



Shenendehowa Inventors Program

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 utilizing 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, especially 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 new product. Do you want your invention to do it's "job" all 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 1 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?

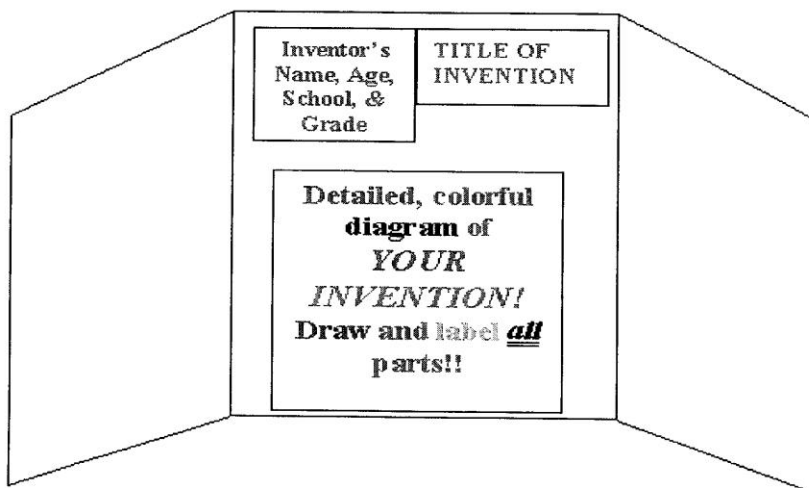
JUDGING AND AWARDS

Judging will take place in 3 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 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 operation 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 of?
 - d. What research did you do to make sure your invention is new or improved?



FAQ:

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 for you to be a Shenendehowa Inventor!
2. **Where and When?** The display date for the inventions is **Saturday, February 11, 2011** at the Clifton Park Center Mall in the Cotton Market space. **Drop off time is 8:00 AM and pickup time is approximately 4:00 PM.** Judging will be through the day. Projects not picked up by 4:00 pm or end of the judging will be discarded unless you make other arrangements in advance with **your school's representative or another participant** in advance. End times are approximate depending on amount of students participating.
3. **Where can I find additional information?** Please contact a school representative or volunteer.
4. **What should I bring to the mall on the Display Date?** Your project and 1 copy of the Judging form filled out with your name, invention name, school and grade . Please fill out the Judging 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 availability of funding, each inventor also receives a medal commemorating their participation in Shen Inventors towards the end of the school year. Special awards are sometimes provided, subject to availability of sponsors.
6. **What is an Invention Disclosure and Invention Convention?** An Invention Disclosure contains information about your invention on the form titled Invention Disclosure. If you submit this form with your registration, we will submit it to the Invention Convention (IC deadline February 10th). 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 Capitol Region 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 for 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 <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 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 the t-shirt (if timely registered), ribbon and medals (subject to availability).

JUDGING

The inventions are judged based on the criterion listed below:

2012 SHENENDEHOWA INVENTORS EVALUATION FORM

Names of Student(s): _____ Grade(s): _____ School: _____

Name of Invention _____

ORIGINALITY and CREATIVITY 40 points _____ (judge 1) 40 points _____ (judge 2)

Is the idea unique, clever, creative?

Comments:

USEFULNESS 20 points _____ (judge 1) 20 points _____ (judge 2)

Does the invention solve a problem or satisfy a need? Could it be practical and marketable?

Comments:

DESCRIPTION and ILLUSTRATION 20 points _____ (judge 1) 20 points _____ (judge 2)

(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?

Comments:

RESEARCH PERFORMED 20 points _____ (judge 1) 20 points _____ (judge 2)

(K-2 =automatic 20 points/no research requirement; 3-8 grade - 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 my invention!)?

Comments:

Judge 1 Total Points _____

Judge 2 Total Points _____

TOTAL POINTS EARNED _____