



# YOUNG INVENTORS' SHOWCASE

## Application Package

Thank you for choosing to participate in the Young Inventors' Showcase!

Since the very first Young Inventors' Showcase in 1987, several winners and participants have gone on to patent, manufacture, and market their inventions. Remember, you are never too young to invent! As Thomas Edison said, "All you need to invent is imagination, and a pile of junk!"

Good Luck! We can't wait to see what you've invented!

## INSTRUCTIONS

Entry in the Showcase is free of charge and open to all children in Kindergarten through the 8th grade. Families, schools, scout troops, home schools, and other individuals and groups are welcome and encouraged to apply to participate. Entrants must submit their application for preliminary judging four (4) weeks prior to the Finals event, even if you were accepted from a local school's showcase final.

All applications will be reviewed, and those receiving the highest ratings will be invited to participate in the Young Inventors' Showcase Finals. All those not chosen to proceed to the finals will be notified by email two (2) weeks prior to the Finals event.

All participants in the Young Inventors' Showcase Finals are expected to be at location, with their prototype (subject to rules and regulations regarding approved materials) and display boards on the day and times noted on the YIAA website for the respective year.

For more information, please contact Max Martin by phone at (832)741-4244 or by email at [maxm@smartkidssoftware.com](mailto:maxm@smartkidssoftware.com).

Application Check List:

- ✓ I have filled out my application completely.
- ✓ I have provided photo(s) of my invention.
- ✓ My parent or guardian and I have signed and dated my application.
- ✓ My parent or guardian has signed the Media Release and it is enclosed with my application.
- ✓ My parent or guardian has signed the Waiver and Release of Confidential Information form and it is enclosed with my application
- ✓ I have emailed my applications, releases, and photos to [maxm@smartkidssoftware.com](mailto:maxm@smartkidssoftware.com).



# YOUNG INVENTORS' SHOWCASE

## Invention Application

**Instructions:** PLEASE PRINT legibly using black or blue ink. Applications will be considered complete only if each section is filled out completely AND there is a photograph of your prototype attached.

### INVENTOR INFORMATION:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (City, State, Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

School or Group \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher or Guide \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

### PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### INVENTION INFORMATION:

Name of Invention

What problem does your invention solve?

Describe your invention and how it solves your problem



**PLEASE DON'T FORGET-** Attach a picture of your prototype to your application.

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# YOUNG INVENTORS' SHOWCASE

## Media Release

Please print the information of the Inventors' Showcase participant:

Inventor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age & Grade \_\_\_\_\_

I give my permission to the Young Inventors Association of America to use the photographs and other media of my family taken during the Annual Young Inventors' Showcase in any publications, other promotional pieces, and media publications. I certify that I have the right, capacity, and authority to provide this consent and I release the Young Inventors Association of America from any actions or claims that might arise from the use of the photographs and media.

Parent / Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (street, city, zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# YOUNG INVENTORS' SHOWCASE

## Waiver and Release of Confidential Information

Please print the information of the Inventors' Showcase participant:

Inventor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age & Grade \_\_\_\_\_

It is understood that the Young Inventors' Showcase contestant (the Contestant) as named above will display and exhibit their invention and that certain technical, creative, and intellectual property may be viewed by the general public and judged by persons appointed by the Young Inventors Association of America ("YIAA"). It is expressly understood by the Contestant that such viewing by the general public and contest judges could result in information relating to the Contestant's proprietary ideas, patentable ideas, copyrights, and/or trade secrets, existing and/or contemplated products and services, software, schematics, research and development, and production being copied or misused. The YIAA are not responsible for any such misuse, duplication, or copyright infringement that may occur and Contestant will hold YIAA harmless from and against any and all liabilities, losses, damages, costs and expenses (including legal fees and costs) associated with any claim or action brought against the YIAA by Contestant or any third party in connection to Contestant's invention exhibition.

Parent / Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# YOUNG INVENTORS' SHOWCASE

## More information

### ABOUT THE SHOWCASE

The Showcase is held in two parts: a preliminary judging and the actual Young Inventors Showcase.

