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**The Y’s 23rd Annual Thingamajig Invention Convention
 “Imagine the Possible”**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – July 27, 2017 – The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington will host the 23rd Annual Thingamajig® Invention Convention at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro, Maryland from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Y’s Thingamajig® Invention Convention has touched the lives of over 100,000 kids living in the DC, Maryland, and northern Virginia areas. Using their imagination and ingenuity, kids ages 4 to 15 will showcase their inventions, constructed from recyclable materials, and participate in hands-on activities such as cooking challenges, film making, physical fitness competitions, LEGO robotics, recyclable fashion shows, and so much more—all to promote science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Thingamajig was created by Janice Williams, SVP of Youth Development, in 1994 as a way for kids to demonstrate what they learned as part of a science and technology camp. In its first year, there were 138 kids from 3 camps – last year, 4,205 Y campers and local kids were in attendance.

Thingamajig continues to get bigger and better every year. Last year, 441 inventions were submitted, and 71 vendors lead fun interactive workshops for the kids. The event would not have been a success without our 480 volunteers who served as judges, activity leaders, and assistants. The event will be hosted in 18 cities over the next year.

Summer learning loss is a huge concern among parents and teachers, and has drastically widen the achievement gap for some students. Through hands-on learning and creativity, Thingamajig® combats summer learning loss, and promotes educational discovery. The Y’s Thingamajig® Invention Convention has been widely recognized by the White House for exposing youth to STEM programs that statistically are known to improve academic performance.

We are honored to have the support of organizations and agencies who continuously donate their resources and time. Each year, over 500 sponsors and volunteer organizations become a major part of this one-day event.

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About YMCA of Metropolitan Washington: The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington is a non-profit charity organization that has been serving the communities and families of DC, Maryland and Virginia for nearly 165 years. Through opportunities in wellness, aquatics, youth sports, summer camps, child care and more, the Y engages more 250,000 individuals and families. www.ymcadc.org.