



# Shen Inventors

**Shen Inventors Information Session: January 21<sup>st</sup> (6-7pm) Gowana Cafeteria**

**Participation Registration Form Return Date: February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Display Date: February 12<sup>th</sup> WinterFest Clifton Park Mall (Boscov's Corridor)**

All students in the Shenendehowa district are invited to invent something new and to have fun in this year's Shen Inventors Program. Inventions can be as simple or as complex as you want. You may want to attend the information session to learn how to be an inventor. **Then please fill out the Participation Registration Form at the bottom of this page and turn into your school's Main Office. If you register by the deadline you will be guaranteed a Shen Inventor's t-shirt. You may still register your project after the deadline and enter the contest.** If you have any questions about the Shen Inventors or Invention Convention Programs, please feel free to contact your PTA representative for the Shen Inventor program for assistance. Your invention will be displayed at Clifton Park Center Mall where your invention will be judged and receive a place ribbon. You will also receive a Shen Inventor T-shirt for participating if you register by the deadline. Medals will be awarded at a later date during the end of the year awards ceremonies. Inventions will be displayed during the **Clifton Park Winter Festival**. It will be a lot of fun!!

If you do the all the work to create a Shen Invention, you should also submit your idea to the **INVENTION CONVENTION (IC 2011)**, which is national competition separate from Shen Inventors. See the FAQ below for more info. For more information on either of these programs, or if you have any questions please contact your school's PTA representative for Shen Inventors:

Acadia:	Brenda Birken	<a href="mailto:bbirken@nycap.rr.com">bbirken@nycap.rr.com</a>	577-7452
Arongen:	Amy Linsebigler	<a href="mailto:linsebigle@research.ge.com">linsebigle@research.ge.com</a>	383-9255
Chango:	Emily Bowman	<a href="mailto:em_bowman@hotmail.com">em_bowman@hotmail.com</a>	899-4280
Gowana:	Laura Essa	<a href="mailto:lessa@nycap.rr.com">lessa@nycap.rr.com</a>	383-9169 (h) 791-4091 (c)
Karigon:	Denise Virkler	<a href="mailto:dvirkler@nycap.rr.com">dvirkler@nycap.rr.com</a>	371-7302/ Todd Baldyga 383-9860
Koda:	School PTA rep or	Brenda Birken <a href="mailto:bbirken@nycap.rr.com">bbirken@nycap.rr.com</a>	
Okte:	Bethany Jones	<a href="mailto:you_make_it_happen@hotmail.com">you_make_it_happen@hotmail.com</a>	
Orenda:	Gerard Rocha	<a href="mailto:troacha1@nycap.rr.com">troacha1@nycap.rr.com</a>	877-8101
Shatekon:	Kim Dunn	<a href="mailto:dallas130@nycap.rr.com">dallas130@nycap.rr.com</a>	
Skano:	Joseph Davila	<a href="mailto:jdavila1@nycap.rr.com">jdavila1@nycap.rr.com</a>	383-9212
Tesago:	Robin Lamb	<a href="mailto:robinlamb@nycap.rr.com">robinlamb@nycap.rr.com</a>	

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### STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**School:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Science Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Invention:** \_\_\_\_\_ (if known)

*Please return this form at the information session or to the Main Office to register for the 2011 Shen Inventors Program.*

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# 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 sons and daughters in joining this special program. Encourage your sons and daughters 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. Parents may provide advice concerning research but are not allowed to assist any participants with the required diagram of the invention.*

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## **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 patented invention
- Originality is heavily weighted in judging

