

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

*One page only.* This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors.

Note: If Philanthropy Network’s Common Grant Application is used, CCCF’s **Summary Sheet MUST accompany application.**

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org)

**Date** April 30, 2024

**Contact Information**

Organization Name: The National Inventors Hall of Fame, Inc.  
Address: 3701 Highland Park NW, North Canton, OH 44720  
Phone: 800-968-4332  
Website: [www.invent.org](http://www.invent.org)  
Year Incorporated: 1987  
FEIN: 34-1580038

ED/CEO Name: Michael J. Oister  
ED/CEO E-mail: [sponsor@invent.org](mailto:sponsor@invent.org)  
Board Chair Name: Tom Wolf  
Board Chair Approval (check here):   
Primary Contact Name: Marissa Hoffman  
Primary Contact E-mail: [mhoffman@invent.org](mailto:mhoffman@invent.org)

**Organization Information:**

**Field/s of Interest:**

Arts, Culture & Humanities       Environment/Animal Welfare       Education  
 Health       Human Services       Religion

**Mission:** The mission of the National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF) is to be a catalyst for change through recognizing inventors and invention, promoting creativity and advancing the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.

**Geographic Area Served** (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

All of Chester County, Pennsylvania

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:** Children & teachers; In 2023, NIHF impacted 392,000 children nationwide and 123 campers, Leaders-in-Training, Leadership Interns and Teachers in Chester County.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Annual Budget</b> \$51,457,950                 | <u>238</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff |
| <u>86</u> % of budget for program expenses        | <u>17</u> # of Board Volunteers                 |
| <u>11</u> % of budget for administrative expenses | <u>10,414</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  |
| <u>3</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses     | <u>339,580</u> # of Volunteer Hours             |
| <u>100</u> % total                                |   |

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** United States Patent and Trademark Office (a portion of the Joint Project Agreement supports Camp Invention, Club Invention, and Invention Project) - \$6,255,000; The Overdeck Family Foundation - \$418,000 to Camp Invention; \$28,000 to Club Invention; \$280,000 to Invention Project; Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) (Camp Invention) - \$526,500; Defense STEM Education Consortium (DSEC) (Camp Invention) - \$377,858; Burton D. Morgan Foundation (Camp Invention, Invention Project) - \$171,600

**Is this grant proposal for:** Capacity Building  or General Operating  ?

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$5,000

**Proposal Summary:** Camp Invention brings 32.5 hours of summer enrichment to life for K-6 children in Chester County through hands-on exploration focused on developing inventive thinking, creativity and critical thinking skills. A \$5,000 grant will underwrite participation costs for up to 20 underserved Chester County children who need, but have limited access to, out-of-school education enrichment. In 2023, Avon Grove Charter School hosted 103 children at Camp Invention.

## II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

*Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.*

### 1. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

### 2. Funding request

- Description of key initiatives
- Specific needs & issues to be addressed
- Why it is important to fund this now
- How impact & results will be demonstrated
  
- *For capacity building grant proposals:*
  - *How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?*
  - *How will this impact be measured?*
  - *Include a description of the expected activities; timeline & costs to implement the initiative. If external consulting services are required, include the anticipated costs & expertise of the consultants to be hired. Include external consultant proposals if applicable.*

## III. ATTACHMENTS

*E-mail or mail this support information*

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter
  2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations
  3. Most recent annual report & financial statement, audited if available
  4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date
  5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable)
  6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.
- 
- Use this form @ [www.chescof.org](http://www.chescof.org) to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
  - **Email proposals to [grants@chescof.org](mailto:grants@chescof.org)**
  - Proposals are considered "complete" when CCCF has **confirmed** receipt of the **Grant Proposal Summary Sheet, Narrative & Attachments**.
  - Proposals are shared electronically and online with Fund Advisors, Donors & Grant Panels.
  - Per IRS Regulations, applicants **must be** charitable, tax exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification & **cannot** be individuals.

Please contact Grants Administrator Kevin Baffa at  
(610) 696-8211 [grants@chescof.org](mailto:grants@chescof.org) with questions.



*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,  
so their legacies make a difference.*



## WHAT IS CAPACITY BUILDING?

**Capacity building helps bring a nonprofit to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity, in order to more effectively & efficiently fulfill its mission.**

Capacity building may include (but is not limited to) projects which address:

- **MISSION, VISION & STRATEGY**  
Organizational Assessment - Strategic Planning - Financial Planning
- **GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP**  
Board Development - Executive Transition/Succession Planning - Leadership Development - Staff Training & Professional Development
- **PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS**  
Coalition Building – Collaboration - Mergers & Acquisitions - Strategic Restructuring
- **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING**  
Major Gift Donor Identification, Cultivation, Development & Stewardship - Development Campaigns (Annual, Capital, Planned Giving) - Earned Income Development - Social Enterprise Feasibility & Development - Marketing, Branding & Communications
- **TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS**  
Business Continuity Planning - Financial Management - Human Resources - Volunteer Management - Industry Certification - Risk Management - Technology Improvements

