



Inspire the Future: Be a Future City Mentor!

Mentors make connections to real-life experiences, serve as a technical coach, and help students translate the academic to the real world of engineering.

What is Future City?

The Future City Competition is a transformative, project-based learning experience that asks 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to imagine, design, and build cities of the future. Student teams spend four months:

- learning about city design and management using SimCity software,
- researching a city-wide sustainability issue and designing a solution (this year's challenge—Power of Public Spaces—asks students to design a city with a distributed network of innovative, multiuse public spaces that serves the city's diverse population), and
- building a scale model of their city using recycled materials. In January teams present their vision to a panel of volunteer judges.

Future City is a powerful tool that strengthens students' 21st century skills, teaches them citizenship, motivates them to study math and science, and introduces them to potential careers in the engineering field.

Mentor Role & Commitment

Working with the team's educator (a teacher, parent, or afterschool leader) the Future City mentor provides advice, guidance, and technical assistance as students develop their city.

You may interact with your team in person, via email, or even via skype! Ideally mentors volunteer an hour a week with their teams. Typically mentors dedicate at least 12-14 hours between September and January.

In the early weeks, you'll meet with the team to get to know the students and focus them on the big picture: good urban design, an overview of the annual challenge topic, and brainstorming possible solutions. Later, you may help students establish a scale for their model and work with them to polish their presentation.

Your students may compete in their regional competition and if they win, you'll join them for the Finals in February in Washington, DC!

Who makes a good Future City mentor?

Anyone who works in the STEM community – including engineers, technical professionals, architects, and city planners – would be a great Future City mentor.

We think you'll enjoy it, too! **Last year, 98% of mentors said they'd recommend Future City to a colleague!**

For more information:

Visit: www.futurecity.org

Email: info@futurecity.org

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/FutureCityCompetition

