

Official Rules for 2012 Invention Convention(s) – All Regions

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 school districts/regions. 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. Invention Convention award winners from previous years may compete again - but must enter a completely new invention. The Grand prize award may only be awarded to a participant once, but past winners can compete for other scholarship awards in future years.

3. Registration; Deadline. Students selected to represent their district must complete the Official Invention Convention Student Registration Form, which will be provided **ONLY** through the district coordinator each year. 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 designated deadline day. (below) 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 deadline will **not** be accepted.

Registration Deadline(s) are:

Miami Valley:	Mar 2nd
Cincinnati:	March 30th
Cleveland:	April 13th
Columbus:	May 4th

4) . Location(s) and Event Day Schedule(s). The 2011 Final Regional Invention Convention Competitions will take place per the following:

- a. **Miami Valley :** Wright State University, Student Union, Apollo Hall
Saturday, March 17, 2012
- b. **Cincinnati:** Cincinnati State Technical & Community College

- c. **Cleveland:** Saturday, April 14, 2012
Great Lakes Science Center
Saturday, April 28, 2012
- d. **Columbus:** CSCC (Columbus State Community College)
Saturday, May 19th

Credentials:

- All participants will be sent event details by mail directly to their home.
- Badges/credentials are picked up at the venue upon check in; prior to Prototype set-up.
- Prototypes must be COMPLETELY SET UP per your cities' event day schedule.
- Event Day schedule(s) are posted at: www.just-think-inc.com,
- Click on your "Region/City", then "Event day".
- Venues will open per their standard operating hours.

Judging:

Judging will take place from 12 noon-2:30 PM – in designated Student Judging areas. ONLY STUDENTS AND JUDGES ARE PERMITTED in judging area DURING JUDGING. Student Invention/Judging areas are open for public view ONLY AFTER Official Judging. The awards ceremony/scholarship presentation will take place per event day schedule. Click on 'Event Day' for your region, at www.just-think-inc.com.

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 one Journal, and one model. Both signatures/inventors must be present on Team Journal. The Journal is a necessary step to document each participant's creative process and is weighed heavily in the judges' evaluation process; it 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 downloadable online at: www.just-think-inc.com, under "teacher resources"), or create their own Journal. The Journal must be written in legible/dark print. The Journal must be present for the judges review at the Convention.

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:

Miami Valley, Cincinnati, Cleveland: BEFORE 11AM – on Saturday, event day;
Columbus: Friday evening – from 4-7PM.

Parents/guardians and family members may set up the model for their children - students do not have to personally set up their inventions.

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: 1) Communication, 2) Process, 3) Research, 4) Results. Student scores are not published, and are the property of the Invention Convention. Inventions will be evaluated against other inventions presented at the finals and against award winners from previous years, but not against the total pool of inventions from prior years. **All judges' decisions are final.**

7. Awards: One top award (1st place/\$500) will be given in each grade category – K-2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7/8 - in the form of a CollegeAdvantage 529 Savings Plan scholarship. One grand prize of \$2,500 - will be awarded to the best overall inventor at the Invention Convention. All Scholarships will be invested in the CollegeAdvantage 529 Savings Plan which is administered by the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority. In addition, several Special Category awards may be awarded – in an amount to be determined. The scholarship awards are not transferable, cannot be redeemed for cash, and must be used by the recipient for higher education. 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. You may enter as an individual or a team...but not both.

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, in both static and/or electronic media; 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!

For complete event detail, go to:

www.just-think-inc.com

Click on your CITY.