## Camp Invention 2025 Narrative

### History

The National Inventors Hall of Fame® (NIHF) was founded in 1973 by the National Council of Patent Law Associations working in cooperation with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). NIHF's mission is to be a catalyst for change through recognizing inventors and invention, promoting creativity and advancing the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. Over the past 50 years, NIHF has expanded that mission by creating programs that have encouraged over 3.3 million children, teachers, parents, college students and world-changing inventors to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

NIHF's major programs include the Camp Invention® summer program, Club Invention® afterschool program, Invention Project® year-round program, Collegiate Inventors Competition® (CIC), annual NIHF Induction Ceremony, NIHF STEM Middle and High Schools (Akron, OH) and the NIHF Museum (Alexandria, VA).

### Goals

Camp Invention is designed and tested as an educational supplement to provide children and teachers with additional resources to augment classroom learning. Curricula are specifically designed around hands-on approaches to learning, emphasizing skills that will benefit children in all aspects of their education. STEM education empowers children to pursue varied interests and move into different industries with valuable, transferrable skill sets, even if they opt not to pursue a career in STEM. Camp Invention has the following program objectives:

- To impact up to 20 underserved Chester County children in collaboration with Avon Grove Charter School and the Chester County Community Foundation (CCCCF) – measured through registration and attendance
- To improve children's positive attitudes toward STEM by 60% – survey evaluation administered to all participants and their parents
- To enhance children's problem-solving and 21<sup>st</sup> Century work readiness skills by 60% by applying educational content to engaging challenges – survey evaluation and independent evaluation
- To enhance teachers' STEM knowledge bases by 60% through professional development methods to help children think critically and creatively – teacher surveys and independent evaluation
- To facilitate teachers' transference of inquiry-based methodology from Camp to their year-round instruction by 60% – teacher surveys and independent evaluation
- To positively impact teachers' attitudes toward teaching science content by 60% – teacher surveys and independent evaluations

### Key Achievements

In 2023, NIHF partnered with over 2,500 schools and districts in 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico to host PreK-12 programs that directly impacted more than 392,000 children. Through foundation, corporate, government and individual philanthropic partners, NIHF was able to provide scholarship support for over 289,000 of these children, aligning with our mission to reach all children, including those who are underserved. Additionally, NIHF's CIC celebrated its 34<sup>th</sup> year recognizing and rewarding college inventors, with over 4,900 total participants.

### Distinctiveness

Camp Invention is the only nationally recognized enrichment program backed by the USPTO making NIHF uniquely qualified to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and Intellectual Property Literacy™. Since Camp Invention's creation in 1990, NIHF has 34 years of operational experience, program development and partnership success with schools nationwide.

Camp Invention features world-changing inventors - NIHF Inductees. NIHF Inductees share the real-life factors involved with being an innovator, such as risk-taking, failure, tolerance of ambiguity and persistence. Inductees represent diverse races, ethnicities, genders and socio-economic backgrounds. Research supports that early exposure to inventors with similar backgrounds helps inspire innovation in underrepresented children.

Additionally, a study by Summit Education Initiative in Akron, Ohio showed that students who participated in Camp Invention demonstrated improved in-school attendance, an increased median GPA and increased average and median scores on both reading and math standardized assessments. Additionally, NIHF has been making strides in ongoing research to further examine the organization's summer program and its impacts on students' beliefs about invention education.

### **Funding Request & Description of Key Initiatives**

Camp Invention brings STEM to life for children in grades K-6 through hands-on exploration focused on developing creativity, inventive thinking and critical thinking skills. A \$5,000 grant from CCCF will underwrite participation costs for up to 20 underserved Chester County children who need, but have limited access to, out-of-school enrichment. Support from CCCF will allow these children to learn alongside their more affluent peers.

Camp Invention is an enrichment program (32.5 hours) with curricula focused on developing creative, inventive thinking and problem-solving skills through hands-on STEM content. STEM learning builds skills that extend far beyond those needed in traditional science fields. Quality STEM education empowers children to pursue varied interests, move into any industry with valuable skill sets and become a confident problem solver in any area of life.

NIHF's Education Team develops new curricula each year. The 2025 Camp Invention curriculum is being piloted and tested this summer for national implementation in summer 2025. The program's four modules, tentatively named, are *Illusion Workshop*, *Claw Arcade*, *Penguin Launch* and *In Control*. These modules will guide children as they explore hands-on applications of physics, biology, engineering, entrepreneurship and the arts. Curricula are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core State Standards as well as CASEL social emotional learning (SEL) Competencies.

While hosted at one school, Camp Invention is open to all children in the community. Camp Invention targets students in grades K-6 (Campers) and 7-9 (Leaders-in-Training) (LIT). Local teachers and Leadership Interns (high school and college students) facilitate the program, and those teachers who participate in the program gain valuable professional development. Camp Invention includes support from a program manager, stipends, curricula, program materials, step-by-step instructions and full registration and promotional support to ensure seamless and consistent delivery.

