

Dear Educator,

Welcome to the new educators participating in this year's competition, and welcome back to our long-time friends of invention! It's that time again to begin preparation for the 2012 invention competition. We have a whole new look and feel this year, as outlined below.

- New Name! We are now the **TOURNAMENT OF INNOVATION!**
- This year we step outside the borders of Idaho to include young inventors from Washington and Oregon, and we hope to see the competition continue to grow as dedicated professionals such as you encourage today's youth to follow their quest for new ideas.
- Now open to all students in grades K-12. Inventors in grades K-8 will compete in the same manner as they have in years past, with the same judging criteria and display methods. For students in grades 9-12, they have the added challenge of presenting their projects in person to a panel of judges. For more information on the judging criteria for high school competitors, visit <http://dcidaho.org/Tofi/>.
- New categories: "Working Inventions," "Non-Working Inventions" and "Science Projects."

Outlined in the attached packet you will find information on the following:

- Tournament of Innovation rules, judging criteria and categories.
- Dates and location of your regional competition, with contact information.
- A preview of the State Tournament of Innovation.
- The Participation Form for the regional competition for both schools/districts and solitary competitors not entering as a school or district. These are due by December 1, 2011.

If you would like to participate this year as a district, an individual school or a solitary competitor, you'll need to return the Participation Form, which is also attached to this email. This form, along with your participation fee, must be mailed to your Regional Coordinator. Please make checks payable to your Regional Coordinator's business address (and include "Tournament of Innovation" in the memo line).

This form and fee are due **January 16, 2012** and lets us know to expect your group at the Regional Tournament of Innovation. *NOTE: This is not to be confused with the student's registration of their project, which can be done online after all Participation Forms have been received.* If your school/district does not wish to participate, but you have students who would still like to enter the competition, they must choose "Option B" on the Participation Form and submit their fee by **January 16, 2012.**

As a preliminary step, we encourage schools and other participating groups to first hold a local competition at their level. This gives students an opportunity to present their projects in front of an audience, as well as assisting you in determining which projects should move on to the next level. This is especially helpful if you have more than your allotted 15 (school) or 45 (district) projects entered. For more information on how to hold a local event, contact us at the Discovery Center at 208-343-9895 or by email at [dcifilter@gmail.com](mailto:dcifilter@gmail.com).

We invite you and your students to participate in this program to recognize the outstanding creativity of our youngsters. Inventing in the classroom allows you to present a truly integrated program for your students: the design technology, prototyping and testing elements meet science standards, journaling and verbal presentation links to language arts standards, and math and humanities standards are addressed by technical drawing and model building. In this time of increasing attention to testing, standards and curriculum mandates, it's refreshing to have a program that covers so many standards while encouraging higher-order thinking, ingenuity and imagination.

Sincerely,  
T. Woody Sobey  
DCI Education Director  
[w.sobey@dcidaho.org](mailto:w.sobey@dcidaho.org)

# Summary Information

## REGIONAL COMPETITIONS



Schools, districts and solo competitors register for the Regional Tournament of Innovation in their area. Competitors submit projects in one of three categories and compete against students in similar grade levels. Winning projects are selected from the Regional to move on to the Finals. Home-school groups and virtual schools may also participate as a school. Please review the Participation Form for details; **deadline December 1, 2011.**

### GRADE LEVEL DIVISIONS

K-2<sup>nd</sup>      3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>      5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>      7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>      9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>

Competitors in 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade, contact your regional coordinator for additional information for your grade division.

### CATEGORIES (Grades K - 8<sup>th</sup>)

#### WORKING INVENTIONS

This category includes projects where students have produced a **prototype** of the invention that **actually functions**, in addition to accomplishing the stated goal. Competitors in this category must state a problem and then build their solution. This could be a new idea or an adaptation of an existing idea.

#### NON-WORKING INVENTIONS

This category is for inventions that would be too large, expensive or technical to build. Entries in this category must be more than just a drawing; each entry must include a "blueprint" as well as a **three-dimensional model** or sample. Inventions in this category can be new ideas or adaptations; they can be realistic or fantastical. Future space ideas are included in this category.

#### SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

Entries in this category demonstrate the student's knowledge of a particular topic in the fields of science, technology, engineering or math. Students must pose a question and then provide their conclusion by presenting independently researched data to support/refute their hypothesis.

