

## EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE

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**We listened, and Camp Invention is pleased to announce that in our all-new program *Fast Forward*, each participant will be provided their very own Take Apart item—a robotic dog!**

Children not only get to take apart this electronic device to see how it functions inside, but they will test, analyze and customize their very own pet robot to take home. Since 1995, Camp Invention has featured hands-on, reverse engineering and prototyping so children can tinker and explore. Why is this important? Research of our world's greatest innovators showed a commonality that as children, they all took apart devices to feed their curiosity!

**And while we are supplying the Take Apart, make sure to help your child find some fun Upcycle items to assist in the week-long inventing.** Our Collegiate Inventors Competition finalists, NeoVent, used a yogurt container and duct tape to create their prototype which later became a lifesaving infant respirator used in third world countries!

At Camp Invention, your child will create a few invention prototypes using special materials provided such as LEDs, gearboxes and motors. Children are also encouraged to use items from the Inventor Supply Room—a space where all the recyclable items brought in are stored and made available to help fuel children's imaginations. Turning these recyclables into prototypes is called upcycling, and we value this process for several reasons:

- Selecting items promotes creative problem solving
- Inventing and solving challenges does not always require special equipment
- Manipulating items by cutting, taping and gluing develops fine motor skills

*“As prototypes unfold, they allow you to work on things, they allow you to make changes—prototypes don't often work, they break, they change, you have new ideas. You have to manipulate them a lot. Your prototype has to be flexible.”*

- Steve Sasson, Inventor of the Digital Camera and 2011 National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductee.

## HERE'S WHAT TO BRING

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- A packed lunch, drink and snack each day, clearly marked with your child's name unless you are notified otherwise
- Clean, shareable Upcycle items will be collected at sign-in on the first day (these are shared between all participants during the program and cannot be assigned to a specific child or returned)

A great Inventor Supply Room is stocked with items such as paper towel rolls, plastic bottles and containers, unused crafting supplies such as fabric and ribbon scraps, beads and buttons, seashells and branches, and boxes of all sizes. So pick over your play space, clean out your "junk drawers," and sort through the clutter! Please make sure all items are safe and child-friendly and that any food-related items have been washed.

Take a look at the Upcycle examples below for more ideas. Upcycling is a fun, hands-on way for campers to explore design thinking and gain confidence in their ideas!

## ACCEPTABLE UPCYCLE EXAMPLES

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- Boxes (shoe, cereal), bubble wrap, paper towel tubes
- Containers/lids (oatmeal containers, film canisters)
- Craft supplies (beads, buttons, fabric)
- Foam trays, rubber bands, CDs
- Miscellaneous paper (magazines, newspapers, etc.)
- Sporting goods, balls (no golf clubs or bats)
- Strainers, washers, pulleys, strings, springs
- Unwanted toys (plastic figurines, building blocks, car/train tracks, toy vehicles, game parts, pinwheels)

***Please don't bring:*** Batteries, cords, glass, glitter, hangers, liquids, medicine containers, paint, packing peanuts, cans, wire

***We can't wait to see your child at Camp Invention!***