



## 2017-2018 FUTURE CITY COMPETITION FACT SHEET

- The annual Future City Competition for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students is held from September 2017 through February 2018.
- More than 40,000 students from 1,350 middle schools typically participate nationwide in the regional competitions. The winning team from each qualifying regional competition receives a trip to the Future City Finals at the Hyatt Regency in Washington DC, **February 18-21, 2018.**
- Future City, a STEM program, is reaching girls and underserved students:
  - 49% of participants are girls.
  - 33% of participating schools have 50% or more of their students enrolled in the reduced or free lunch program.
- Future City students learn the value of Math, Science, and more:
  - 85% of students reported that Future City helped them see that math and science are important to their future.
  - 57% said Future City helped them in their other classes at school.
- Future City is a program of DiscoverE, a consortium of professional and technical societies and major U.S. corporations.
- Major funding for the Finals comes from Bechtel Corporation, Bentley Systems, and Shell Oil Company.
- Student teams, along with an educator and volunteer STEM mentor, research and design a solution to a city-wide challenge that changes each year. This year's challenge—***The Age-Friendly City***—addresses the challenges in designing innovative solutions that can serve an urban area's older population. Participants will identify an age-related challenge that older adults face in today's urban environments and then design two innovative solutions that allow their city's seniors to be as active and independent as they want to be. Planning for an older demographic means conceptualizing accessible and safe transportation options, barrier-free access to buildings and infrastructure and innovative health care support and services.
- Competing teams are judged by panels of volunteers from the STEM and design communities on five deliverables:
  - Virtual City slideshow: Teams design a city using SimCity software and present their city's progress via a slideshow;
  - City Essay: This 1,500-word essay outlines the team's solution to *The Age-Friendly City* challenge;
  - City Model: With only a \$100 budget, teams build a model of their city to scale with at least one-moving part and using mostly recycled materials;
  - City Presentation: Teams have 7 minutes to impress the judges by showcasing what they've learned and what their city is all about; and
  - Project Plan: Students complete a four-part plan to help them organize their project.

- The top prize at the Finals is \$7,500 for the organization's STEM program plus a trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama for the official team members, awarded by Bentley Systems. The first runner up team is awarded a \$5,000 prize for the organization's STEM program, provided by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). The second runner up is awarded a \$2,000 prize for the organization's STEM program. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place teams each receive an Honorable Mention and \$750 for their organization's STEM program.
- Thirty-eight regional final competitions will be held in January 2018. Participating regions include: Alabama; Arizona; California (Northern); California (Southern); Colorado; Florida (South); Florida (Tampa Bay); Georgia; Great Plains, Idaho; Illinois (Chicago); Indiana; Iowa; Kentucky; Louisiana; Michigan; Mid-Atlantic; Minnesota; Nebraska; Nevada; New England; New Jersey; New Mexico, New York (Albany); New York (City); New York (Western); North Carolina; Ohio; Oklahoma; Pennsylvania (Central); Pennsylvania (Philadelphia); Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh); South Carolina; Tennessee; Texas (Houston); Texas (North); Washington (Seattle); and Wisconsin. Additional competitions will be held in two sub-regions: Florida (North East), and Washington (Inland Northwest), with those winners going on to compete at the Regional level. Future City's international regions in Canada, China and the Middle East will also host competitions.
- Future City received the 2016 *Henry C. Turner Prize for Innovation in Construction* from the Turner Construction Company and the National Building Museum. Future City was also honored in 2015 as the grand prize winner of a \$100,000 award in the UL (Underwriters Laboratories Inc.) Innovative Education Award program (ULIEA).
- DiscoverE is leading a growing volunteer movement that inspires and informs present and future generations to discover engineering. Our network of volunteers in the US and abroad is drawn from the DiscoverE coalition of more than 100 professional societies, major corporations and government agencies. Together we meet a vital need: introducing students, parents, and educators to engineering, engaging them in hands-on engineering experiences and making science and math relevant.
- For more information, visit [www.discovere.org](http://www.discovere.org).

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