



Dear Connecticut Invention Convention Inventors:

Thank you for your interest in inventing with us. We are excited to have join our program!

This award-winning invention education program fosters problem solving and critical thinking skills. You will participate in the program and invent a solution to a problem of your choosing. The problem you hope to solve should originate from your life, the lives of the families, or community. Although the invention must be your work, you may receive guidance and support from adults.

Our inventors present their inventions at our CIC Finals event. This event will showcase your prototype, display board, Invention Log, and presentation. At this event, judges will speak with you and then recommend inventors to go to The National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo at the Henry Ford Innovation Museum (Dearborn, Michigan).

The requirements of the invention are as follows:

✚ **Individual inventors:** An invention must be created by 1 inventor. Pair or group inventions are not allowed.

✚ **An invention must meet the following definition:**

- *An invention must solve a real problem.*
- *It is something that no one has ever made before.*
- *You cannot buy it in a store or find it in a book.*
- *An invention may be an improvement or addition to something that already exists, but gives it a new purpose.*

✚ **Prototype:** You must create a physical solution to a problem of your choosing. You must design and build the prototype, with adult help if needed. The materials should be age appropriate and total no more than \$50. We do not want families to have to purchase expensive materials for this project. The reuse of materials around your house is celebrated!

The invention prototype must fit in a space that is 2 feet wide by 2 feet deep in front of the display board at CIC events.

✚ **Invention Log:** You must record the journey of your invention process in a log or diary. Every time you work on your invention, you should document your process, challenges, failures, and triumphs.

✚ **Research:** You should be sure your invention is new and original, or an innovation on something that already exists. You may use the USPTO website to search patents and/or type in keywords that describe your invention into search engines/shopping sites. Working with experts is also a great way to enhance your project.

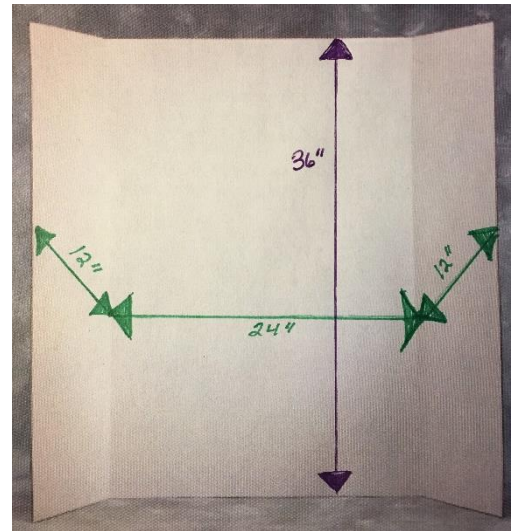
✚ **Presentation to judges:** You will be expected to present your invention to judges at our events.

✚ **Display Board:** You must design a display board about your invention. The board will highlight key points of the invention process. There are requirements for the board, but we also encourage

your creativity! The board requirements are located in the Invention Log.

You must create a self-standing display board—24" wide with two 12" side flaps (total 48")—that has:

- The *title* of the invention
- A description of the *problem* the invention solves
- A description of *how the invention works*
- The inventor's *name, grade, and school, school's city and state*



If you have any questions or concerns during your invention process, please email me

Teacher name

Email address