

DIpPin' In

Dr. Frank's Destination ImagiNation® d2k.6 Pin Trading Guide

A. Introduction

One of the fun aspects of attending Destination Imagination Global Finals (aka d2k.6) will be trading pins with people from all around the world. During d2k.6, team members may engage in pin trading with kids, team managers, officials, parents, and others. In addition to collecting pins from different states and countries, this Challenge requires the team members to have fun and meet new people. This is the most important part of this Challenge and is the true goal of pin trading.

Trading should be conducted in a fair and honest manner. Traders should never take advantage of younger or less experienced traders. Pin trading should be done according to the “FAIR PIN TRADING CODE.”

B. Challenge Overview and Details

1. The time limit for this activity is the time spent at Destination Imagination Global Finals. Trading must occur during reasonable hours. Team managers and parents may impose time restrictions. Pin trading that interferes with team practices or performance schedules is strongly discouraged. Similarly, trading that disturbs other teams or that occurs late at night may result in an “**Unsportsmanlike Conduct**” deduction (not really, but feel free to use it as warning).

2. The expense limit for this Challenge is at the discretion of parents and team managers. Team members must obtain their pins from their DI Affiliate office or from their Regional Director. Additional pins may be purchased at d2k.6 only from your own Affiliate Director or Regional Director (or their representative) and only by parents or team managers. **Remember, all trading occurs without the exchange of money! (See #6 below)**

3. There will be 4 areas designated as “**Fair Pin Trading Zones**”. These will be:

- The Presidential Courtyard
- The Convention Center
- The area outside of the Team Registration Site
- The area outside of Instant Challenge

These are the main sites for pin trading and everyone who trades in these areas will be expected to follow the “**Fair Pin Trading Code.**” Dr. Frank will be at these locations throughout d2k.6 to trade pins and to teach people about fair trading.

4. Pin trading can also take place in the dorms, dining facilities, competition sites, and recreational facilities. Pin trading also may occur on the sidewalks around campus, in the dorm lounges, on the buses, at meals, and anyplace where 2 or more collectors can get together. It is expected that trading in these places will also be done according to the “Fair Pin Trading Code.” Please pay attention to any posted “No Trading” areas (usually those where a traffic or fire hazard may emerge).

5. Pin trading can occur in public areas inside competition sites and at the evening activities. **However, trading should never occur inside the competition rooms and is especially forbidden during another team’s performance.** Similarly, trading is not allowed on the floor of the arena before, during, or after the evening programs or award ceremonies. Engaging in such activity poses a safety hazard (any trading tends to attract a crowd) and may result in an “**Unsportsmanlike Conduct**” deduction being assessed against a team (again, not really, but don’t tell anybody!). Team members may need to remind parents, siblings, and team managers about the etiquette from time to time, as they may tend to go a bit overboard.

6. Pins are to be traded. Only traded!! The sale of pins to other traders or the purchase of pins from unauthorized others is strictly prohibited. This truly violates the spirit of this Challenge and goes against all of the rules of DI pin trading.

7. A **Fair Trade** is one where both parties involved get what they want and are happy with the deal. If you are unsure whether or not a trade is a good one, ask around to see what other traders are offering. **It is considered unsportsmanlike to take advantage of younger and inexperienced traders!!! It is your responsibility to let them know the approximate “value” of what they have for trade and to trade fairly with them.** Parents and TMs are encouraged to take an active role in teaching their team members about fair trading practices. On occasion, adults get caught up in the pin trading frenzy and start to interfere with the kids’ trading (or take over and make trades for their kids). This violates the spirit of the challenge—enthusiastic adults should get their own pins and make their own trades. Remember, the goal is to meet new people, have fun, and come away with memories.

8. If two parties are making a trade, it is unfair for another trader to interrupt the deal with a better offer or a more exciting bid. If one or the other of the original traders declines the trade, then you have the right to make a counter-offer. It is not fair to traders to have others competing while they are trying to make decisions.

9. Traffic jams can occur quickly whenever a trade takes place---a trade tends to attract a crowd and secondary trading spin-offs. So, use good judgment when picking the places where you settle down to deal with someone. Stairways, hallways, restrooms, etc. are unwise choices. Try to move the action out of traffic and remember the rules about places where trading is forbidden.

C. Additional Details

1. The Pins: Most DI Affiliates provide their teams with a variety of pins. Many of these are single pins that can be traded on a 1 for 1 basis (i.e., my one pin for one of your pins). However, recent trends have been to create multi-part pins or pin sets. Most of these are 2 pin sets but some sets can be made up of 4 or more individual pins.

Obviously, trading for these sets requires some decision making, good negotiating skills, and obviously, more than 1 pin. This can be a problem for traders with a limited number of pins. Some traders may have as a goal to get at least one pin from each affiliate represented at d2k.6. Others might choose to concentrate on special pins, favorite pins, or pin sets. It is unrealistic to try to obtain every possible pin—it would require an unlimited budget.

2. The Economy: **We strongly encourage the practice of trading 1 pin for 1 pin, or a pin set for another pin set of equal number.** However, the “value” of a pin is unpredictable and difficult to control. “Valuing” quickly takes on a life of its’ own. Each year, there are a number of “hot” trading pins. These are especially creative or rare pins, and trading for one of them may require more than a 1-pin “cost.” International pins are almost always “hot” traders.

Clarification #1. A single pin with multiple pin backs is still a single pin. Don’t let other traders tell you otherwise.

