



Invention Convention Alumni Spotlight Starring: Ryan Martz



Ryan Martz participated in the Southwest [Invention Convention](#) in 2015. He won 1st place in 5th grade for his invention *The Fire Melter 2000*. Ryan is currently in 6th grade. Since receiving his award in April of 2015, Ryan was invited by Invention Convention’s presenting partner, [Time Warner Cable](#), to showcase his prototype at the *2015 OCTA Legislative Reception & Technology Demo* for the Ohio General Assembly in Columbus in June, where he met State Senator, Bill Beagle. Senator Beagle later mailed an “Honorary Award of Attainment” with a personal congratulatory note to Ryan. In May, Ryan’s invention was featured in the *Troy Daily News* and, after meeting with members of the Troy Fire Department in October to

further develop a working prototype of his invention, Ryan was interviewed by *WHIO-Channel 7* (Dayton) as well! [Click here to watch!](#)

In the future, Ryan would like to go to college (preferably The Ohio State University) and major in Engineering. He loves baseball and hopes to play in college. His dream is to be a closing pitcher for the Reds! Ryan would like to invent again in the future because he thinks it is very exciting and fun. Recently, Ryan has been benefiting from the opportunities offered to past inventors through [Invention Convention’s Alumni Program](#). In August, Ryan attended Invention Convention’s first *Inventor Experience* and shared his invention at the Ohio State fair as an Alumni Inventor. Please make sure you or your alumni student isn’t missing out and register for the [Alumni program](#) today!

Congratulations, Ryan on all of your amazing achievements and thank you for sharing your story!

Check out Dr. Claire’s Full Interview with Ryan



Dr. Claire: What did you invent and what problem did it solve?

Ryan: My invention is The Fire Melter 2000w hich keeps snow from piling up around the fire hydrant using solar power to heat a waterproof, black mat that surrounds the base of the hydrant. This will save the fire department valuable time in an emergency and help to save lives!

Dr. Claire: How did being part of Invention Convention impact your life?

Ryan: It helped me develop an idea with the Troy Fire Department to build a working prototype.



Martz wins first for Fire Melter

By Melanie Yungert
TROY — Convent Elementary School student Ryan Martz earned the very definition of accuracy in the number of invention as he dug out the snow around his neighborhood fire hydrant this winter. From that dreadful chore, the Fire Melter 2000 was born on a cold winter's day.
"We had made one go out and shovel snow out from around the fire hydrant across the street. I was told so I thought there has to be an easier way," he said. "The problem is that snow built up around the fire hydrant so firefighters can't see it. They have to clear it when they do see it, so what my invention does is melt the snow around the hydrant in a 3-foot radius."
Martz said he decided to utilize solar power to generate the heat to melt the snow away from the hydrants. A solar "trim" sits over the top of the hydrant. The heat then is transferred down to a warming blanket at the base of the hydrant, which fits like a Christmas tree skirt.
"But it does it that it sits around the hydrant like a tree skirt," he said. "What my invention does is convert solar energy to heat energy and it melts the snow around the hydrant in a 3-foot radius around the fire hydrant."
Martz also considered the device's stability, adding that clips may be used to attach the solar panel to the top of the hydrant. Ryan also researched the requirements during the design of the device.
"I was doing some research and found that the snow needs to be cleared out away from the hydrant 3 feet on each side and from the street," he said.
Ryan, the son of Mike and Mary Martz of Troy, shared his Fire Melter 2000 at his school's Invention Convention and was one of 25 inventors who were chosen to move on to the regional southeast final in Cincinnati on April 11. Ryan received first place honors for all of the fifth grade students in the southwest Ohio region and received a \$500 scholarship.
Ryan said he enjoyed sharing his invention at the Invention Convention regional final held at the Cincinnati Museum Center.
"It was cool to see one judge call over another judge for me to share my invention — they thought it was a pretty cool idea," he said. "I thought the invention from Troy were really good."
Ryan is a G.A.I.E. student and attends classes once at week at Colton Elementary School.
Ryan also enjoys playing with his brother Matthew and loves playing baseball. If Ryan doesn't make the Major League, he said he plans on becoming an engineer.
Melanie Yungert contributed to myrightinterview.com. You can be her Twitter @Yungertm

Dr. Claire: Could you please share some highlights in your life since being part of Invention Convention? Accomplishments, awards, recognition, opportunities you were encouraged to try as a result of being part of Invention Convention.

Ryan: In June, I was invited by *Time Warner Cable* through partnership with The Invention Convention to showcase my prototype at the *2015 OCTA Legislative Reception & Technology Demo* for the Ohio General Assembly in Columbus, where I met State Senator, Bill Beagle. He later mailed an "Honorary Award of Attainment" with a personal congratulatory note to me. In July, I was invited by The Invention Convention to share my prototype on opening day of the Ohio State Fair. In August, I was asked to participate in the first "Inventor's Experience" touring Honda's new museum in Marysville and then on to the Columbus College of Art and Design for a tour of campus and a fun activity building circuits. I was featured with my invention in the *Troy Daily News* in May. Also, after meeting with members of the Troy Fire Department in October, I was interviewed by *WHIO-Channel 7* (Dayton) and recognized on the news.



Dr. Claire: What are you doing/working on in life today?

Ryan: I am working on a working prototype of my invention with the Troy Fire Department.

Dr. Claire: You are working with the local fire department to further develop your prototype? How did this relationship happen?

Ryan: The local fire chief was assistant coach for my brother's all-star baseball team this summer. I approached him and made him aware of my invention. He was very interested and wanted to see it. In October, I met with the chief, assistant chief, and platoon leader of the TFD to discuss a working prototype.

Dr. Claire: Are you still problem solving or inventing?

Ryan: I am still working on my current invention and issues to help make a working prototype. I hope to invent again in the future because it is very exciting and fun.

Dr. Claire: Do you plan to pursue a STEAM-related career?

Ryan: I would like to go to college (preferably The Ohio State University) and major in Engineering. I love baseball and hope to play in college. My dream is to be a closing pitcher for the Reds.

Dr. Claire: What words of advice/encouragement do you have for the young inventors today?

Ryan: It doesn't always work the first time, so investigate the problem and keep trying!