Participants come from all over the city, nation, and world to participate in the Showcase. Since they all come from different programs: public school, private school, homeschoolers, summer camps, afterschool camps, and others, the preliminary judging ensures the right contestants can compete in the Showcase.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

In order for your invention to be considered for the annual Young Inventors' Showcase, your application must be submitted by the date provided online at [www.yia.org](http://www.yia.org) for that year's event.

You must submit the following items:

- Application – signed and dated
- Photo of your invention. Take multiple shots from different angles to clearly portray your invention
- Media release form – signed and dated

### INVENTION TIMELINE

We suggest giving yourself a minimum of 6 weeks to prepare and develop an invention. See our guide on how to invent for more help.

- Week 1: Brainstorm and research ideas, write a few thoughts about your idea and what problem it will solve, and draw an initial sketch of your invention.
- Week 2: Write down your materials and tools and then develop a budget for materials. Remember, you don't have to purchase a lot of expensive materials. Gather the materials and tools you will need.
- Week 3: Use this week for building your first model.
- Week 4: Begin testing and revising your invention.
- Week 5: Finish testing and revising your invention. Begin getting ready for the competition.
- Week 6: Complete your invention and competition materials. Don't forget to apply to the Young Inventors Showcase by the deadline.

### JUDGING CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES

Inventions will be judged at least three times by different judges. It is very important that you stay with your invention during the judging period. If you are not with your invention and ready when the judges arrive at your table, your invention will not be judged.

You will be judged on a point system that is weighted to six topics:



1. The invention has practical value and could be manufactured with existing knowledge.
2. The invention/prototype is well thought out, designed and constructed. Inventor made wise and creative use of available materials.
3. The inventor's presentation board is clear, concise, clean, and organized.
4. The inventor was enthusiastic and clear in their explanation of invention and its process.
5. The inventor's Log book accurately reflects the process through to the end result.
6. The invention reflects original and creative thought. Inventor provides evidence of no similar product on the market.

## **CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Following are the general rules and regulations of the Showcase:

1. The invention entered must be an original invention.
2. Teams of students are permitted but there is a limit of 3 members on a team.
3. A student, or team, may enter only one invention.
4. The entered invention must be the work of the student or team entering the Showcase.
5. Completed project application forms must be on file with the Showcase coordinator the day of the Young Inventors' Showcase.
6. Individuals, or all team members, must be at their project during all judging periods. All projects will be judged within the scheduled judging times.
7. Disruptive students will be disqualified from the Showcase.
8. Students are encouraged to provide judges with copies of a one page abstract or summary of their project. However, the material cannot identify the student, teacher, school or district.

