



## YMCA of Metropolitan Washington

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

Media Advisory

### **LOCAL KIDS CREATE ECO-FRIENDLY INVENTIONS AT YMCA *THINGAMAJIG INVENTION CONVENTION***

*Thousands of Children to Compete in Green Invention Competition*

**WHO:** All YMCA branches throughout the Metropolitan Washington region and more than 3,500 children from the D.C. area will be attending. Participating branches include Alexandria, Arlington, Bethesda/Chevy Chase, District of Columbia, Reston, Loudoun, Potomac Overlook/Fort Washington, Prince George's County, and Silver Spring.

**WHAT:** The YMCA *THINGAMAJIG* Invention Convention is an environmentally friendly competition where children use recycled materials to create inventions while learning about the importance of protecting the environment. Participants cannot use kits and cannot spend more than \$20 on materials.

A day filled with imagination, creativity and learning for children ages 5-14, Thingamajig has been receiving national attention. The event began modestly in a backyard with less than 100 children. This year more than 3,500 participants are expected. **Admission is free and open for everyone.**

Kids compete in 11 eco-theme challenges including:

- Trashion Fashion— turn trash into couture and model the design down the green carpet
- Smart Green House — construct an eco-friendly home
- One Man Band — create an instrument from recycled materials
- On the Spot Invention —teams create a green invention on the spot

Other activities will include

- Organic Pizza Garden — kids plant pizza ingredients and learn about organic farming
- Computer autopsies with the Best Buy Geek Squad
- Games, workshops and activities that promote green and healthy living
- Appearance by Recycle Lady and Enzo Dog— an entertainer who juggles recycled materials while riding a unicycle

**WHEN:** **Thursday, July 30, 2009**  
**9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.**

**WHERE:** The Show Place Arena/Prince George's County Equestrian Center  
14900 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

**TO PARTICIPATE IN YMCA THINGAMAJIG INVENTION CONVENTION CALL (for publication): 202-232-6700 or visit [www.ymcadc.org](http://www.ymcadc.org)**

**MEDIA ONLY CONTACT (not for publication):**

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