



RUBBER BAND CONTEST FOR YOUNG INVENTORS 2012

Are you ready to stretch your imagination? The Akron Global Polymer Academy of The University of Akron is hosting the fourth annual Rubber Band Contest for Young Inventors! This contest is designed to encourage students in grades 5-8 to demonstrate their creativity and ingenuity by creating an invention that incorporates the use of rubber bands. Students can compete in one of two separate divisions of competition: 1) Arts & Leisure; or 2) Science & Engineering. The first place winner in each division will receive a \$5000.00 savings bond, while the runner-up in each division will receive a \$1000.00 savings bond*. The four remaining finalists in each division—who are not a first place winner or runner-up—will receive a \$50.00 gift card. The top four schools with the most entries will each receive a \$250 donation.

All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. EST on April 2, 2012.

**Savings bond values are at maturity for United States Series EE paper savings bonds.*

OFFICIAL RULES

ELIGIBILITY:

- This competition is open to full-time students who are in grades 5-8 for the 2011-2012 school year. These students must attend an accredited public or private school, charter school, or home school and must reside within the United States or U.S. Territories. Employees and their immediate family members and/or those living in the same household of the Akron Global Polymer Academy and any and all Contest Sponsor(s) are not eligible. Winners and Runners-up from the 2010-2011 Rubber Band Competition are **not** eligible for entry in the 2011-2012 Rubber Band Competition.

CONTEST PERIOD:

- The contest period begins at **2:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (“EST”) on Friday, September 16, 2011.**
- The contest period ends at **5:00 PM EST on Monday, April 2, 2012.** All entries must be **mailed** to The Akron Global Polymer Academy and **received by this expiration time.** Entries received after the above deadline will be disqualified.

CONTEST DESCRIPTION:

- **The challenge:** to design and create a working invention that incorporates at least 1 rubber band. Entrants choose to compete in one of two divisions: 1) Arts & Leisure Division; or 2) Science & Engineering Division. All inventions must be original. Each entry must be submitted by one student working alone, with the mentorship of parent(s) and/or a teacher/mentor. Group inventions will not be accepted.

HOW TO ENTER:

To enter the contest, **ALL of the following required materials** must be received at the Akron Global Polymer Academy no later than **5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, April 2, 2012.**

- **Official Entry Form (required):** Submit a neatly completed Official Entry Form. It must be **signed by the inventor, his/her parent or guardian, and his/her teacher/mentor.** The signatures on this form attest to the originality of the entry and verify that the invention submitted meets the rules of the competition. Entry forms lacking the required signatures **will be disqualified.**
- **Sketch of Invention (required):** Submit a drawing your invention with a diagram of how it works. Hand drawn or computer renderings are acceptable.
- **Essay (required):** Submit a written description of the invention that does not exceed 1,000 words. The description should be neatly written in black or blue ink or typed. The description should give the name of the invention and include the following four paragraphs:
 - **Paragraph 1:** Explain the use of the invention. What does it do?
 - **Paragraph 2:** Explain the invention’s mechanics. How does it work?
 - **Paragraph 3:** Tell how you came up with the idea and why you chose to enter your invention as Arts & Leisure or Science & Engineering.
 - **Paragraph 4:** Explain why you think there is a need for this invention and how people will benefit from it in society.
- **Photographs (required):** Submit **at least 1** clear photograph of your invention that show(s) it in full view, and **at least 1** clear photograph of you with your invention.

- **Select a Division to compete in (required):** Indicate on your entry form whether your invention is to be judged in the Arts & Leisure Division **OR** the Science & Engineering Division.
- **Videos, CDs, DVDs, Flash Drive (optional):** It is not required, but you may also send a video (VHS format), a CD, a DVD, or a Flash Drive of no more than 5 minutes showing your device and how it works.
- **Mail Your Entry Materials:** Send all entry materials including required Official Entry Form, Essay, Sketch, Photo(s) and optional VHS Video, CD, DVD or Flash Drive to:

