

# OFFICIAL RULES FOR THE 2019-2020 INVENTION CONVENTION COMPETITION



**Mission.** The mission of League's Invention

Invention

Convention Program is to inspire curiosity, confidence, invention and creative problem-solving in our youth. The Invention League makes every effort to ensure an enjoyable, rewarding, inspirational and educational experience for every participant.

**Eligibility.** The Invention Convention Program is open to Ohio students grades K-12. Invention League reserves the right to eliminate grade levels from the competition should not enough entries be submitted for that grade level as determined by the Invention League. Each district or approved student organization is solely responsible for choosing its student representatives for the Round 1 video submission. There are a limited number of entry slots for each district/student organization. Students in K-12 may compete as an individual or as part of a team of 4, but not both. Students who are family members of Invention League or Contractors ARE eligible to participate and win but CANNOT be granted cash or college savings awards. Students who are family members of employees of Invention League Sponsors ARE eligible to compete and win cash and college savings awards. Invention Convention award winners from previous years may compete again but entering a completely new invention.

**Registration Deadline.** Students selected to represent their district or student organization must complete the Official Invention Convention Student Registration by the deadline, details of which will be provided ONLY through their teacher/program leader each year. Registration must be completed in its entirety for a student to be eligible to participate. It is the responsibility of the student and parent or guardian to complete their registration fully no later than 5:00 PM on designated deadline day. There will be no extensions or exceptions to the registration deadline. **Registration instruction/deadlines will be provided to school/program coordinators by the end of March. Independent Inventors must have their video, including their display board, journal and prototype to the Invention League team for review by March 20th to be eligible to enter the Regional video submission competition. The deadline to register for the Regional competition is April 21st. The link to register will be available to educators/program leaders by March 31st.** deadline.

1) K-12 participants are required to complete a Student Journal/Logbook, documenting their invention process and including the steps of: Identifying, Understanding, Ideating, Designing, Building, Testing and Communicating. Teams only need to complete one Journal or Logbook but must include both signatures. The Journal/Logbook is a necessary step to document each participant's creative process. K-12 students should use the "official" Invention Convention Program Student Journal, available online, create their own Journal, as long as it contains the prototype requirements, necessary signatures and all elements of the "official" journal. Students can also use the Invention Convention inHub

Logbook, which can be found at [www.inventionconvention.org](http://www.inventionconvention.org). The Journal/Logbook must be in the registration for the judge's review in the competition.

3) Students must create a Model (prototype) of their invention. The model does not have to work but must illustrate how the invention would work if it were operational. Models must be limited in size to fit on a 2' X 3' tabletop. Electricity will NOT be available to inventors at the convention (for the live Showcase). Students may use batteries. Backboards or other presentation materials are not required but are suggested. Models must be fully set-up at each student or team's assigned booth within the designated set up time as detailed on the event day schedule. Parents/guardians and family members may set up the model for their children. Students do not have to personally set up their inventions. No hazardous materials, knives, guns or other sharp objects that could harm others are to be used in producing your prototype.

**Judging and Evaluation:** Judging will consist of the Regionals Round 1 video submission competition, and for students qualifying to advance to the State competition, Round 2 of live Zoom judging circles, where there are typically two judges in each circle and typically 6 inventions. Each inventor (or team) will have the opportunity to share information about their invention and invention process, followed by questions from their peers and judges. Only students, IL moderator and judges are permitted in judging circles in live Zoom judging.

Participants will be judged in their grade level and grade divisions (K-5 and 6-12). Evaluations will be based on the invention process, the invention itself, supporting materials and the individual student or team presentation of the invention. Students will be evaluated using the official rubric. Student scores are not published and are the property of the Invention League. Judges' decisions are final.

**Awards:** Awards and award values are subject to change without notice. Generally, \$20,000 is awarded annually. College savings awards may be awarded in the form of an investment through a CollegeAdvantage 529 Savings Plan or similar plan and through a company acting as the plan administrator. College savings awards are not transferable, cannot be redeemed for cash, and must be used by the recipient for higher education. College savings awards will be paid according to the plan administrator's policies and procedures in place at the time the student wishes to use the college savings award. Student winners and their parents/guardians will be required to provide certain information to the Invention League in order to receive their prize and set up their college savings award. College savings award paperwork will be available at the state event. **Parents/guardians will be given a date from the state competition to submit their student's completed paperwork in accordance with the instructions provided by Invention League team member email. College savings award paperwork NOT delivered to Invention League by the deadline will be forfeited.** For team entries, both members must be present both in the video submission and live judge Zoom circles, if qualified to advance. Awards won by team entries will be divided equally between the team members. For winning teams, each team member must complete applicable college savings award paperwork by the deadline. Additional prizes may be awarded in the form of certificates or gift cards. Students/parents/guardians are wholly responsible for safeguarding these prizes. The Invention League cannot reissue lost or stolen prizes.

**Intellectual Property Rights.** The Invention League does not profit in any way from any invention submitted by participants. Invention League, its affiliates, sponsors, board members and officers have no rights, privileges or interest in any invention idea submitted as part of the Invention Convention

Program. Participants are cautioned that the event, and specifically the awards ceremony, is open to the public. As a result - all inventions will be deemed to be “publicly disclosed” at the convention, which may make it necessary for participant inventors to take steps to secure certain intellectual property rights in their inventions. “Public disclosure” is defined as the time any idea has been offered in an open environment. The Invention League strives to highlight additional resources that can assist students, teachers and parents with the protection of their intellectual property and has involved the US Patent and Trademark Office in the convention project. Please contact your Squadron Leader for more information. In addition, the Patent and Trademark Office website, <http://www.uspto.gov>, provides helpful information. However, the Invention League makes no representations, expressed or implied, regarding the protection of participants’ intellectual property. All participants that wish to protect their invention assume sole responsibility for securing intellectual property rights.

**Photo Release:** Participants must obtain parental permission – via parent/guardian signature on Invention League’s Official Invention Convention Program Registration Form or the approved online registration system in order to be eligible to compete for college savings awards. By signing this registration form or completing the online registration for their student - the parent/guardian permits reasonable use of their child’s name, photograph, or likeness, image, voice and/or interview, in all manner and media existing now or in the future; including the sale of likeness as donations for purposes of program fundraising; releasing The Invention League, sponsors and promotional partners from any and all claims, liabilities and/or damages arising directly or indirectly out of their participation.

**These rules are subject to change as needed and without notice.**