



## THE YOUNG INVENTORS PROGRAM & FAIR

The Young Inventors Program, also known as YIF, was formed in 1980. The program has now grown to include teacher workshops and a curriculum that lead up to the culminating event, the Young Inventors Fair. YIF is a program of Success Beyond the Classroom (SBC), a non-profit that includes YIF and several other hands-on student enrichment programs available to students in the seven-county metro Twin Cities area.

Among goals for students participating in the Young Inventors Program are:

- development of skills in problem-solving, creative thinking, research, and inquiry;
- development of communication skills in technical writing and presentation;
- development of organizational and critical thinking skills;
- development of the ability to bring creative ideas to reality through the invention process; and
- growth in self-esteem and self-confidence in abilities and ideas.

YIF's young inventors are the future entrepreneurs of Minnesota. Almost 7,000 students per year in grades 3-8 use creative thinking and problem solving skills for inventing. They visit YIF's website to do a mock patent search to check on the idea's uniqueness and originality. Then students develop a prototype and send their invention idea in to the YIF evaluation process.

All SBC programs have strong ties to the surrounding community. YIF is supported by over 30 businesses and organizations including Lockheed Martin, Medtronic, the Minnesota Intellectual Property Law Association, the Science Museum of Minnesota, Square D Foundation, Qwest and many more.

Evaluated by volunteers from local companies, schools, and other organizations; the top 100 inventions are invited to exhibit their work at the Regional Young Inventors Fair at the Best Buy Rotunda at Mall of America!

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**For more information go to:**

**[www.successbeyond.org/yif.htm](http://www.successbeyond.org/yif.htm)**