### FINAL COMPETITION

Entry Packets for Finals will be distributed by regional coordinators to students who qualify at the regional competition. **Projects qualify for Finals by placing in one of the following ways:**

Best of Show - Primary (K - 4<sup>th</sup>), Intermediate (5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>), Upper (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>)

Best of Category

Top Winners in each Category/Grade Level Division

**Inventions must be pre-registered for the Finals by February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Walk-in entries will not be allowed or displayed.** *NOTE: Winning the regional competition does not automatically enter you for Finals, so teachers who collect these Entry Packets for students not in attendance must be sure to deliver them to students/parents immediately.*

The Final Competition will be held at the Discovery Center of Idaho on March 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

### REGIONAL COORDINATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

#### SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

Tori C. Powers  
[t.powers@dcidaho.org](mailto:t.powers@dcidaho.org)

Discovery Center of Idaho  
w: (208) 343-9895

131 W. Myrtle St. Boise, ID 83702  
fax: (208) 343-0105

#### EASTERN IDAHO

Sunny Katseanes  
[education@museumofidaho.org](mailto:education@museumofidaho.org)

Museum of Idaho      200 N. Eastern Ave. Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
w: (208) 522-1400 x3022 fax: (208) 524-5060

Direct your participation form/fee and any questions to the contact above.



## Project Rules (Grades K – 8<sup>th</sup>)

- The overall theme of the project must enhance the quality of life and be humane.
- Projects may be entered by individuals or pairs only. Mixed grade pairs must register in the grade of the oldest member.
- A journal must accompany the project. This allows students to document the process and show judges they have met the criteria.
- The project must be student initiated; help from parents or friends is acceptable *but must be fully documented* in the journal.
- A free-standing display (not a wall poster) is required. Display must include the name of the project, goal or problem it solves, and how it works/solves problem or conclusion.
- **No student names/faces or school names anywhere on project, journal or display board.**
- Cost of new materials, cannot exceed \$20.00 including free standing display, and all sales receipts must be attached to the journal or display.
- Projects from prior years will not be accepted.

## Judging Criteria (Grades K – 8<sup>th</sup>)

<b><u>Originality</u></b>	35 points total
<i>Project represents original, creative thought and is a unique solution.</i>	
<b><u>Shows student initiative</u></b>	25 points total
<i>Model, presentation and journal demonstrate how student originated idea and was main contributor to the project. Journal documents student initiative and the inventing/scientific process from brainstorming to final product.</i>	
<b><u>Accomplishes stated goal, problem or objective</u></b>	10 points total
<i>Project accomplishes the stated goal, problem or objective.</i>	
<b><u>Visual presentation</u></b>	15 points total
<i>Project and display is eye-catching, attractive and neatly done. (7pt) Display includes name of project, goal, how it works and conclusions. (8pt)</i>	
<b><u>Research and documentation</u></b>	15 points total
<i>Journal and/or display board documents background research and existence of similar inventions/experiments. (12 pt) Student provides receipts and notes showing evidence of staying under \$20 in new materials. (3pt)</i>	
	<b><u>100 points total</u></b>

**Contact your Regional Coordinator  
for a copy of the rules/criteria for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade projects.**

*“Imagination is more important than knowledge.”  
Albert Einstein*



Yes! We'd like to participate!

**Who will be the primary contact for the regional competition?**

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home/Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**School or District Information** ("Solo Competitors" can skip this step.)

School/District Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(From Idaho Educational Directory)

Address (If different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please be sure the information above is complete, including both contact and school, if different. It will be used both for this year's competition and to provide you with information about the Tournament of Innovation in future years.*

**If more than three schools in a district are participating, enter as a district.**

*Home-school groups and Virtual Schools may enter as a school.*

- Option A:** Please include our school/ district for participation in the 2011 Regional Competition of the Tournament of Innovation. Our check for \$20 (school: up to 15 projects) or \$50 (district: up to 45 projects) is enclosed.
- Option B:** Please include my student(s) as a solo competitor for participation in the 2011 Regional Competition of the Tournament of Innovation. My check for \$10 per project is enclosed.

**Make checks payable to the office of your Regional Coordinator and write "Tournament of Innovation" in the memo.**

**REGIONAL COORDINATOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

**SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO**

Tori C. Powers  
[t.powers@dcidaho.org](mailto:t.powers@dcidaho.org)

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**All entries must be received by January 16, 2012.**