

Free Competitions for Kid Inventors!



INVENT A BETTER PRODUCT!

Student Ideas for A Better America. A MONTHLY contest coordinated by the National Museum of Education. (Students compete in two divisions: K-8, 9-12). Think of the best idea for a new product and win \$100. **Recent Winner:** The Magic Toothbrush—one with toothpaste in the handle. For info: Call 330.376.8300, <http://www.nmoe.org/students/siba.htm>



INVENT USING BUBBLEWRAP!

Bubble Wrap® Competition for Young Inventors. (for students in grades 6–8). Create an invention that incorporates the use of Bubble Wrap®. The Contest starts on January 31, 2011, and ends on March 18, 2011. **Recent winner:** Over \$25,000 in prizes and a trip to New York City will be awarded! Haley (left) created a Bubble Wrap® tent that can be used as shelter by the homeless. For info: http://www.sealedairprotects.com/yic/competition_home.html, <http://www.scholastic.com/bubblewrap/teacher/>

INVENT FOR THE FUTURE

ExploraVision. (sponsored by Toshiba and the National Science Teachers Association for students in grades K-12). Work with a team to study a present technology, envision its future and present your findings on a website. Compete for \$10,000 in U.S. EE Savings Bonds. **Deadline for Projects: Early February.** For info: 1-800-EXPLOR9/e-mail: exploravision@nsta.org or visit <http://www.exploravision.org>

INVENT A SOLUTION TO A COMMUNITY PROBLEM



eCYBERMISSION. (an online competition sponsored by the U.S. Army for 6th-9th grades). Use math, science, and technology to solve a community problem. Win U.S. savings bonds ranging in value up to \$5,000. **Recent winners** investigated better materials for sports helmets and use of ocean wave power. Register from August to December, annually entries due by March. For info: missioncontrol@ecybermission.com or www.ecybermission.com

The Christopher Columbus Awards (open to 6th-8th grades) is a national, community-based science and technology program that challenges the students to work in teams of three to four, with an adult coach, to identify a problem in their community and apply the scientific method to create an innovative solution to that problem. Annually entries are due early February. <http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com/>

BE ON TV! BE ON EVERYDAY EDISONS, A PBS TV PROGRAM

Student inventors can be considered for appearance on Everyday Edisons (check local listings to see the show) by submitting their ideas to the National Museum of Education. Entries for this casting call are due in Fall 2011. For more information call 330.376.8300 or email: info@nmoe.org.



FOR IDEAS, STORIES, AND TIPS ON INVENTING, CHECK OUT:
Kids Inventing! A Handbook for Young Inventors (Wiley/Jossey Bass)
Women Invent! Two Centuries of Discoveries That Have Shaped Our World
Both by Susan Casey
Invention Activity Sheets at www.susancaseybooks.com/kids_invent.html

