

Press Release – For Immediate Release
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Decatur County United Fund Announces Camp Invention Scholarships



North Decatur students along with Joane Cunningham, Executive Director of Decatur County United Fund are excited about the upcoming Camp Invention.

The Decatur County United Fund Board of Directors recently awarded a \$5000 grant to the Decatur County Community Schools for the 2022 Camp Invention Program. Camp Invention is a program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the future of innovation and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Invention is a process that requires collaboration, hands-on application of STEM, creative problem solving, entrepreneurship and an understanding that moments of failure are necessary on the path to success. This innovation system – a network of programs influenced by inventors – provides an authentic, hands-on opportunity to experience the invention process first hand. Led by local, certified educators, our programs offer equal access to STEM education while positioning inventors as role models, helping to reduce disparities in STEM fields and build a more innovative future.

The program is open to any child entering grades K-6, regardless of school district, and will be held at North Decatur Elementary School at 3300 North State Road 3, Greensburg, Indiana, June 6-10, 2022 from 9:00 am until 3:30 pm each day. Extended day hours available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 pm for an additional fee. Directed by Linda Smith and staffed with fellow local educators, campers will explore technology while building confidence in their natural ability to dream and create.

With *Robotic Aquatics* campers create a habitat for a robotic fish --- complete with a symbiotic friend – and then take their fish home in its mini tank. *Spacecation* inspired by real space exploration, campers construct Spacepacks and Astro-Arm devices, mine asteroids and observe ice volcanoes. *NIHF'S THE ATTIC* combines science and art to build their own robotic artists, campers make spin art and learn that everyone can be creative. *Marble Arcade* allows campers to get their game on as they experiment with the fun of physics and engineering to build their own mega marble arcades.

The cost for the week-long camp is usually \$245, but due to the special grant awarded by the Decatur County United Fund, a \$120 scholarship will be given to the first 50 Decatur County students enrolling reducing the registration fee to \$125. Scholarships are available on a first-come, first-served basis; space is limited.

“The Decatur County United Fund is a local organization committed to improving the lives of Decatur County individuals by funding programs impacting the health, education and economic mobility of our community. The funding we raise in our community *stays* in our community. This is our fourth year providing scholarships for the Camp Invention Program and we are very excited to make this exceptional educational experience more affordable for children in Decatur County,” said Joane Cunningham, Executive Director of the Decatur County United Fund.

Register at INVENT.ORG/CAMP or 800-968-4332.

For questions about Camp Invention, please contact Linda Smith at lsmith@decaturco.k12.in.us or NDES 812-663-9215.

Additional photos:

