Three Resources For Children

By Dr. Judy Coman

**Destination Imagination -** [**https://www.destinationimagination.org/**](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.destinationimagination.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7CHLAVAN%40depaul.edu%7Cd19f084cadce4255c66f08dde4b91a2f%7C750d3a3f1f464da28a647605e75ea2f9%7C0%7C0%7C638918205857271087%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=w09%2B%2BeFzIYzii15vXF2dsxQVyvxZf3hCPEfLUThqVvY%3D&reserved=0)

Destination Imagination in Illinois - [https://illinoisdi.org/](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fillinoisdi.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7CHLAVAN%40depaul.edu%7Cd19f084cadce4255c66f08dde4b91a2f%7C750d3a3f1f464da28a647605e75ea2f9%7C0%7C0%7C638918205857289162%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=z5H5ubcQ8M%2FiTOWxm2PuFh6PWpHPRx4RFheBGtrK0ks%3D&reserved=0)

The program promotes problem solving, team work, and outside of box thinking...

Schools are about to start. In September, schools usually annonce to form teams. Deerfield was famous for winning. It used to be huge. After COVID, the size of participants has decreased by half.

**Robotics -**[**https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/frc**](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.firstinspires.org%2Frobotics%2Ffrc&data=05%7C02%7CHLAVAN%40depaul.edu%7Cd19f084cadce4255c66f08dde4b91a2f%7C750d3a3f1f464da28a647605e75ea2f9%7C0%7C0%7C638918205857302217%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PRCvmbSUZG7%2FZvk6bZ39FP72%2FXeCDDuKY29NmKSivBg%3D&reserved=0)

Deerfield high school is big on this one. Deerfield high school sponsored one of the local competitions in 2024. What I like is that they have a high-school-led program to mentor middle school students (outreach) and lego competitions. I have been a judge for two years.

**Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program - for public speaking and leadership development of the Youth**

[https://www.toastmasters.org/education/youth-leadership-program](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.toastmasters.org%2Feducation%2Fyouth-leadership-program&data=05%7C02%7CHLAVAN%40depaul.edu%7Cd19f084cadce4255c66f08dde4b91a2f%7C750d3a3f1f464da28a647605e75ea2f9%7C0%7C0%7C638918205857313151%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rVvRwiYZ4KjJBxGW3XIbgaCT3Ze6t1jI5kThAbBhgY8%3D&reserved=0)

The key is to find Toastmasters members who are willing to lead the community's youth.

Many years ago, I happened to be invited to listen to 20 high-school students (junior) delivering speeches in an after-school event because they were pitching their ideas on how they could help other students in their schools. Two students were from the Toastmasters Youth Leadership program when they were in middle school (13 years old). My jaw literally dropped because they were so good. One came to me later and thanked me although I was only helping the Youth program as a secretary and a cheerleader.