a song reaching a crescendo, this team built up tension in their skit as the song bounced back and forth between two friends, one of whom was trapped inside a giant "glass" snow globe. As the two friends mirrored each other, the other teammates gave them a body percussion beat throughout the Presentation. Music, acting, and choreography synchronized when the tension shattered - along with the snow globe! The team wowed the Appraisers with the execution of the main character regaining her freedom and restoring harmony.

Team Number: 750-94583

Affiliate: Texas

Organization: Lubbock ISD

Team Challenge: Far-Fetched - EL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: the creativity and humor of the facial-hair theme and the ginormous mustache that completed several household tasks.

Text:

This team stunned Appraisers with their hilarious tale about luscious locks. Their family was braided together with their fantastic facial hair! Even the pet fish had a mustache! The town mayor's comically oversized mustache got them out of several hairy situations, including by stirring oatmeal and using a paintbrush to paint the town sign. In the end, the town all came together to support him after he shaved

the day!

Team Number: 164-53371

Affiliate: Mexico

Organization: San Patricio International School

Team Challenge: Thrill Ride - ML

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: using costumes, makeup, and scenery to create a mesmerizing trip to the Aztec afterlife.

Text: This team guided the entire audience on a truly thought-provoking and emotional roller coaster. This authentic Aztec coaster traveled along a journey through Mictlan, the underground palace of the dead. At every turn through secret doors, the team's main character lost pieces of her old self, revealing an ornate hand-crafted ribcage. A realistic and ferocious jaguar ripped her heart from her chest, leaving only a mesmerizing skeleton. The skeleton makeup truly complimented a fully articulating paper-mache dog that could walk with stunning precision. The journey ended when she encountered the god of the dead, whose costume was adorned with stunningly intricate handcrafted feathers.

Team Number: 105-52918

Affiliate: California

Organization: South Pasadena DI

Team Challenge: Piece By Piece - SL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: An automated sushi restaurant that operated using many electromechanical devices to dispense a delicious solution.

Text: This team presented a murder mystery set in an automated sushi restaurant. The story included an unexpected plot twist revealing a sinister, yet cute, killer crocheted duck. The team employed a myriad of technologies including python code, raspberry pi, arduinos, stepper motors, actuators, and color sensors that were fully integrated throughout. The combination of Technical Methods solved all aspects of the Challenge by systemically dispensing trays of sushi with a team-created piece dispenser. This ultimately closed the case with a finger print detector (color sensor) that discovered the giant mustache!

Team Number: 185-64742

Affiliate: China

Organization: Beijing Bayi School

Team Challenge: Piece By Piece - EL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: A monstrous, twisty story that integrated character traits as Puzzle pieces assembled to restore the world of music.

Text:

This team's story to save their world of music was brought to life through their incredible integration of props, costumes, and character identity. Each character's costume, which was made with (sometimes unrecognizable) recycled materials, had a unique and removable piece that was a Puzzle piece necessary for the assembled Puzzle. While there was one defined Crucial Piece, it was clear that each character was an important part of the complete solution. In addition, there was a large ornate and sylish tower that blended with their background scenery making a full picture impact. With a surprise plot-twist, Dr. Evil's heart was launched by catapult to save the world.Â

Team Number: 148-08895

Affiliate: Wisconsin

Organization: Sevastopol School

Team Challenge: Thrill Ride - SL

Award Kind: DaVinci

Recipient: Team

For: A bouncy mine cart ride, an accidental explosion, and a tumbling roller coaster that left the Appraisers' heads spinning

Text:

This team really thrilled the Appraisers with their entire Presentation. Â The team's unique design used a single mouse trap to trigger a rotating drum powered by a counterweight.Â This team showed incredible creativity and attention to detail in every aspect of their solution, includingÂ a collapsing mine shaft with a 3D illusion and a bouncing mine cart. All in all, this solution was dynamite!Â

Team Number: 185-53087

Affiliate: China

Organization: BEIJING 57 HIGH SCHOOL

Team Challenge: Thrill Ride - SL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: Using 96 rubber bands to test the Timekeeper's reflexes with a lightning fast coaster.

