



# Destination Imagination Tournament Event Guide

Global Finals 2025

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# About the Event

## Global Finals 2025

May 22-25, Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas City, Missouri, USA

[Click here for maps of the venue.](#) A tournament-specific map will be available on-site and on our Global Finals app.



Image Description: The exterior of the Kansas City Convention Center in daylight. It is a large building made of metal, concrete, and glass. Its design features many triangular features.

## What is This Resource?

An **event guide** (sometimes called an access guide, building guide, accessibility guide, or visiting guide) is a resource that highlights details of an upcoming event through photos, descriptions, and other helpful information. This resource is intended to help you plan your tournament days! Tournament questions can be directed to [globals@dihq.org](mailto:globals@dihq.org) or 1-888-321-1503.

# What to Expect at This Event

## Navigating the Venue

Tournament maps are provided at Team Registration in the **Lower Exhibition Hall** on 14th Street between Wyandotte and Central St. During the tournament, additional assistance will be available at the following locations: Lower Exhibition Hall, Bartle Hall B, and Room 2213.

Photos and descriptions are found later in this resource.

If you have been to Global Finals in Kansas City before, you may notice that the space has changed. It is normal for spaces to change, especially when they are used by many people! When you arrive, you may notice that there are different things hung on the walls, different furniture arrangements, or even bigger changes. You may notice smells that you didn't expect, or lights that are brighter or darker than our photos. We know that DI participants can use their creativity to adapt to these changes.

## Team Challenges

Throughout the event, Destination Imagination (DI) teams will be presenting their work on a **Team Challenge**. The Team Challenge falls in one of six competitive categories: Technical, Scientific, Fine Arts, Improvisational, Engineering, Service Learning. You can learn more about this year's Team Challenges [on the DI website](#). Each Team Challenge has its own Presentation Site, or rooms specific to the Challenge. The size, seating options, and acoustics will vary greatly by Presentation Site.

Each team has an assigned **Presentation** time for Team Challenge. The tournament schedule can be found on the [Global Finals app](#). Teams should arrive at the Presentation Site at least 40 minutes prior to the assigned time in order to begin the check-in process in the Pre-Prep Area. Engineering teams will need to check in 50 minutes prior to the assigned time. In the Pre-Prep Area, the Pre-Prep Appraiser will make sure the team is there for the Presentation and will check to make sure the team's forms are complete. The team will then move to the Prep Area where the Prep Area Appraiser will check in all of the props, costumes, and anything else that will be used in the team's Presentation. Only the team and the Team Manager (their adult mentor) are allowed in the Prep Area. The **Presentation** is when the team members present how they solved their Team Challenge in front of an audience and a team of Appraisers (scoring officials).

A team's Presentation lasts eight minutes or less. The content of team Presentations will vary greatly, but it is likely you will see stories, scenery, costumes, and technical elements created by the team members. It

is common for a team's Presentation to include lights, possibly including strobe lights and/or flashing lights. Team Presentations often include loud noises or music. However, most Presentation sites do NOT have sound systems, so it may be hard to hear the team. Audience members are welcome to laugh or applaud as they see fit.

When the team members are done with their Presentation, the Appraisers will ask them a few questions before they leave. Audience members can remain on the Presentation Site during these questions. After speaking with the Appraisers, the team will take their Presentation materials out of the Presentation Site. At this time, parents and team supporters may help the team remove materials from the Presentation Site.



Image Description: A Presentation site from Global Finals 2022. A team is performing with colorful scenery and costumes. Behind them is an open, classroom-style space with gray carpet and walls. In the background, a team of Appraisers is watching from a table.

## Instant Challenges

An **Instant Challenge** (IC) is a smaller Challenge that is a surprise to the team on the day of the tournament. An Instant Challenge may involve a task, a performance, or a combination of both. Instant Challenges usually last ten minutes or less.

