

Official Rules for 2007-8 Invention Convention – Cleveland

CLV1/crsd

1. Mission. The mission of the Invention Convention is to inspire curiosity, confidence, invention and creative problem-solving in our youth. The Invention Convention makes every effort to ensure an enjoyable, rewarding, inspirational and educational experience for every participant.

2. Eligibility. The Invention Convention is open to students in grades K-8 in participating Cleveland Area school districts. Each district is solely responsible for choosing its student representatives. There are a limited number of entry slots for each district. Student participation is optional - students who would like to participate should obtain the name of their district coordinator from his or her teacher.

Students may compete as an individual or as part of a team of 2, but not both. Students who are family members of employees of Invention Convention sponsors are eligible to compete for the Sponsor Scholarship award only. Invention Convention award winners from previous years may compete again - but must enter a completely new invention. The 'Grand Prize' may only be won once, but past winners can compete for other scholarship awards.

3. Registration; Deadline. Students selected to represent their district must complete the 'Cleveland 2007-08 Finalist Registration Form, which will be provided by the district coordinator. All blanks on the form must be completed. The form must be signed by **both** the student's parent or legal guardian **and** the district coordinator. District coordinators and teachers **may not** sign for parents or guardians. Students must return their completed (and parent or guardian signed) Registration Form to their teacher. The teacher will deliver forms to the district coordinator for his or her signature. It is the responsibility of the district coordinator to submit completed and signed **original** (no faxed or copied signatures) Registration Forms to the Invention Convention **no later** than 5:00 PM on Friday, December 7, 2007. Registration Forms will **not** be accepted directly from parents. There will be **no extensions** or exceptions to the registration deadline, and entries that are postmarked, but not delivered, by December 7, 2007 will **not** be accepted or eligible to compete for prizes.

4. Location and Event Day Schedule. The 2007-08 Cleveland Invention Convention will take place on Saturday, January 12, 2008, at 'Great Lakes Science Center'. All participants will be sent complete details (including their assigned participant or team booth number and their credentials) by mail directly to their home. The Event will open to student inventors at 10:00 AM – on the 17th. Students must be at their booth **no later** than noon, when official judging interviews will begin. Judging will take place from noon-1:30 PM. The Judging Hall will open to public at 1:30 PM. The awards ceremony and scholarship presentation will take place from 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM.

5. Participation Requirements - Invention Journals and Models. Participants are required to complete an inventor Journal and a Model of their invention. Students participating as part of team must complete individual Journals, but only one model should be submitted. The Journal is a necessary step to document each participant's creative process and is weighed heavily in the judges' evaluation process. The Journal must include the following:

- 1) a description of the problem addressed by the invention;
- 2) a description of solution ideas;
- 3) a description of the invention;
- 4) a description of how the invention solves the problem; and
- 5) a detailed description of where the student researched the originality of their idea.

Students may use the Official Invention Convention Journal (available from your district coordinator), or create their own Journal. The Journal must be complete and legible. The Journal must be available to the judges at the Convention on Jan 12, 2008.

Students must also build a model of their invention to display at the Convention. The model does not have to work, but must illustrate how the invention would work if the model was operational. Models must fit on a table top, and cannot be larger than 2 feet by 3 feet in size. Electricity will **not** be available to inventors at the Convention, but students may use batteries. Backboards or other presentation materials are not required, but are suggested.

Models must be fully set-up at each student or team's assigned booth on SATURDAY, Jan 12th between 10:00-11:00AM. The invention area will be closed at 11:00AM for Judges preview of Inventions. **ONLY** judges are permitted in the judging area at that time.

6. Judging and Evaluation: Participants will be judged in 6 grade categories: K-2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7-8. Scholarships awards will be based on student interviews, the invention itself, supporting materials and the individual student or team presentation of the invention. Students will be evaluated on originality, problem solving, inventiveness, and communication. Student scores are not published, and are the property of the Invention Convention. Inventions will be evaluated against other inventions presented at the Cleveland 2007-08 Invention Convention and against award winners from previous years, but not against the total pool of inventions from prior years. **All of the judges' decisions are final.**

7. Awards: In each grade category (K-2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7/8) a \$500 1st place award will be given, each in the form of CollegeAdvantage 529 Savings Plan scholarships. One 'Grand Prize' will be presented to the best overall inventor at the Invention Convention; a \$2,500 CollegeAdvantage 529 Savings Plan scholarship account provided through the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority. In addition, fifty (50) \$50 United States Savings Bonds will be awarded. In addition - one (1) sponsor scholarship will be awarded in an amount to be determined. The Sponsor Scholarship is open to participants who are family members of 'directors or officers' of any company sponsoring the Invention Convention. The scholarship awards are not transferable, cannot be redeemed for cash, and must be used by the recipient for higher education. The scholarships will be paid according to Ohio Tuition Trust Authority policies and procedures in place at the time the student wishes to use the scholarship. Student winners and their parents/guardians will be

required to provide certain information to the Invention Convention and the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority to receive their prize.

Participants must be present to win an award. For team entries, both members must be present both at judging and at the time the awards are announced. Awards won by team entries will be divided equally among the team members.

8. Intellectual Property Rights. JUST THINK, Inc. and the Invention Convention do not profit in any way from any invention submitted by participants. JUST THINK, Inc., its affiliates, sponsors, board members and officers have no rights, privileges or interest in any invention idea submitted as part of the Invention Convention. Participants are cautioned that the event, and specifically the awards ceremony, is open to the public. As a result - all inventions will be deemed to be “publicly disclosed” at the convention, which may make it necessary for participant inventors to take steps to secure certain intellectual property rights in their inventions. “Public disclosure” is defined as the time any idea has been offered in an open environment.

The Invention Convention strives to highlight additional resources that can assist students, teachers and parents with the protection of their intellectual property, and has involved the US Patent and Trademark Office in the convention project. Please contact your district coordinator for more information. In addition, the Patent and Trademark Office website, <http://www.uspto.gov>, provides helpful information. However, JUST THINK, Inc. and the Invention Convention make no representations, expressed or implied, regarding the protection of participants’ intellectual property. All participants that wish to protect their invention assumes sole responsibility for securing intellectual property rights.

9. Photo Release: Participants must obtain parental permission – via parent/guardian signature on the Official Invention Convention Registration Form in order to be eligible to compete for scholarship prizes. By signing the registration form - the parent/guardian permits reasonable use of their child’s name, photograph, or likeness; releasing JUST THINK, Inc., The Invention Convention, sponsors and promotional partners from any and all claims, liabilities and/or damages arising directly or indirectly out of their participation.

10. Remember... Never let anyone say “you can’t” until you’ve already done it!

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