



2009-2010 YOUNG INVENTORS FAIR GUIDELINES AND RULES

Entering an invention to be evaluated for the Young Inventors Fair (Items in this section are most pertinent to the evaluation process.)

1. Students must be in grades 3-8 in the Metro Twin Cities area to participate. If your school does not participate, you may enter the regional event on your own.
2. The invention must be that of a single inventor or a pair (two students) of inventors. If students enter as a pair, they must participate as a pair all the way to the YIF regional event. Students cannot change partners or drop a partner once the Official Entry Form has been submitted.
3. The invention must be the original work of the student or pair of students. **Any assistance from adults should be kept to a minimum** – this is a project for young inventors! For example, students may need assistance for safety reasons.
4. An entry may be either a completely new idea or item, or an improvement on a previously existing invention. Early in the invention process, student inventors are expected to check the *YIF Gazette*, available online at www.successbeyond.org/cgi-bin/invfair.cgi to confirm the originality of their invention idea. Ask your invention teacher about this.
5. The student(s) must produce either a functioning prototype or a model of the invention. An invention logbook *must* be used to document the process from the idea to prototype or model. Documentation that someone observed the testing of the invention is required.
6. In order for your invention to be reviewed and evaluated for possible Young Inventors Fair participation, a current, *completed Young Inventors Fair **OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM 2009-2010** must be submitted to the YIF Coordinator on or before the **February 17, 2010 deadline**. Inventions will be evaluated by the quality and creativity of the invention, and entry form completion.

*Entries **must** be complete. Any incomplete entries may be disqualified at the YIF Coordinator's discretion and may not be allowed to move on to the evaluation process.

Students have two options to submit entries:

- a) print a blank form and fill out by hand with black ink, using only the space provided for each item; or
- b) type directly into the electronic version (you must have Microsoft Word).

Please go to www.successbeyond.org/yif.htm for more entry form/submission information.

Response length limitations apply, so check the entry form for details. It is recommended that students keep a copy of their completed entry form for future reference. Submitted invention entry forms will **not** be returned to students or teachers.

7. In order to be selected for the top 100 inventions, students must agree to attend the Fair on May 1, 2010. Inventors will be assigned "on duty" times the day of the Fair and are expected to stay with their invention displays for presentation to Fair Officials and the public at those times. (Inventions cannot be displayed unattended nor can they be attended by someone other than the student inventor(s).)

YOUNG INVENTORS FAIR GUIDELINES AND RULES

(page 2)

Participating in the Young Inventors Fair:

1. Students will be responsible for transporting their inventions to and from the Best Buy Rotunda at Mall of America on the day of the Fair. YIF staff and volunteers are not responsible for any materials left at Mall of America.
2. Students will present their inventions to Fair Officials and the public the day of the Fair. Students should plan an oral presentation and be ready to explain and discuss their inventions. When preparing a presentation, refer to a copy of your completed entry form as an outline and also to your logbook notes.
3. Students are required to display their invention logbook at the Fair. The logbook tells the story of an invention from initial ideas to finished product. It is kept like a diary with dated entries signed by you, the inventor. Ask your invention teacher for more details on how to keep a logbook.
4. For safety reasons, exposed flames are not allowed. Live animals are not allowed.
5. At the Fair, each inventor will be provided with a 24 x 24 inch section of a table to support their invention. Space at the exhibit is very limited. **Please do not bring anything that exceeds the 24 x 24 inch display area without prior approval from the YIF Coordinator.**
6. Invention displays include a student-made display board to describe the invention. It is the student inventor's responsibility to bring all that is needed (materials and human resources) to set up their invention display. Display boards should follow the guidelines below:
 - Display boards can be placed on top of the table area, but cannot cover the invention number at the front of the display area. This number is printed in the program and identifies your invention for fairgoers.
 - Display boards may be taped onto the support area, but no holes can be made in the table supporting the invention.
 - Written information on display boards should include the invention's name or title. Display boards can also include: a statement of purpose, a diagram or pictures, a description of how the invention works, and/or a statement of how the invention would improve life now or in the future. Younger students can dictate information to an adult who will put the information on a display board for them.
 - All information on display boards (written or pictures) should be permanently affixed to the board; no pins or tacks, please.

Questions?

Contact Kelly Ascheman, YIF Coordinator

Phone: (612) 638-1555 **Email:** Kelly.ascheman@metroecsu.org