

Inventions that STRETCH the Imagination!

The Rubber Division of the American Chemical Society (ACS), The Akron Global Polymer Academy and the University of Akron hosted the second Rubber Band Contest for Young Inventors to encourage students in grades five through eight to demonstrate their creativity and ingenuity by creating an invention that incorporates the use of rubber bands.

Here are some of the finalists....



“The Bottle Cap”

Andy Le Grade: 8

East Brunswick, NJ

The Bottle “CAP” is a very simple device. It consists of the top part of a bottle, plastic, tape and two rubber bands. With this invention, every cup becomes a bottle. It works on any cup, round, square, triangular, tall, short, large, and small. It acts as an adjuster, allowing the Bottle “CAP” to fit on any size cup.



“Mail Indicator”

Robert Allen Speed III Grade: 5

Iowa Park, TX

The Mail Indicator is a device in which a light turns on at the back of the box when the delivery person opens the door of the mailbox. It stays on so that the people in the house know that the mail has arrived. When the door of the mailbox is opened, a paper clip that is hooked on one side of the mailbox door to a rubber band is released to trigger the switch.

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“Newspaper Flinger ”
Nicholas A. Hiti Grade: 5
Euclid, OH

The Newspaper Flinger will launch your paper right to the front door so that you don't have to make a perilous journey just to retrieve your paper. It makes it easier for you to get your paper, but it also makes it easier for the delivery person to make sure that the paper is on your doorstep. The Newspaper Flinger consists of a crossbow –style mechanism made of wood for support.



“ElastiBed”
Benjamin E. Dabney Grade: 7
Radford, VA

The “ElastiBed” provides a safe sleeping haven for children and infants in developing countries by protecting them from the harmful effects of mosquitoes, the primary carriers of the deadly disease, malaria. When used in combination with mosquito nets, it will provide a greatly improved barrier against mosquitoes, and lead to fewer children catching the disease.



“Rubber Band Bottle Stacker”
Brooke E. Wujek Grade: 8
Oak Ridge, NC

The Rubber Band Bottle Stacker is used to hold root beer bottles in place in the refrigerator when they have to be laid down. This invention utilizing rubber bands and magnets keeps the bottles stacked neatly on the shelf.



“Ping Pong Organizer”
Zachary D. Althouse Grade: 5
Paducah, KY

The Ping-Pong Equipment Organizer was made to help keep track of all ping-pong equipment. It works well, because once you take one ball out, the rest stay in. It prevents balls from falling on the floor. One side of the invention can hold up to three ping-pong balls, and the other side can hold two or more paddles. This invention keeps the equipment organized.

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“The Shag Bag”

Taylor M. Brooks Grade: 5

Paducah, KY

The Shag Bag is an expandable purse made of large rubber bands chain-linked together. The Shag Bag is made up of different colors of cloth which are bound together to make a cute, fashionable design. The Shag Bag is designed to expand in any different direction to allow you to hold many different shapes and sizes that may not fit into your typical purse or bag.



“Webands Waterbands”

Kenneth “Tucker” Haas Grade: 7

Charlotte, NC

Weband Waterbands is a social project designed to engage kids to become advocates for nonprofit organizations through their purchase of colored and printed rubber bands. The bands are then used to decorate reusable or disposable water bottles, giving kids a place to display their support for their chosen cause.



“Rubber Rebound”

Justin J. Kozlowski Grade: 5

Grand Island, NY

The Rubber Rebound is a tabletop game. It is played with two players and two dowels per person. You play with a marble puck. Twist the rubber band paddles on the dowel to shoot and pull back and forth to move. The objective is to score in the opponent’s scoring holes, but watch out for the hole in the middle and the rubber band bankers. The first one to ten wins!