Teams are given a specific time to present their Instant Challenge. In most cases, the Instant Challenge will be scheduled on a different day than Team Challenge. If they are on the same day, Instant Challenge will be scheduled at least 4 hours from the Team Challenge Presentation time. The team, the Team Manager, and the Appraisers are the only people allowed in the Instant Challenge areas.

Teams and Team Managers must not bring electronic devices or timing devices to the Instant Challenge site.

Since many teams will utilize the same Instant Challenge at this event, teams **must not** discuss details of the Instant Challenge outside of the Cool Down room.



## Spectators

Spectators, such as friends and family members, are welcome to attend this tournament. Spectators are welcome to view any Team Challenge Presentation. Please look for the doors marked “Audience Entrance” at each Challenge Presentation Site.

**Please note:** At many Presentation Sites, doors will be closed whenever a team is presenting, so spectators may be asked to wait to enter the Presentation Site.

Spectators will **not** be allowed to view any Instant Challenge presentations.



Image Description: Rows of spectators are seated in chairs, watching a volunteer who is speaking into a microphone.

## Prop Storage

Prop Storage is the place where teams can store and work on their props and other items needed for their Presentation. Prop Storage is located in **Bartle Hall** inside the Kansas City Convention Center.

Within Prop Storage, each team is assigned their own booth. Booths are numbered and arranged based on Team Challenge. Each booth will have its own sign with the team's name and Team Number. Booths are separated by curtains that come in many colors.

Improv teams will not have Prop Storage booths; instead, they may visit Improv Park to practice.

Prop Storage also includes several areas called “garages,” in which teams can work on their props before their Presentation.

Prop Storage is a vast space that is often crowded with people and props in motion! There is often lots of noise and action. Learn more about the Prop Storage schedule, as well as how to deliver your team's props to Prop Storage, on the Global Finals website (<https://globalfinals.org/>).



Image Description: A team poses with their team sign inside their booth at Prop Storage. The borders of their booth are lined in purple and white curtains.

## Kickoff 2025

The Kickoff 2025 event will take place outside on the South Lawn of the Kansas City Convention Center from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. A map of the location will be included in your team bag. This event will include many types of inflatable games and activities. Food trucks will be on-site to purchase food and drinks. All teams, Team Managers, and spectators are invited.

## Welcome Ceremony

The Welcome Ceremony will take place on **Thursday, May 22** from 7:30-9:00 pm (doors open at 6:00pm) inside the Municipal Arena. The Ceremony will include speeches, songs, performances, and a Parade of Nations, featuring DI teams from around the world.

Teams, Team Managers, and spectators can be included in the Welcome Ceremony if they have their event credentials and a ticket. All attendees will have an assigned seat within the Municipal Arena. Most attendees wear t-shirts, hats, and/or light-up items.

The Welcome Ceremony is a large event and includes many people. It is often noisy with music and cheering. Attendees are encouraged to clap and cheer as they see fit.

The Welcome Ceremony often includes a laser show. During the laser show, the arena lights will temporarily be turned off. This usually takes place towards the end of the ceremony.



Image Descriptions: Above left, the crowd inside the Municipal Arena for Global Finals 2022. The audience is facing a stage with a colorful sign that reads “Globals ‘22.” Above right, a team from Pakistan walks in the Parade of Nations during the Welcome Ceremony. They are carrying their nation’s flag and a sign that reads “Destination Imagination Pakistan”.

## Closing Celebration

The Closing Celebration will take place on **Sunday, May 25** from 4:00-6:00 pm (doors open at 2:30pm) inside the Municipal Arena. All teams and spectators are welcome to attend; they should bring their event credentials and tickets. All attendees will have an assigned seat during the Closing Celebration.

Place awards will be given for each Team Challenge, based on their Competition Level:

- Elementary Level (EL): Grades K-5
- Middle Level (ML): Grades 6-8
- Secondary Level (SL): Grades 9-12
- University Level (UL): College/University Students

The following special awards may also be presented: DaVinci Awards, Renaissance Awards, and Spirit of DI Awards.

