



Requirements and Restrictions

In order to participate in the California Invention Convention and the National Invention Convention & Entrepreneurship Expo (NICEE) in the Spring, there are certain restrictions and requirements. Unless noted otherwise, all requirements and restrictions apply to both the California State Invention Convention and NICEE.

- The teacher must sign off on the inventor's **solution**/invention before he/she begins building the design using the **Intent to Invent**.
- Remember that animals are not allowed at the conventions, so if the invention is for animals, it must be demonstrated in pictures – or on a stuffed toy. Demonstrations/presentations may not include human beings or living creatures.
- The display board must be no larger than 24” with the wings folded in.
- The inventor **MUST** have a **COMPLETE, SIGNED** (by the student and the teacher) **Invention Log**. This log must be kept on an ongoing-basis from the beginning of the project and should reflect the student's invention process. Inventors will be judged on the completeness of the Invention Log.
- The invention does not have to be a working model, but the inventor needs to be able to explain how it would work. If it can be **operational**, it should be.
- Inventors may not use lighters, matches, candles or any other open flame or heat source or anything material or liquid considered combustible.
- Inventions may not contain biohazards or utilize any materials that are, or could, become dangerous.
- Other restrictions include: electric stun guns, martial arts weapons, guns, replica guns, ammunitions, fireworks, knives of any size, mace, pepper spray, razors, box cutters or balloons.
- We ask that each invention is categorized according to the list below . It may be that an invention doesn't exactly fit one of these categories, but have the student choose what is closest. The categories are also required for the National Convention.
 - Agriculture (Food, Machinery, Tools), Pets, and Animal Care
 - Consumer Goods and Fashion – If your invention doesn't fit into any of the other categories and it something people would buy, then is a consumer good.
 - Earth, Environment and Geosciences
 - Education (Technology, Systems, Tools, Hardware) – anything that helps students or teachers in the classroom or students and their homework.
 - Energy (Efficiency, Clean Technology, Generation)
 - Public Safety – Your invention can be for the improving the safety of the public, rather than an individual.
 - Health and Medical Technology
 - Home Organization
 - Home Technology, Smart Homes, Appliances



- Household Tools
 - Sports, Games, Entertainment, and Toys
 - Technology/Wearables – technology with a purpose that can be worn =
 - Transportation – improving the means of transporting or travel from one place to another
- **Additional NICEE restrictions:**
 - The prototype/invention should be no more than 2 feet high and 2 feet wide and be able to set on a table top.
 - Plug-in electricity is not available. Batteries or power packs are fine
 - If the invention cannot be actually demonstrated at NICEE due to issues with size, electricity, or hazardous materials, a video of the device in action can be shown.
 - In order for the student to compete at NICEE, each inventor **MUST** submit an **unedited video** no later than 2 weeks before the competition. The video is not to exceed four minutes. During this video, the student will present the problem, the solution and how they achieved the solution – as well as any issues that had to be overcome. The invention/prototype and display board can be used as visual aids – along with anything else that helps the inventor present the invention.