



Shenendehowa Inventors Program - Instructions

The Shenendehowa Inventors program is an extra-curricular enrichment program that is focused on the inventing process. By participating in this program, Shen Inventors express creativity and ingenuity by using their scientific, technological, mathematical, language arts and artistic skills. During the project development process, the Shen Inventor will be brainstorming, identifying problems and solutions, designing the invention, conducting research to find new ideas or improvements, and preparing a poster displaying the invention. The goal is to stimulate the development of creativity, imagination and entrepreneurship in students grades K-8.

To the Parents:

Your support and encouragement is very important to your child's success at school, and we ask you to support your children in joining this special program. Encourage your children to participate in this extra-curricular enrichment program by having your child be a problem-solver in your home! Please provide positive reinforcement by encouraging ideas, even those that may seem unfamiliar or unusual in the early stages of the program.

Your involvement is strongly encouraged; however, it is important that the invention ideas, illustrations and descriptions are the student's own.

INVENTOR RULES

- You can invent and submit a practical invention and/or a fantasy invention;
- A group of students can work on one invention;
- Computer generated or hand written diagrams and descriptions are acceptable;
- You can improve on a previously publicized and/or patented invention;
- Originality and creativity are emphasized.

INVENTOR GUIDANCE

- **Identify an idea.** The better you are at defining your idea, the more likely you will be able to describe it on your poster as an effective improvement, idea or product. Do you want your invention to do its "job" on its own or along with something else? Will it be a process, product, or both?
- If you're to come up with something that could be improved or a way things are done now then **brainstorm:** Can you substitute, make it different, combine ideas, make it better, make it smaller, add to it?
- **Do your research.** Find out what makes your invention different or find ways to make it different.
- **Draw your idea.** Think about what it might look like and how you might use it. What kind of materials is it made of? What are some names it could be called? Can one or many people use it at the same time? Do you need to provide instructions? What are they? How does your invention improve something or an

environment of some sort? What are the parts and pieces? Do you use it with something else or on its own?

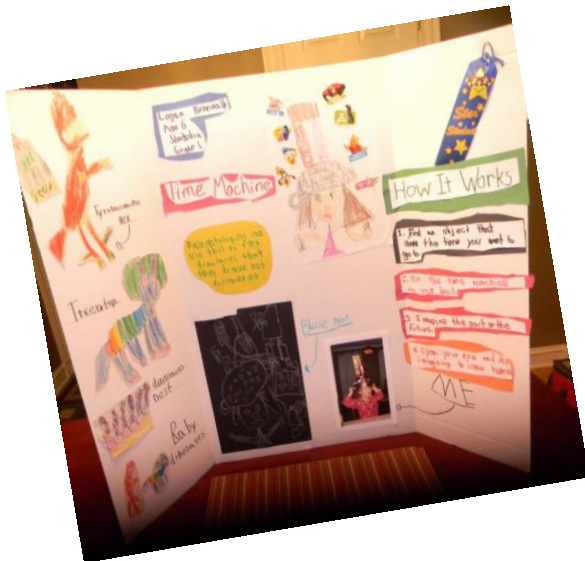
- **Get feedback** - thoughts and reactions about your invention from others. Does it work (in theory)? Will people like it? Will people buy it?

JUDGING AND AWARDS

Judging will take place in three categories this year; K-2; 3-5; and 6-8. Special awards will be given to certain project entries. Last year's special awards included "Spirit of Ta-Da Novelty Store" Award (store gift cards), the Radio Shack Technology Award (store item and gift card), the Town of Clifton Park "Green" Project Award (\$20 cash and other items of value). Special awards included gift certificates, a Radio Shack item, gift cards and cash. This year's special award winners will be announced at the event and will include National Geographic's Mad Scientist Award given by John Bowler, host of Natgeo's Mad Scientists television program. Stay Tuned!

DISPLAY POSTER

Each invention must have a display poster. You can buy two boards, cut one in half to make the two sides and connect them to the middle part. You can also cut a trifold project board in half horizontally and share with another inventor. The only poster board requirement is that the board must be able to stand upright on its own. An example is shown below. The poster board must include:



1. The inventor(s) name(s), school and the grade(s).
2. The title of the invention.
3. A detailed diagram of the invention with labels explaining its operations and parts.
4. Answers to these questions:
 - a. What problem is solved/need that is addressed?
 - b. How does the invention work?
 - c. What is the invention made out of?
 - d. What research did you do to make sure your invention is new or improved?

