

Time to Invent Club



Innovation and invention are cornerstones of American society, but not all young people have role models to open doors in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). WGBH, Boston's PBS station, and the Lemelson Foundation are meeting this need through the creation of a new program, the Time to Invent Club. The program, which launched in both Boston and Indianapolis this year, places young STEM professionals and college students in afterschool programs once a week. Working with a group of 10-12 year-old kids, the mentors use a stepped-out curriculum that inspires youth to explore invention. The program will return in the 2010-2011 academic year to sites in Boston and Indianapolis.

Goals of the Program

- Expose disadvantaged youth to the design process through fun, hands-on activities
- Build meaningful relationships between mentors and youth
- Inspire kids to continue their exploration of science, math, and engineering
- Introduce youth to STEM careers

Roles of Mentors

Each afterschool site has two mentors that co-lead the weekly hour-long program. The mentors:

- Have fun working with kids to unleash their creative abilities
- Strengthen their leadership and teaching skills
- Receive training and a stepped-out curriculum
- Get a stipend for program supplies
- Enjoy the support of program staff, fellow mentors, and after-school leaders
- Raise the community service profile of their company or institution

Requirements of Mentors

In addition to having the excitement to mentor kids, mentors are asked to:

- Commit to volunteering for 2-hours per week for 16 weeks during the academic year (set-up and break-down included)
- Attend a fall and spring training (dates TBD)
- Get to and from after-school site
- Collect necessary materials for weekly activities using the stipend
- Participate in program evaluation conducted by Concord Evaluation Group
- Gain clearance on background check

Want to Become a Mentor?

We are looking for new mentors to volunteer in the 2010-2011 program. If you study or work in a STEM field and want to inspire kids, we'd love to hear from you! Interested?

Please Contact:

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