**Akron Global Polymer Academy
Polymer Engineering Academic Center
Room 424
Akron, Ohio 44325-0301**

- **DO NOT SEND YOUR ACTUAL INVENTION MODEL AT THIS TIME**
- **Entry Deadline:** All entries must be **mailed** to The Akron Global Polymer Academy and **received** by **5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, April 2, 2012**. Entries received after the entry deadline will be disqualified.
- **Please note the following additional requirements:**
 - Do not use report covers, binders or folders. All sheets should be 8-1/2" by 11".
 - Staple all written materials, sketch, and photo(s) including the Official Entry Form with one staple in the left-hand corner.
 - Contestants who are selected as finalists must be able to send a working model of their invention to the Akron Global Polymer Academy by Friday, April 27, 2012.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT THE CONTEST:

- Original inventions must incorporate the use of rubber bands.
- **Permission to Duplicate.** Students, teachers, and parents are welcome to duplicate any part of this competition information (including the Official Entry Form). All entries must be accompanied by a copy of the Official Entry Form.
- Entry materials, consisting of an essay, sketch, photo(s), video, CD, DVD or Flash Drive will become the permanent property of the Akron Global Polymer Academy and will not be returned to the contestants. Finalist's inventions can be returned at the inventor's expense within six months of submission.

JUDGING:

- Each contestant is limited to one entry.
- The decisions of the judges are final and binding in all matters.
- **Round 1:** Each entry will go through an initial screening process to determine whether it meets all required entry criteria. A panel of judges from the Akron Global Polymer Academy will score each qualifying entry according to the following criteria:
 - **Creativity/Originality** (25%)
 - **Effectiveness/Usefulness** (25%)
 - **Design/Execution** (25%)
 - **Essay** (10%)
 - **Integration of Rubber Band(s)** (15%)
 - Judges' score cards will be tallied and entrants will be ranked in order according to their total overall round 1 score (from highest to lowest). The six highest scoring entries in each division will be deemed finalists in their respective divisions and will move on to the second round of judging. In the event of any ties, the entrants' "Integration of Rubber Band(s)" scores will be used to determine a tie-breaker.
 - Finalists will be notified of their selection by Monday, April 16, 2012.
 - **Each finalist must then ship a working model of his/her invention to the address provided and it must be received by the Akron Global Polymer Academy by Friday, April 27, 2012.** (A Federal Express shipping charge number will be provided to you. Pack your model well; models received in broken or non-working condition will be disqualified.)
- **Round 2:** Each finalist will go through an initial screening process to determine whether they have met the shipping requirements laid out above. A panel of judges (including distinguished scientists, artists, and educators) selected by the Akron Global Polymer Academy will score each qualifying finalist according to the following criteria:
 - **Creativity/Originality** (25%)
 - **Effectiveness/Usefulness** (25%)
 - **Design/Execution** (25%)
 - **Essay** (10%)
 - **Integration of Rubber Band(s)** (15%)
 - Judges' score cards will be tallied and finalists will be ranked in order according to their total overall round 2 score (from highest to lowest). The highest scoring finalist in each division will be deemed the first place winner of their respective division. The next highest scoring finalist in each division will be deemed the

runner-up of their respective division. In the event of any ties, the entrants' "Integration of Rubber Band(s)" scores will be used to determine a tie-breaker.

- First Place Winners and Runners-up will be notified of their selection on or about Friday, May 25, 2012.

PRIZES:

- **2 Grand Prizes** – Each division winner will receive the following:
 - A \$5,000 savings bond.
 - An engraved first-place contest trophy.
- **2 Runner-Up Prizes** – Each division runner-up will receive the following:
 - A \$1000 savings bond.
 - An engraved runner-up contest trophy.
- **8 Finalist Prizes** – Each division finalist who was not selected as a winner or runner-up will receive the following:
 - A \$50 gift card.

ADDITIONAL PRIZE DETAILS:

- All federal, state and local taxes are the sole responsibility of the prize winners. All federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply.
- Failure to follow all contest rules and/or failure to meet all contest deadlines will result in disqualification and forfeiture of all prizes.