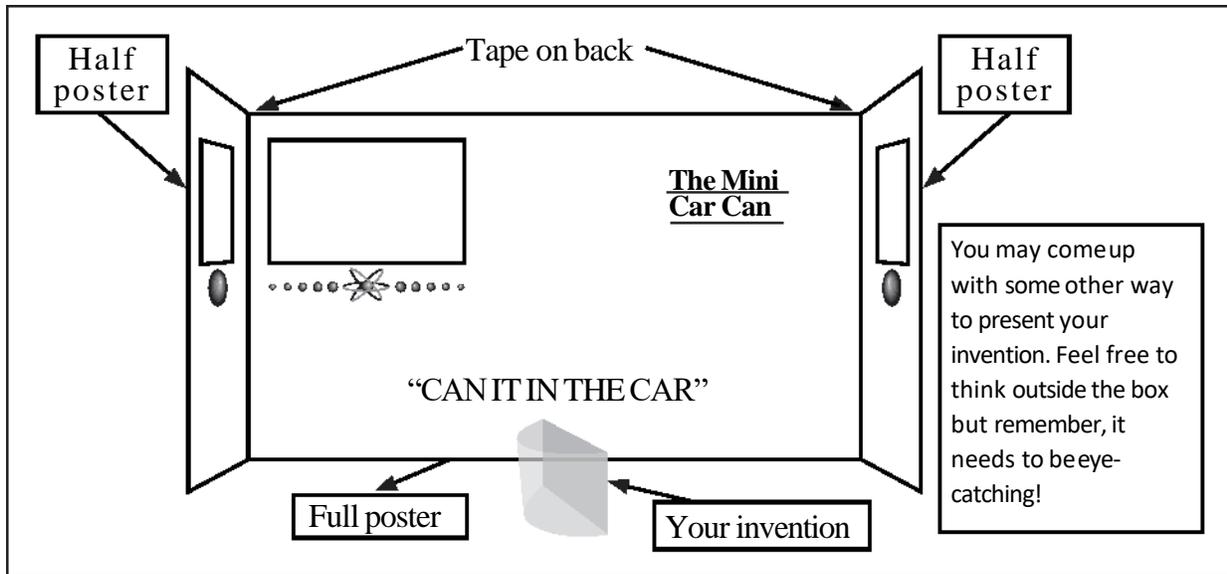
## **DISPLAY GUIDELINES**

Before planning your display, be sure to carefully review the rules for project displays. Make your display a creative visual summary of your entire project. How you display your invention—the color scheme, graphics, pictures, lettering, etc.—are all important because your display will serve as a "silent" salesperson for your project.

See "Photograph Display Restrictions" below regarding photographs. Make sure to note on your application if you will need electricity, otherwise your invention may not be near a source of electricity on the day of the Showcase.

Everything associated with your display must fit into the space allocated for your project, which is 76cm (30in.) deep x 122cm (48in.) wide x 274cm (108in.) high if floor mounted. Only use floor mounted projects for extra tall/heavy display boards and/or equipment. If table mounted, the height limit is 198cm (78in.); width and depth remain the same. Most display boards are constructed of plywood or foam core. Please think carefully about using expensive equipment, such as computers.

An example of a display is shown below:



Display rules and safety regulations include:

- The exhibit must be set up at the assigned location.
- The name of the student, teacher, or district must not be a visible part of the display.
- The inventor is responsible for the set-up of his/her own exhibit.
- No radios, TVs, tape players, or other sound transmitting devices may be played unless the sound transmitted by the devices is used as part of the invention.
- Laser pointers, except as a part of the invention, are not allowed.
- Inventor's Logs should be available at the display for review by judges.
- The following items are **NOT** allowed to be part of the display:
  - Live animals, including vertebrate and invertebrates
  - Live cultures of microorganisms or fungi (including molds)
  - Poisonous plants
  - Taxidermy specimens or parts
  - Preserved vertebrate and invertebrate specimens or parts
  - human/animal parts (exceptions: teeth, hair, nails, dried animal bones, histological sections, and sealed wet mount tissue)
  - Other potentially hazardous biological agents
  - Open flame
  - Flammable liquids (ex. Gasoline)
  - Flammable gasses (ex. Propane cylinders)
  - Poisons
  - Hazardous chemicals and materials
  - Radioactive materials
  - Class III or IV lasers (anything stronger than a laser pointer)
  - Prescription medication
  - DEA-controlled substances, tobacco products, and alcoholic beverages
  - Firearms, explosives, and other weapons
  - offensive audio/visual displays



## **PHOTOGRAPH DISPLAY RESTRICTIONS**

Photographs and/or visual depictions are allowed if:

- Credit lines of their origins ("Photograph taken by ..." or "Image taken from ...") are attached, including photos from someone other than the inventor, the internet, magazines, newspapers, journals, etc.
- If all photographs being displayed were taken by the inventor, one credit line prominently displayed indicating that the inventor took all photographs is sufficient.
- For photographs of human subjects ( forms must be available at the project.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT THE DAY OF THE COMPETITION**

The schedule for the day of the competition will be similar to the sample schedule below:

8:30 a.m.-9:30	Participant registration/invention set-up
9:30 a.m.-12:30	Judging
12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Lunch and break
1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.	Final Judging
2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Presentation of prizes
3:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	Breakdown of inventions

You will receive a final agenda for the day when you arrive and check in.