Teams that win awards will be asked to accept their medals on stage. If a team is not present or chooses not to accept onstage, they can receive their awards by mail.

The Closing Celebration is usually a high-energy event with lots of crowds and noise. Audience members are welcome to clap and cheer as they see fit. The Closing Celebration often includes a laser show. During the laser show, the arena lights will temporarily be turned off.



Image Descriptions: Above left, a team poses in front of an orange backdrop at the Global Finals 2022 Closing Celebration. They are wearing matching purple shirts and the medals they won. Above right, a wide shot of the crowd inside the arena at the Global Finals 2022 Closing Celebration. The area is dark but illuminated by a laser show on the stage and light-up toys/hats throughout the audience.

## Photos and Videos

Photos/videos of a team's Presentation may only be taken if the team has given permission. This information will be announced before the team begins its Presentation.

## What to Wear

All tournament participants and spectators are welcome to wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing. Our volunteers often wear vibrant, colorful clothing and hats to celebrate the event. It is also highly likely that you will see team members in costume for their Presentations.



Image Description: A group of DI volunteers, wearing vibrant t-shirts and accessories, posed and smiling in a group. The wall behind them is covered in papers with colorful writing.



## Scent Free Policy

Out of respect to those with sensitivity to scent, please avoid wearing perfumes or colognes within the event sites.

## Inclement Weather

If inclement weather will have any impact on the tournament schedule, teams will be notified via a notification in the Global Finals app.

## Emergency Procedures

The fire alarms in the building have flashing lights and loud repetitive alert sounds.

First aid is available by the third-floor skywalk near Municipal and 3500 rooms.

If you or your team needs assistance with any type of incident, please call the GF25 Command Center at 202-249-4301.

If a medical emergency occurs, please call 911 immediately. Please notify the nearest tournament volunteer for assistance.

## Other Tournament Events/Activities

During the tournament, teams and spectators may also participate in the following events/activities:

### Pin Trading

Many Global Finals attendees bring pins to trade with attendees from other states, provinces, or countries. Designated pin trading will take place in Ballrooms C and D. Learn more about pin trading



guidelines on the [Global Finals website](#).

Image Description: A group of team members are gathered around a table to trade pins. In front of them are small towels, onto which their pins are attached.

## Alumni Corner

The Alumni Council is hosting a booth in the 2300 Lobby. This area is referred to as the Not-so-secret Chill Out Space and will include hands-on activities such as yard games, coloring, and creating friendship bracelets and photo ops.



Image Description: A team of students sitting among multicolored balloons in front of a blue, pink and white backdrop.

## Graduation

The Graduation Ceremony will take place on Friday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the KCCC Ballroom B. Graduate check-in starts at 6:45 p.m. DI participants and volunteers who are graduating from high school or college are invited to walk the stage at the Graduation Ceremony. Participating students are encouraged to wear their cap and gown or dressier clothing.

The Graduation Ceremony will include speeches and a slideshow presentation. Audience members are welcome to clap and cheer as they see fit.



Image Description: A DI team wears graduation robes, hats, and regalia as they stand outside the Ballroom.



## Box 'n' Ballers Bash

The Box 'n' Ballers Bash will take place on Saturday, May 24 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on the Kansas City Convention Center South Lawn. This event is a large team celebration that will include a variety of street performers such as balloon artists, caricature artists, muralists, stencil tattoo artists, chalk artists, roving giant puppets, folk dancers, and a runway fashion show. You can expect very large crowds surrounding these performers in the street as well as a lot of noise, music, and emceeing from the runway fashion show. In the case of rain, this event will move to the 1500 area within KCCC.



Image Description: A team wears brightly colored duct tape outfits on a brightly lit stage while an audience applauds for them. The team is also visible on a video screen at the rear of the stage.

