

Future City Changes for the 2020-21 Year

Item	Regional Competition (Albany, NY)	National Competition for the Winner for Regionals (Washington, D.C.)
<p>FUTURE CITY STRUCTURE <i>Historically, teams comprised of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students were encouraged to work together in-person, although this was never a requirement.</i></p>	<p>This year, the Future City-Albany competition will continue to allow 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to compete in-person or virtually as a team. Furthermore, teams are welcome to be school teams, organizational teams (i.e., RPI STEP, library teams, 4-H, etc.), or parent-led teams. This change is due to the heightened potential for distance learning at home.</p>	<p>Your team can compete in-person, virtually, or in a combination of in-person and virtual environments. This is no change from previous years.</p>
<p>COMPETITION DATE</p>	<p>This year, the live Q&A portion of the competition will be held virtually on Saturday, February 13. Three team members will represent the team at a designated time for a 10-minute virtual Q&A session with judges using Zoom software. It is anticipated that each session will last 30 minutes. The awards ceremony will be held on the morning of Saturday, February 27, and will be a virtual event livestreamed on Zoom.</p>	<p>Normally held in-person every February, this year the National Competition will be held virtually in April 2021. More details will soon follow.</p>
<p>3D MODEL <i>Normally the model is required to be in one piece, with strict specifications.</i></p>	<p>This year, the team can choose to build one single model like normal, or in multiple pieces (model segments) that highlight various sections of your city. If you choose to build your model using model segments, the segments do not need to fit together. Teams will submit a slideshow highlighting their model using a given template. The slideshow will showcase their city via photos, a link to a short video of the moving part, and brief descriptions of their work.</p>	<p>The National Competition will use the same model requirements and rubric that the Albany regional competition will use.</p>

<p>PROJECT PLAN <i>In a normal year, teams must complete a Project Plan as a written deliverable.</i></p>	<p>Regionally, the project plan will continue to be required as a written deliverable. There will be no change from previous years.</p>	<p>At the National Competition, the project plan will continue to be required as a written deliverable. There will be no change from previous years.</p>
<p>ESSAY <i>In a normal year, teams must complete an essay answering the engineering challenge.</i></p>	<p>Regionally, the essay will continue to be required as a written deliverable. There will be no change from previous years.</p>	<p>At the National Competition, the essay will continue to be required as a written deliverable. There will be no change from previous years.</p>
<p>PRESENTATION <i>Normally this presentation is completed in-person, and “live.”</i></p>	<p>This year, the official three presenters for the team will record an up-to-7-minute video presentation. The presentation will need to be posted online (e.g., YouTube) and the link to where the presentation is posted will be uploaded into CMS. 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.</p>	<p>This year the presentation will be recorded and submitted in CMS as a link to where the presentation is posted online (e.g., YouTube). Only three team members are allowed to participate in the presentation, which is the same rule as previous years.</p>
<p>QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD <i>Typically the Q&A is done with the team of three presenters, immediately following their formal, in-person presentation. The presentation and the Q&A period are typically done by the same three students.</i></p>	<p>This year, the Q&A portion of the program will be completed separate from the City Presentation. 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, and they will have 10 minutes to answer questions from a panel of judges on all aspects of their project. The Q&A will take place virtually using Zoom software.</p>	<p>This year, the Q&A will be completed virtually with the national judges, but the Q&A will be done “real time”—recorded responses will not be allowed. Only three presenters are allowed to participate in the Q&A, which is not a change from previous years. However, the three presenters are welcome to be the same or different from the presentation team, which is a new option this year.</p>
<p>VIRTUAL CITY <i>Historically, the Future City program has used the program Sim City™ as a judged element,</i></p>	<p>This year, SimCity is no longer a judged or required deliverable. However, if you would like to use SimCity as an education tool, you may request up to two codes in CMS, following completion of the</p>	<p>This year, the virtual city is not a judged or required deliverable. However, teams are encouraged to use the SimCity program as an educational tool if it’s convenient for them to do so.</p>

<p><i>both regionally and nationally.</i></p>	<p>Program Details Survey in CMS, similar to previous years.</p>	
<p>SCORING <i>Every team is evaluated on a strict score sheet.</i></p>	<p>This year, the competition’s scoring has changed to reflect the elimination of the Sim City component. The new overall scoring is as follows:</p> <p>Project Plan: 10 points City Essay: 58 points City Model: 65 points City Presentation: 50 points City Q&A: 25 points</p>	<p>The same scoring is used at the national competition as at the regional level.</p>
<p>JUDGES <i>The judging group is a crucial component of the competition at a regional and national level. Judges grade each competition element per a strict rubric.</i></p>	<p>The Future City-Albany program is going to need as many judges this year as we have in the past. Typically, we need about 70 adult professionals to volunteer their time in judging various elements of the program. Please contact Heather and Amanda at (fcc.albany.judge@outlook.com) for more information or to sign up!</p>	<p>Judges are important in evaluating teams at the National Competition, too. Details in how you can sign up to volunteer as a judge for the National Competition will be available in November/December.</p>
<p>MENTORS <i>Typically, each team is encouraged to work with an engineering mentor to help guide them through the Future City program and to answer team questions.</i></p>	<p>The Future City-Albany region will continue to pair engineering mentors to work with teams. Contact the committee to be paired with a mentor! Use of a mentor is not required.</p>	<p>The National Competition encourages the use of engineering mentors to assist with the requirements of the national competition. Use of a mentor is not required.</p>
<p>SPONSORS <i>Both the regional and national competitions need the help of corporate sponsors to help finance and facilitate aspects of the competition.</i></p>	<p>The Future City-Albany competition continues to welcome the support of our corporate sponsors! Contact Wayne at (wbonesteel@maserconsulting.com) for our fundraising brochure.</p>	<p>The National Competition continues to welcome the support of corporate sponsors! You can learn more by providing your information through the national website https://futurecity.org/form/sponsor-information-request. Someone from National will contact you.</p>

<p>MULTIPLE TEAMS <i>Historically, a maximum of three teams from the same classroom or organization were welcome to compete. Team sizes were limited to 15 students.</i></p>	<p>Multiple teams from the same organization are welcome to compete at the regional level. Due to this year's format, there is no limit to the number of students per team. Only the top-scoring team from any one organization is allowed to advance to the regional finals, which consists of the top 3 scoring teams.</p>	<p>Only the top team from any region advances to the National Competition. There is no change to this requirement from previous years.</p>
--	--	--

Resources:

- New this year is “Dig Deeper,” which is a resource portal where students can explore various elements of engineering. Learn more at: DiscoverE.org/discover-engineering and also pbs.org/designsquad.
- The Future City national website continues to offer a wide variety of resources on all the competition deliverables and topics for teams to explore. Visit their website at www.futurecity.org.
- The Future City regional committee will continue to provide online tutorials about major competition components throughout the school year. The committee is also working to set up a tutorial about this year's topic, as we have done in the past. Details about the tutorial are not yet ready to be shared.