

LAKELAND Invent Idaho

What is it?

The Invent Idaho is the premier student invention program that celebrates student creativity and innovation, while teaching the inventive thinking process in an interdisciplinary curriculum.

Not only does the invention convention program teach higher order thinking skills, it asks students to demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and use information and communication technologies to develop innovative products and processes. The Idaho Invention Convention is poised to grow exponentially with the current emphasis in our schools on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education.

So where do we start? Step 1

The first step in the invention process is identifying problems and brainstorming solutions.

So what can you do at home to help?

Go problem searching with your child! Share everyday frustrations that affect your life and even ask friends and neighbors to share things they would like solved. Explore the local newspaper for opportunities to solve problems in our local community. Find out what your child is passionate about and allow them to explore and improve that field.

Create a culture where you are looking for opportunities to invent! When your child shares a frustration, or something they wish they could do that isn't currently possible, respond with questions that lead to innovation.

- How can you solve that?
- Can you fix that problem?
- Could you make that easier for someone?

Looking at problems as opportunities for innovation is the first step in thinking like an inventor. Don't forget to have kids record their ideas in an invention journal, or create a google document to track all of their ideas.