## The After Party

Directly following the Closing Celebration, the After Party will take place on Sunday, May 25 from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Basie Ballroom at the Marriott Downtown. You can expect dancing, loud music, moving lights, balloons and pin trading. There will be a DJ playing music and an emcee using the microphone to encourage dancing. This is a great place to celebrate your amazing week at Globals!

# Accessibility Information

Destination Imagination is committed to being as inclusive and accessible as possible. If there are questions that extend beyond the information provided in this guide, please contact us at [globals@dihq.org](mailto:globals@dihq.org) or 1-888-321-1503. We are eager to meet your needs!

If accessibility needs arise on-site, please call the Event Office at 774-548-5666.

## Immunity Precautions

Our event will adhere to local health and safety restrictions. At this time, masking and vaccinations are optional but highly recommended.

To be respectful of those with compromised immune systems, please do not attend this event if you are experiencing an airborne or contagious illness.

## Mobility Information

Please consult [this list](#) to find accessible parking near the Kansas City Convention Center.

Elevators and escalators are available throughout the building. Please consult our event map for precise locations, or see a tournament volunteer for assistance.

The following event spaces are on upper floors: Bartle Hall, 3500 Presentation Sites.

The Municipal Arena has alternate access for visitors utilizing wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids. To get to the accessible Municipal Arena seats, utilize the elevators near the Convention Center Sky Bridge.

Presentation Sites are located throughout the venue. If you use a mobility device, please consider bringing it with you to help manage the distances between sites.

## When You Arrive

Entrances to the tournament can be found on 14th Street between Central Street and Wyandotte Street. Once you have registered, you may also access the event at the 13th Street underpass. Security will ask to search your bags each time you enter the tournament. Only clear bags are allowed inside Municipal Arena.

Upon arrival, Team Managers should check in at **Team Registration** in the **Lower Exhibition Hall** at 14th Street between Wyandotte St and Central St. At registration, you will receive credentials, which must be worn inside the Kansas City Convention Center.



Image Description: Outside entrance of the Lower Exhibition Hall on 14th Street with a sky bridge to the left of the picture. This is the first stop for registration.

## Restroom Information

Restrooms divided by gender can be found throughout the tournament spaces. Please consult our event map or ask a tournament volunteer for details.

All-gender restrooms can be found in the following locations: 2200 lobby (east and west sides), 2501D west side, Hall D west side, Municipal Arena level 185, Exhibition Hall west side.

## Food/Drink

Food and drinks will be available during the tournament in **Bartle Hall**. The cost of these items ranges from \$4 - \$14 USD.

## Lactation Room

A private space exclusively for nursing parents can be found in Show Office F in Bartle Hall.



Image Description: A white vertical banner with an orange border and orange/black text. It reads “Lactation Room,” with an orange icon of a nursing parent and black arrows directing to the correct room.

## Quiet Room/Regulation Room

A Quiet Room/Regulation Room is available in room 2210. This space is reserved for attendees who may need a quiet space for tasks like taking medication, prayer, addressing sensory needs, or just a moment away from the busy tournament.

While using the Quiet Room/Regulation Room, please use a quiet voice and silence all non-medical devices. Attendees under the age of 18 should be accompanied by an adult.



Image Description: A white vertical banner with a purple border and purple/black text. The header reads “Quiet Room/Regulation Room.” Below, in smaller text, is a description of Quiet Room uses that matches what is listed in the above paragraphs.

## Thank You!

Thank you for attending our tournament! We are looking forward to an event fueled by creativity, collaboration, and camaraderie. Throughout your experience, if you need to ask questions, offer feedback, or request accommodations, you are welcome to contact us at [globals@dihq.org](mailto:globals@dihq.org) or 1-888-321-1503.

*Disclaimer: We offer this resource as an accommodation to help people know what to expect and to prepare for this tournament. The organizers of this event are not the stewards of the building, meaning we cannot guarantee, nor are we responsible for, meeting ADA standards. Even so, we do our best to advocate, accommodate, and choose sites that are as accessible as possible!*