Clarification #2. “Hot” pins are more easily obtained very early in the week because no one knows which ones will become “hot” traders. Then again, neither do you! The bottom line is—if you like a pin and the trade being offered is fair, do it. If the trade does not seem fair, decline it. It is a long week and the pin that interests you will most likely show up again.

Clarification #3. If you really, really, really like a particular pin, the chances are good that others will, too. You may choose, early on, to obtain an extra one of the pins that you really like. Once the trading frenzy begins in earnest, if your extras end up being popular, then you can use them to trade for other really “hot” ones. (NOTE: This is a gamble! You can only GUESS at what will end up being hot, and there are no guarantees that you will be right! You could end up with your extras being duds....) Once again—if you like a pin and the trade being offered is fair, do it.

Clarification #4. Try to trade your least “valuable” pins first, saving your “hotter” ones for later. Try not to break up a set, as they have more “value” when they are intact. Realize that you may have to conduct a series of trades, making the package increasingly more appealing in order to acquire a particularly “hot” pin or pin set (this is called “trading up”).

Clarification #5. Affiliate pins that do not have any Destination ImagiNation logo are not usually as popular as those with DI labeling, especially those with the year in evidence (e.g., 2006, '06, or d2k.6). If you are simply interested in having a pin from a particular state and do not care whether or not it is an official DI pin, go ahead and make the trade if it is fair. However, be aware that other traders will probably not be willing to accept non-DI pins in future trades if you should change your mind about wanting it.

Clarification #6. There is always a mixed reaction to pins from earlier years. A few collectors seek out specific pins that they were unable to obtain in the past. Since this is the 7th year for DI, you may want to trade for some of the pins from past years. If you run across a trader who is offering DI pins or pins from earlier years, make sure you really like the pin itself and are not trying to use it to trade for DI pins. If you find at the end of the week that you have a few leftover pins from your own state, don't panic—they may be important traders in years to come. **(P. S. If you are getting panicky by the end of the week, seek out kindly TMs and officials...there are many who are a soft touch for a reasonable trade). (PPS.... another way of getting a pin that you really want is to find me at d2k.6. I love to trade and I'm real easy!!!).**

Clarification #7. Some adults and “big kids” in particular—may be tempted by deals offered by inexperienced younger kids who are overly anxious to obtain a particular pin. Think about how you want that kid to feel about the trade in the hours and days to come—do you want that kid to feel that someone older and more savvy took advantage of them or do you want that kid to feel satisfaction with the fairness of the trade? Take the opportunity to teach them fair trading principles and help them achieve their goals, even if there is a temptation to take advantage of them.

Clarification #8. BE PATIENT!! It's a long week and you will run into many traders. If you see a pin that you really want, but can't seem to be able to trade for it...BE PATIENT. Don't make a foolish trade or allow somebody to take advantage of you. If you keep trying, eventually you will find a trader who has the pin that you want and who is willing to make a fair trade. Remember: you can try to get an extra “hot” pin and try and “trade up” for that really cool pin (see Clarifications 3 and 4).

3. Cost: It is difficult to determine ahead of time how many pins you will want to bring for trading. It is very frustrating to have only a few pins, since the trading experience will be over very quickly once a team member has traded them away for other pins. There will be little chance of acquiring the really “hot” pins. As an example, a trader starting out with 10 single pins might end up with only 4 or 5 pins to take home, or perhaps only 2 or 3 sets, because of the need to trade within the economy that emerges. Traders will see others who have towels or books heavily laden with many pins. However, it is critical to consider the expense of purchasing the pins, especially since it is unclear ahead of time how “valuable” each pin will end up becoming. Ask experienced people from your region or state who have been to Global Finals in the past—they might have some insights into which of your pins are likely to do well in trade.

4. Storage: Pins are easily lost, broken and scratched if not carefully stored and transported. Your storage system should not, however, make it difficult to access the pins for trading. Destination ImagiNation offers a pretty nice pin bag that can be purchased at d2k.6 souvenir sales. Many traders keep their pins attached to a hand towel or “pin mat” and roll the towel or mat with the pins inside for carting around. Other traders make zip-up “Trapper Keeper” binders with sheets of felt (make reinforced 3-hole punches) to make storage, transport and trading a little safer. If you roll up your towel/mat or keep pins on felt sheets, place an extra sheet or cloth between layers so that the pins don’t scratch and otherwise damage each other. Wearing the pins is another option, but risky, since they are easily knocked off of shirts and jackets—on a hat is a little bit safer. (Besides, it is a real hassle to move all of your pins whenever you change clothes!) You may want to put a sample of pins on a towel/mat and keep the rest inside their original bags.

BE SURE THAT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ARE ON YOUR STORAGE SYSTEM! If you somehow become separated from your pins, there is a very good chance that an honest person will return them to you or take them to the lost and found—this happens to some people every year. If you lose something important, be sure to file a lost and found report at headquarters (it may turn up later, postage due, in the mail). If you happen to find someone else’s collection, you should turn it in to the lost and found—remember that someone else is grief stricken over their loss and you can brighten up their whole experience and renew their faith in others. Consider what you would want someone to do for you if it happened the other way around. (And, if no one claims them, they may become yours anyway.)

5. Other Merchandise: Some DI members, TMs and Officials like to trade regional t-shirts at the last night’s festivities. If your team has extras, you might want to bring them along for trading.

DIpPin’ In was developed and written by Frank, Audrey, Erica and Dana Begun. This is not an official document of Destination Imagination, Inc. If you have any questions or suggestions (or you would like to pin trade) e-mail Frank at fbegun@wi.rr.com