## **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

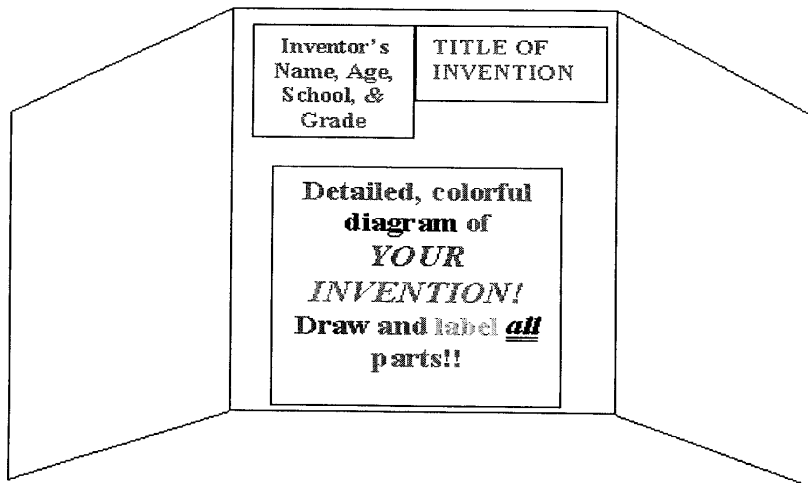
your invention improve something or an environment of some sort? What are the parts and pieces? Do you use it with something else or on its own?

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

## DISPLAY POSTER

You can buy two boards, cut one in half to make the two sides and connect them to the middle part. So long as the project is able to stand on its own, you may use one board to suit your needs. An example is shown below. Each invention must have a display poster, which has the required information. It must include:

1. The inventor's name or the group of names, school and the grade.
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 necessary. 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! (Note: if you are planning on participating in Invention Convention realize that if your disclosure form is accepted, then a model will be needed **eventually** for participation and display in the Schenectady Museum and Suits-Bueche Planetarium Schenectady Museum.)
2. **Where and When?** The display date for the inventions is **Saturday, February 12, 2011** at the Clifton Park Center Mall at the Boscov's corridor. **Drop off time is 8:00 AM and pickup time is 4:00 PM.** Judging will be through the day. Projects not picked up by 4:00 pm will be discarded unless you make other arrangements in advance with **your school's representative or another participant** in advance.
3. **Where can I find additional information?** There is a website with more information on this program at [www.shenet.org](http://www.shenet.org). Go to the PTA website for all the details. Please call your school representative or speak with your Science Teacher for any additional help on your Invention.
4. **What should I bring to the mall on the Display Date?** Your project and 3 copies of the Judging form filled out with your name, invention name, grade and teacher **PRIOR** to drop off time.
5. **Do I get anything for participating?** Each inventor receives a Shen Inventors T-shirt if they register by the deadline date of February 4th, 2011. All inventors will receive a blue, red or white award ribbon depending on placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup>. Each inventor also receives a medal commemorating their participation in Shen Inventors towards the end of the school year.
6. **What is the Invention Convention?** The Invention Convention is a statewide competition for inventions. You may use the same materials from Shen Inventors if you choose to enter this competition. Invention disclosure entry forms are **due February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. (Please NOTE: This competition is not affiliated with Shen Inventors. and for additional information concerning the Capitol Region Invention Convention (regional competition) visit this link: <http://www.crd.ge.com/invent/index.html>.)
7. **Will there be any video taping?** None is planned though there may be taping of the projects and/or students at the event or at a later date.
8. **What are some examples of inventions?** You can find a list of 2010 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?**  
Google.com, Uspto.gov , Howstuffworks.com, Bkfk.com (idea locker)
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.

# JUDGING

The inventions are judged based on the criterion listed below:

## **2011 SHENENDEHOWA INVENTORS EVALUATION FORM**

Names of Student(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Invention \_\_\_\_\_ Practical or Fantasy (circle one)

**ORIGINALITY/USEFULNESS 50 points** \_\_\_\_\_

How does the invention work?

Is the idea truly unique?

Does the invention solve a problem or satisfy a need?

(for practical invention: is the invention practical and marketable?)

Comments:

**WRITTEN DESCRIPTION 15 points** \_\_\_\_\_

Is the idea thoroughly explained in a clear manner?

Comments:

**RESEARCH PERFORMED 15 points** \_\_\_\_\_

Is the research thorough? Is the research adequate to prove that the invention is new? And marketable (who will buy my invention!)?

Comments:

**ILLUSTRATION 20 points** \_\_\_\_\_

Is the illustration clear and visually expressive? Is the drawing neat and all parts are labeled? Does the illustration visually explain the invention?

Comments:

**TOTAL POINTS EARNED** \_\_\_\_\_

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