RESTRICTIONS, RIGHTS, AND RELEASE:

Note: The *Contest Host* is the Akron Global Polymer Academy of the University of Akron.

- The Contest Host and any and all Contest Sponsor(s) are not responsible for any injuries or damages to participants in this competition.
- The Contest Host and any and all Contest Sponsor(s) are not responsible for events beyond their control, including, without limitation, acts of God, war, strikes or government restrictions, or any other circumstance of force majeure, nor, in the absence of their own negligence for personal injury, accidents, death, property damage or loss, delay caused by person not controlled by the Contest Host or any and all Contest Sponsor(s) including, without limitation, airlines, bus companies, railways, hotels, restaurants, taxis or any other agency, company or individual. All contestants and their parents and/or guardians shall agree to be bound by all rules and regulations specified by the Contest Host and any and all Contest Sponsor(s). Further, such contestants and their parents and/or guardians shall be bound by all of the terms and conditions set forth in all

documents relating to the RUBBER BAND Contest for Young Inventors (including without limitation, the GENERAL RELEASE AND PHOTOGRAPHY/RADIO/VIDEO RELEASE FOR MINOR CHILD).

- The Contest Host and any and all Contest Sponsor(s) reserve the right to amend any portion of the contest, including contest guidelines, publicity and prize packages.
- The Contest Host and any and all Contest Sponsor(s) are granted permission, upon entry into the competition, to use (in their sole discretion) the contestant's name, photograph, likeness, and entry materials including the invention, for publicity purposes. Acceptance of the prizes constitutes permission to the Contest Host and any and all Contest Sponsor(s) to use the prize winner's name and/or likeness for purposes of advertising and promotion and trade without further compensation unless prohibited by law. By accepting the prize awards, prize winners agree to hold harmless the Akron Global Polymer Academy and any and all Contest Sponsor(s), their respective officers, directors, agents, employees, attorneys, shareholders, partners, controlling persons, predecessors, subsidiaries, affiliates, parent corporations, insurers, successors, and assign against any and all claims and liability arising out of their participation in this contest or the use of the prizes. Prize winners assume all liability for any injury or damage caused or claimed to be caused, by the participation in this contest or use or redemption of any prize. By participating in this contest, contestants agree to be bound by the Official Rules and the decision of the judges.
- The Contest Host and any and all Contest Sponsor(s) are not responsible for: lost, late, mutilated or illegible entries nor for mail or shipment errors or delays resulting in omission, defect, delay, theft or destruction or unauthorized access to or alterations of entry materials, or for technical limitations of any kind, or inaccurate transmissions of or failure to receive entry information by the Akron Global Polymer Academy or any and all Contest Sponsor(s) on account of technical problems, or shipment problems or errors.

GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES:

These general safety guidelines are for your general knowledge and are not a substitute for professional advice or common sense. Be sure to thoroughly research the proper safety requirements prior to constructing and testing your invention.

- The Akron Global Polymer Academy and any and all Contest Sponsor(s) **strongly** encourage the observation of all safety guidelines and precautions when building the invention.
- Parents, teachers and any adult mentors or advisors should stress the importance of wearing eye-protection (i.e. goggles) when working with tools.
- Students must operate all tools with the guidance of parent, teacher, or other adults.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

- Phone: (330) 972-8178
- Website: www.rubberbandcontest.org
- Email: rbcontest@uakron.edu
- Mailing Address:

<p>Akron Global Polymer Academy Polymer Engineering Academic Center Room 424 Akron, Ohio 44325-0301</p>
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ENTRY CHECKLIST

Make sure you review the checklist below BEFORE sending in an entry:

- Official Entry Form completed in English.
- Official Entry Form is signed by the student, parent/guardian, and teacher/mentor.
- A description of no more than 1,000 words which is neatly written in blue or black ink or typed.
- A clear design or drawing of your invention.
- At least 1 clear photograph(s) of your invention.
- At least 1 clear photograph of you with your invention.
- General Release Form signed by the student, parent/guardian and witness.
- **Important: DO NOT send your actual invention at this time.**