In 2023, Camp Invention was held at Avon Grove Charter School in Chester County, which impacted a total of 103 children, 3 LITs, 10 Leadership Interns and 7 teachers. In 2023, Camp Invention attendees at Avon Grove Charter School represented 16 different schools in the local community. In 2024, Avon Grove Charter School is hosting Camp Invention the week of June 24<sup>th</sup>. During the 2023 Camp Invention season in Pennsylvania, there were 55 total program sites statewide that impacted a total of 4,086 children, 289 LITs, 392 Leadership Interns and 300 teachers.

NIHF's Pennsylvania Regional Program Manager (RPM), Jason Rentner, works alongside the local Director, as well as local teachers, and administrators to cater each program to the community's needs. The 2024 program marks Avon Grove Charter School's 8<sup>th</sup> year hosting Camp Invention and Bethanne Lindenbaum's 3<sup>rd</sup> year as Director. To guarantee positive customer relations and satisfaction, Jason works hand-in-glove with Bethanne to ensure the program's success.

The program's base price per child is \$270 for campers, there is no cost to the school, district or educators. Camp Invention is a turnkey program consisting of activity-oriented modules that make up a unique, fun-filled, educational program. The children are grouped by age and rotate through various modules each day. Each module represents an integration of science, math, arts, literacy, history, and social studies, utilizing hands-on activities, intended to advance the child's academic literacy.

### **Statement of Need & Importance**

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted education across the nation, particularly for underserved children. In 2023, the nonprofit NWEA released a report that found students' academic gains during 2022-2023 fell short of trends before the pandemic, and students will need an additional 4.1 months of schooling to catch up in reading and 4.5 months for math. As recent data has demonstrated, for students in high-poverty schools, the road to recovery may be even longer.

Support from CCCF is crucial to creating an even playing field between underserved children and their more affluent counterparts. Avon Grove Charter School (Chester County) has a Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) rate of approximately 37%, which indicates a large population of local underserved children. Many local families do not have the financial resources to access summer learning experiences, and these children are in danger of experiencing the severe summer learning loss and overall achievement gap found to happen in low-income households. Funding from CCCF will be restricted to Chester County to provide equity and level the playing field between underserved students and their more affluent counterparts.

### Impact & Results

NIHF regularly assesses Camp Invention to evaluate its success. As part of this evaluation process, NIHF develops surveys that are distributed to parents of children and to teachers who participated in the program. The survey results are reviewed and analyzed internally by NIHF teams. To ensure satisfaction, NIHF makes annual program updates (e.g., operations, curricula development) based on this survey feedback.

A sampling of responses from parents whose children attended the program in Chester County in 2023 follows:

- 85% reported their children's critical thinking was "stronger" or "slightly stronger"
- 100% reported their children's creative problem solving was "stronger" or "slightly stronger"
- 92% reported their children's creative thinking was "stronger" or "slightly stronger"
- 85% reported their children's teamwork/collaboration skills were "stronger" or "slightly stronger"
- 100% reported their children's positive attitude towards STEM was "stronger" or "slightly stronger"

When asked "Please let us know how Camp Invention has positively impacted your child. We love to hear your stories!" Parents reported the following:

- "First time going to Camp, and he was very nervous the first day. By the last day he was teary eyed it was over! I wish this was more than one week!! He had a blast and loved having the younger counselors in charge of him! Makes it more on their level!! Keep up the awesome program."
- "My daughter came home every day SO excited to share new concepts and activities. She loved attending and told the camp director she wished STEM camp could be more than 1-week!"
- "Your program improved my son's critical thinking and increased self-confidence. He made new friends and engaged in group projects which will be easier to transfer those skills into the regular classroom setting."

A sampling of responses from teachers from Eastern Pennsylvania programs in 2023 follows:

- 86% reported their overall satisfaction with the program "exceeded all" or "exceeded some" expectations
- 100% reported they were "likely" or "slightly likely" to apply an experiential hands-on approach to learning after Camp Invention
- 100% reported they were "satisfied" or "slightly satisfied" with the degree to which the program enhanced their comfort level with teaching STEM
- 96% reported they were "likely" or "slightly likely" to foster risk taking

Below are some Eastern Pennsylvania programs teacher comments in response to the question, "What events or parts of the program were most meaningful to you?"

- "I loved watching the students grow throughout the program and watching the evolution that happened within each area."
- "I think getting to see the kids' excitement was what was most meaningful to me. I spoke with parents who said their child got up and dressed every day without any fight. They couldn't wait to come every day!"
- "Listening to students share their individual inventing process."

Additionally, NIHF prioritizes working with professional independent evaluators to measure objectives and outcomes. NIHF's long-term partnerships with regionally and nationally accredited organizations differentiate the organization from similar groups who do not possess the organizational or financial capacity to pursue third-party program evaluations. In 2023, NIHF's Camp Invention program received a world-class\* Net Promoter Score (NPS) of 86 and a Satisfaction Rating of 98% from customers and a world-class\* NPS of 88 and a Satisfaction Rating of 98% from teachers.