Inventor's Name, Age, School, Grade			
<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Title of Invention</td> </tr> </table>		Title of Invention	
Title of Invention			
<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Detailed, colorful diagram of YOUR INVENTION!</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Draw and label <u>all</u></td> </tr> </table>		Detailed, colorful diagram of YOUR INVENTION!	Draw and label <u>all</u>
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Do I need a model of my invention?** No, the model is not mandatory. But it does help display how your invention works. The best inventions are made with whatever materials and parts you want to use. The model should be sturdy. You do not have to purchase special materials to be a Shenendehowa Inventor!
2. **Where and When?** The inventions will be displayed on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at the Clifton Park Center Mall in the Cotton Market space. Drop off time is 8:00 am and pick-up time is approximately 4:00 pm. Judging will be done throughout the day. Projects not picked up by 4:00 pm or the end of judging will be discarded unless you make other arrangements in advance with your school's representative or another participant. End times are approximate and depend on the number of students participating.
3. **Where can I find additional information?** Please contact your school representative.
4. **What should I bring to the mall on the Display Date?** Your project and one copy of the Judging Form filled out with your name, invention name, school and grade. Please fill out the form PRIOR to drop-off time.
5. **Do I get anything for participating?** Each inventor receives a Shen Inventor T-shirt if they register by the deadline date of February 2nd, 2011. All inventors will receive a blue, red or white award ribbon depending on placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd. Subject to the availability of funding, each inventor also receives a medal commemorating their participation in Shen Inventors. Medals are presented towards the end of the school year. Special awards are also sometimes provided, subject to the availability of sponsors.
6. **What is an Invention Disclosure and Invention Convention?** An Invention Disclosure contains information about your invention. If you submit this form with your registration, we will submit it to the Invention Convention. (The deadline is February 10, 2012) Alternatively, you may submit it yourself, directly. Invention Convention is a regional competition that flows into a statewide competition for inventions. You may use the same materials from Shen Inventors if you choose to enter this competition. (Please NOTE: This competition is not affiliated with Shen Inventors. See Capital Regional Invention Convention link <http://www.crd.ge.com/invent/index.html>)
7. **Will there be any video recording?** None is planned though there may be recordings of voluntary presenters of projects randomly selected from program promotion with parent consent.
8. **What are some examples of inventions?** You can find a list of winning inventions from the Capital Region Invention Convention at <http://www.crd.ge.com/invent/winners.html>. Some include "crumb catcher"; "leaning tower of power"; "color changing retainer"; "droolinator".
9. **What other sources can I use to help me research?** There are various sources at the library and on the internet. You could start with searches on Google.com, Uspto.gov, Howstuffworks.com, BkFk.com.
10. **Can inventors work in groups?** Yes, inventors can work in groups including inventors that may be in different grades and/or different schools. All inventors will receive a t-shirt (if timely registered), ribbon and medals (subject to availability).

JUDGING FORM

The inventions are judged based on the criterion listed below:

2012 SHENENDEHOWA INVENTORS EVALUATION FORM

<u>Name(s) of Student(s)</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>School</u>		
<u>Name of Invention</u>				
<u>ORIGINALITY and CREATIVITY</u>	40 possible points	<u>Judge 1:</u>	40 possible points	<u>Judge 2:</u>
Is the idea unique, clever, and creative?				
<u>Comments:</u>				
<u>USEFULNESS</u>	20 possible points	<u>Judge 1:</u>	20 possible points	<u>Judge 2:</u>
Does the invention solve a problem or satisfy a need? Could it be practical and marketable?				
<u>Comments:</u>				
<u>DESCRIPTION and ILLUSTRATION</u>	20 possible points	<u>Judge 1:</u>	20 possible points	<u>Judge 2:</u>
(good description/illustration (20); unclear of either or both description or illustration (10))				
How does the invention work? Is the idea thoroughly explained and illustrated in a clear manner? Is the drawing properly labeled?				
<u>Comments:</u>				
<u>RESEARCH PERFORMED</u>	20 possible points	<u>Judge 1:</u>	20 possible points	<u>Judge 2:</u>
(K-2 = automatic 20 points/no research requirement; 3-8 – good research (20); less than good research (10))				
Is the research thorough? Is the research adequate to prove that the invention is new? And marketable (who will buy the invention!)?				
<u>Comments:</u>				
	Total Points	<u>Judge 1:</u>	Total Points	<u>Judge 2:</u>
<u>TOTAL POINTS EARNED</u>				