



NEWS RELEASE

FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
6100 N 210th St • Forest Lake MN 55025
651-982-8100 • www.forestlake.k12.mn.us

Superintendent Dr. Linda M. Madsen
Administration & Human Resources.....Ronald A. Spies
Business ServicesLawrence A. Martini
Community Services.....Julie A. Ohman
Special EducationDeborah A. Wall
Teaching & Learning..... Jennifer S. Tolzmann

Media Contact:

Ross Bennett
Communications Coordinator
Office – (651) 982-8118
Cell – (612) 296-4957
rbennett@forestlake.k12.mn.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Scandia DI team wins state; heading to Knoxville

FOREST LAKE, MINN. – Scandia Elementary, in recent years, has been a regular participant at the Destination ImagiNation (DI) State Tournament. This year, their team has claimed a state championship.

The team of 6th-graders Emma Benner, Carlie Lund, Megan Riel, Christy Savino, Brad Youngquist and Grayson DeWolfe, and 5th-grader Taylor Riel, took first place at the DI State Tournament held at Anoka High School on April 17. The team, coached by Scandia teacher Emily Ziemer and her sister, Lisa Ziemer, won the Middle School Division championship and will now be headed to the campus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville to compete at the DI Global Tournament from May 26 – 29.

“The team has really worked hard,” said coach Emily Ziemer. “We are really proud of their accomplishment.”

Destination ImagiNation is an educational program for students to learn about creativity, teamwork and problem solving. Students from all across the United States and in 30 countries participate each year in the Destination Imagination Global Finals in Knoxville. Destination ImagiNation participants have to think on their feet and create original solutions that meet certain requirements of the challenges.

(MORE)

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Scandia DI team

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Destination ImagiNation is Minnesota's largest non-athletic team activity. The Scandia team chose " DiBot" as their activity, which challenged them to create a robot and an original story that shows how at least one character's life is changed by technology. Team members developed a story, robot, costumes and scenery to tell the tale of King Arthur and his sword.

The state championship means the Scandia team will be heading to Knoxville to join about 16,000 participants on more than 1,000 teams. Seven of coach Emily Ziemer's teams have advanced to the state tournament in the 10 years she has coached DI at Scandia; this year's team will be the first to advance to Globals.

But the trip in May will actually be a return to Globals for her sister Lisa, who was a member of the Columbus Elementary team that went to the Knoxville Globals when Lisa was in 6th grade. Back then, the competition was known by its previous name, Odyssey of the Mind.

For team member Emma Benner, this will be her first trip to Knoxville in four years in DI. Benner's trip to this year's state tournament was her second since joining the team. Grayson DeWolfe is in his second year on the team, and all of the other members of the team are new this year.