What is the Future City® Competition?
Future City is a competition for middle school students (6th, 7th and 8th graders) to use their creative and innovative imaginations to design a city of the future. Students work with an educator and an engineer (a volunteer mentor from the community) to design and build their city. Students apply science, technology, engineering, art, and technology knowledge to their projects, and at the same time enhance their writing and presentation skills.

This year’s regional competition will be virtual due to concerns from COVID-19. The Official Team includes the three student video presenters, an educator, and engineer mentor. These three students DO NOT have to be the same three students who represent the team in the virtual Q&A on February 13, 2021. All teams will compete for locally-sponsored specialty awards and prizes as well as the Regional Title, which will be announced during the virtual Awards Ceremony on the morning of February 27, 2021. The winner of the Regional Competition will compete in the National Competition, which will also be virtual this year and held in April 2021. Last year’s local awards and prizes totaled over $7,500.

Requirements & Scoring:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Plan – Due February 6, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virtual City Design using SimCity™ (no longer a judged or required deliverable, but up to two codes can be requested, following completion of the Program Details Survey in CMS, and used as an educational tool)</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Essay (max. 1500 words) with a focus on what makes your city unique and your solution to an assigned engineering related topic – Due December 5, 2020</td>
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<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>City 3-D Model showing a section of the city – Due January 9, 2021</td>
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<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Oral Presentation of the city design, model, and essay topic focus – Due January 30, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Q&amp;A (done virtually) with a panel of judges from the engineering, city, and technical communities – Scheduled on February 13, 2021</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL POINTS</strong></td>
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<td>208</td>
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The Future City Competition is a program that is open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Students from the same school, a home school environment, or are members of a nationally, regionally, or state-recognized youth-focused organization, such as the Boy or Girl Scouts, 4-H, youth groups are encouraged to form a team and design a city of the future. This year, due to the heightened potential for distance learning at home, parent-led teams will also be accepted. In addition, teams may participate in the competition even without completing all of the deliverables and still be recognized for their accomplishments. Registration for this year’s competition closes on October 31, 2020.
The Teacher/Educator/Parent
- The teacher will lead their team of students throughout the process.
- Dedicated time is up to each individual teacher. Estimated time 2-4 hours/week.
- Teachers are responsible for working with the mentor to co-advice the team of students.

How do I get matched with a mentor?
- The first step is to register on the National website: www.futurecity.org.
- Materials including the handbooks and software (if requested) will be sent to the teacher.
- The Planning Committee will assist in the search for a mentor for your team, although many teams discover their mentors through parents/friends.

Mentors
- Mentors are local volunteers from the science/engineering/technology fields who are dedicated to helping their assigned team 2-4 hours a week.
- As the team’s advisor, the mentor provides valuable input and technical assistance.
- Mentors are responsible for drawing connections between academics and the real world of science/engineering/tech.
- Mentors provide enthusiasm and leadership.
- Students MUST do all the work. Teachers and mentors coach, guide, and teach the students to plan their project, build the city, write the essay, present their city and solution, and prepare for the Q&A.

Step 1: PROJECT PLAN (10 pts)
- Follow the template in the handbook and at www.futurecity.org to set goals for your project, define a schedule, conduct check-ins, and reflect on your experience. Points are earned for submitting the plan.
- All four parts of the project plan should be uploaded as one PDF to the Future City Competition Management System (CMS). Deliverable due date is February 6, 2021.

Step 2: CITY ESSAY (58 pts)
- The team will write an Essay (max. 1500 words) describing the city’s key features, design attributes, infrastructure, public services and engineering solution to this year’s assigned engineering related topic. This year’s topic is Living on the Moon – Design a future lunar city and provide examples of how your city uses two Moon resources to keep your residents safe and healthy.
- At least 3 sources of information must be cited on the essay reference page. Modern Language Association (MLA) format is preferred. Wikipedia cannot be cited as a reference.
Step 3: **BUILD THE CITY** (65 pts)

- The team will build a 3-D Model of a section of their city. The model is a creative representation that best represents the team’s vision of a section of their city.
- The model can be constructed as one single model or as multiple model segments, where the model segments are separate pieces that represent various sections of the city. Model segments do not need to fit together physically.
- The model will be presented in a slideshow (using the provided template on www.futurecity.org) that showcases their city via photos, a link to a short video of the moving part, and brief descriptions of their work.
- There is no limit to the number of model segments created. However, there is a maximum limit of 19 photos in the slideshow.
- If multiple model segments are constructed, each model segment can be built with a different scale. However, each model segment must be consistent with its scale. There are no size restrictions on the model or model segments.
- Each model must include at least one moving part (ie. transportation, power generation, communications, etc.). Each model segment does not need its own moving part, but at least one is required per team. Power sources must be self-contained.
- A short video will be recorded (no longer than 1 minute) demonstrating the moving part in action, describing the role it plays in the city, and explaining how the team designed and built it. A link to the where the video is posted on a platform that is publicly accessible (e.g., YouTube) will need to be included in the slideshow.
- Students will choose the materials for building the model. Material costs for the model, presentation, etc. (e.g., visual aids, costumes, color copying/printing, 3D printing, and other demonstration aids) may not exceed $100 (cash and in-kind). Students are encouraged to use recycled items. All items used in the model and presentation must be listed with values on the Expense Form with receipts where applicable.
- No perishables/food items, live animals, or hazardous items (e.g, dry ice, fire, flying objects), electrical floor or wall outlets, or audio may be used in the model.
- The completed slideshow template with must be uploaded as a PDF to the Future City CMS. Deliverable due date is **January 9, 2021**.
Step 4: COMMUNICATE RESULTS (50 pts)

- The team will prepare a verbal presentation of their city (max. 7-minute presentation). Presentations should be well polished, clear, and audible.

- Only the three students representing the team can appear in the video presentation. The three presenters should share equal time during the video and demonstrate similar levels of knowledge of their future city.

- The model or model segments should be the primary visual aid in the video. Other visual aids may include posters, graphics, slides, costumes, photos of the model, greenscreens, background images, or slideshow images. No copyrighted materials, such as music, photos, and videos, may be used.

- Digital handouts/brochures are not permitted. All materials used onscreen in the video (e.g., costumes and props) must be included on the Expense Form as part of the $100 maximum. Items such as cellphones used for filming, cameras, and editing software, if used, do not need to be included in the budget nor listed on the expense form.

- The presentation can be done in-person with a webcam or phone; virtually through Zoom, Google, or other type of video chat platform; or separately by recording each presenter individually and then editing into one video. All editing must be done by a student member of the team.

- The presentation video will need to be posted on a platform that is publicly accessible (e.g., YouTube) and the link to where the presentation is posted will be uploaded to the Future City CMS. Deliverable due date is January 30, 2021.

Step 5: CITY Q&A (25 pts)

- Unlike previous years, the Q&A portion of the program will be completed separate from the City Presentation. The Q&A will take place virtually using Zoom software.

- The three students representing the team in the Q&A DO NOT have to be the same three students who represented the team in the City Presentation. The three team members will have 10 minutes to answer questions from a panel of judges on all aspects of their project.

- Model/model segments and physical visual aids (e.g., posters) may be used during the Q&A session. Screen sharing and videos are not permitted.

- Each team will be scheduled for a 30-minute Q&A session with a panel of judges on February 13, 2021.

Please see the handbook for scoring deductions. Deductions will be applied when necessary.