



Who has made a difference in your life? If you had an opportunity to say thank you, what would you say? Destination Imagination (DI) and Oracle Academy (OA) are excited to announce a brand new challenge that will give you all the tools to create a 3D computer-animated **Thank You message** that you can share with your personal or team-chosen hero.

What is the Dear Hero challenge?

To solve this challenge, you will first identify a Hero who has made a significant and positive difference in your life. You will then use the new Alice 3 computer animation program to create a special thank you message to your Hero that is 30 seconds or less. Once you have completed your thank you message, upload it to YouTube and submit your YouTube video link through the Dear Hero challenge submission form on DestinationImagination.org. Then, share it with your Hero and the world on social media using the **#DearHero2016** hashtag.

One winning thank you message will be selected and the winning individual or team will become Oracle Ambassador(s). As an Ambassador, you and your Hero will be invited to attend the 2016 Destination Imagination Global Finals—the world's largest celebration of student creativity—at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, May 25-28, 2016. In addition to experiencing the fun and excitement of such a gathering, your special thank you message will be presented to more than 16,000 attendees. Your Hero will be presented with a special award at the event.

Why participate in the Dear Hero challenge?

It's a given. To be a good global citizen, to advance in education, or to be prepared for tomorrow's world, having computer science knowledge and skills is essential. We interact with technology in almost every aspect of our lives—from getting around town to doing homework to staying in touch with friends—and computer scientists and programmers are behind the scenes, making it all happen. Wouldn't it be great to be more than just a user of technology? What if YOU could be a technology innovator and creator? Through this challenge, you and your team will not only have the chance to thank someone who has made a difference in your life, but you will also gain skills and knowledge in computer science and technology. Everyone wins!

Who can participate in the Dear Hero challenge?

This challenge is recommended for anyone 10 years of age or older. You can participate individually or with a team of up to 7 people. If anyone on a team is under the age of 18, he or she must have legal parent or guardian consent to participate in this challenge.

How do I participate in the Dear Hero challenge?

A. Your Hero

- a. You will identify a Hero who has significantly and positively influenced your life or your team's lives.
- b. Your Hero must be a real person and not a fictional character, animal, object or idea.
- c. There are no other restrictions on the Hero you choose to thank.

B. Thank You Message

- a. You or your team must create a thank you message for your chosen Hero.
- b. Your thank you message must:
 - i. Be 30 seconds or less.
 - ii. Introduce your chosen Hero.
 - iii. Introduce yourself or your team.
 - iv. Show how your Hero has significantly and positively influenced your life.
 - v. Include a thank you to your Hero.
- c. Your thank you message must be created using Oracle Academy's Alice 3.

[Click here](#) to download Alice 3.

- i. Alice 3 is an innovative 3D programming environment that makes it easy to create an animation that will tell a story through video. Alice 3 is a freely available tool designed to be a student's first exposure to object-oriented programming. It allows students to learn fundamental programming concepts in the context of creating animated movies. In Alice 3, 3D objects like people, animals and vehicles populate a virtual world. Students then create a program to animate the objects.
- ii. In Alice 3's interactive interface, students drag and drop graphic tiles to create a program, in which the instructions correspond to standard statements in a production-oriented programming language, such as Java, C++, and C#. Alice 3 allows students to immediately see how their animation programs run, enabling them to easily understand the relationship between the programming statements and the behavior of objects in their animation. By manipulating the objects in their virtual world, students gain experience with all the programming constructs typically taught in an introductory programming course.
- iii. For more information and learning materials visit [Oracle Academy](#).

C. Evaluation criteria

- a. The submission will be appraised by a panel of expert reviewers.
- b. Each submission will be evaluated using the following criteria:
 - i. The creativity of the thank you message.
 - ii. The compelling nature of the thank you message.
 - iii. Overall quality of the thank you message animation.

D. Prize

- a. The individual winner or team (up to 7 members), as well as the Hero, will receive a trip to Knoxville, Tennessee in May 2016 for Destination Imagination's Global Finals.
- b. Travel and accommodations will be provided for the winning individual or team, as well as the Hero.

E. Submission requirements

- a. All submissions are due by 11:59 p.m. PST on April 17, 2016.
- b. Include the **#DearHero2016** hashtag in the title of your YouTube video submission.
- c. No late submissions will be accepted.
- d. The winner of the challenge will be notified by April 18, 2016 by email or phone.
- e. The winner will be announced on the Destination Imagination blog and social media on April 19, 2016.
- f. Click [here](#) to fill out the submission form.
- g. If your team has any questions regarding the Dear Hero challenge, please email DearHero@dihq.org.