Text:

This team created a unique launching mechanism which used 96 rubber bands to launch the golf ball at unexpectedly high speeds. If the Appraisers had blinked, they would have missed each lightning fast run. An impressive Roller Coaster became even more stunning after two transformations that changed its shape and length.

Team Number: 147-89556

Affiliate: Washington

Organization: Mercer Island SD 400

Team Challenge: High Stakes - SL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: an exemplary performance and technical design that inspired their audience to fight against period poverty.

Text:

This team's Presentation exemplified attention to detail and well-executed performance, integration, and technical design. From a drumbeat that dramatically presented the heartbeat of a main character, to songs that presented information explicitly and through metaphor about the team's project, to a carousel carrying detailed animals and rotating on a motor, this team's performance was captivating from start to finish. The drumbeat heartbeat was produced in both real time and slow motion, and it was enhanced by lights through mechanical and electrical engineering. The team programmed motors to beat the drum, programmed a sensor to listen for the sound of the heartbeat, and showed lights flashing in a rainbow to further emphasize the heartbeat. The team's original songs were integrated throughout the Presentation and taught the audience about the stigma of periods and the inequity involved in period poverty. The carousel spun around on a pulley while showing three animals that represented three different continents where the team donated menstrual cups as part of their Project. Every aspect of this team's Presentation and solution captivated the audience and inspired them to join the fight against period poverty.

Team Number: 169-53557

Affiliate: Turkey

Organization: Emine Ornek Schools

Team Challenge: Showdown - SL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: an innovative representation of a video game in an improvisational Skit!

Text: This team absolutely impressed us with their exciting and unique use of trash bags and rubber bands that went above and beyond our expectations. Their ability to create a video game setting, which was filled with hilarious references and exceptional props, including headphones and television, proves their outstanding improvisational capacities.

Team Number: 750-75604

Affiliate: Texas

Organization: Independent

Team Challenge: Piece By Piece - SL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: A "rock"ing opera that culminated in a flowing puzzle fountain built with a combination of ancient and modern technology

Text: This team had a fully integrated story that had comedic beats, rocking music, and a Puzzle fountain that flowed with the Crucial Piece. The tale followed a greedy farmer that realizes it is worth sacrificing his luxury to ensure the trees and land flourishes again. The Lion of Babylon Fountain was rebuilt with a combination of ancient technology, including the Archimedes screw and Sumerian Crane, to ensure a striking completed Puzzle. The Lion pieces had to be precisely placed to ensure success, which the team executed flawlessly.

Team Number: 141-13881

Affiliate: South Dakota

Organization: Rapid City Catholic Schools

Team Challenge: Thrill Ride - EL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: a multi-functional device that both poked the apple off its holder and gathered the apple into its basket!

Text:

A larger-than-team-size apple tree greeted teams in Instant Challenge and they were asked to create devices that retrieved the apples.Â This team created one multi-functional device that both poked the apple off its holder and gathered the apple into its basket.Â The team manipulated the device with precision and then created an enthusiastic assembly line to sort the apples into “Good Apple” and “Bad Apple” baskets.

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Team Number: 750-01065

Affiliate: Texas

Organization: Conroe ISD

Team Challenge: Thrill Ride - EL

Award Kind: Renaissance

Recipient: Team

For: turning a yardstick, pencils and binder clips into an engineering wonder apple catcher!

Text:

To retrieve apples from a large, magnificent tree in the center of the Instant Challenge room, this team created two devices.Â One device was used to poke the apples off the tree (from behind a line, of course) and the other device turned a yardstick, pencils and binder clips into an engineering wonder apple catcher!Â Great teamwork and energy helped use these devices to gather and then sort apples into the correct baskets.

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