



Prickly Pineapples
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prickly Pineapples Advances to Destination Imagination's Global Finals, the Largest Celebration of Creativity in the World

Denver, CO, April 9, 2019 -- After achieving honors for creativity, teamwork and innovation in regional and state academic tournaments, The Prickly Pineapples have earned the right to compete in Destination Imagination's Global Finals, the world's largest celebration of student creativity, to be held May 22-25 in Kansas City, Missouri. Team members include Naomi Duran Jimenez and Sariah Lopez, both age 11, and Kayleigh Thorstad, Maria McDaniel, Sariah Lopez Celesta Oliver and Karissa Delitz, all age 12.

The Prickly Pineapples will compete with other teams in the Heads Up improve challenge, one of seven, open-ended Challenges that require students to apply science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills, in addition to their talents in improvisation, theater arts, writing, project management, communication, innovation, teamwork, community service and social entrepreneurship.

"DI has been instrumental in developing our students into leaders with complex problem solving abilities and excellent collaboration skills," said Shana Holden, Team Manager of The Prickly Pineapples.

"Destination Imagination helps us become a new type of learner," said Naomi Duran Jimenez, student on The Prickly Pineapples.

“Overall DI has helped my team grow and bond together and we have learned how to be more creative and curious in life,” said Kayleigh Thorstad, student on the Prickly Pineapples.

Destination Imagination (DI) has had a positive impact on more than one million students who have taken part in its acclaimed academic program. This year, over 150,000 students have participated in tournaments throughout the U.S., as well as 30 countries, in hopes of earning a spot at the Global Finals competition in May.

The Prickly Pineapples are among the 8,000 students representing more than 1,400 teams that have advanced to participate in Global Finals 2019.

Destination Imagination is a leader in project-based learning opportunities that blends STEM education with the arts and social entrepreneurship. Its academic Challenges are student-directed and are designed to teach kids how to think, not what to think. Teams who participate have the opportunity to present their solutions at regional and state tournaments.

Each year, DI competitions begin with a Regional Tournament, where team solutions are assessed by a panel of trained Appraisers, ranging from educators to artists to engineers. Each team solution is scored on a variety of elements, including originality, workmanship, presentation and teamwork. Teams with the highest scores advance to the Affiliate (state or country) Tournaments. The top-tiered teams from the Affiliate Tournaments advance to Global Finals.

Destination Imagination dedicates itself to enriching the global community by providing opportunities for learners of all ages to explore and discover using the creative process from imagination to innovation.

For more information about Global Finals, visit <http://globalfinals.org/>.

About Destination Imagination

Destination Imagination, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) volunteer-led non-profit organization whose purpose is to inspire and equip students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders. The organization is a leader in project-based learning experiences, where student work together in teams to solve open-ended STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) and service learning Challenges and then present their solutions at tournaments. Destination Imagination has impacted more than one million students. To learn more, please visit <http://destinationimagination.org>.

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