



## Inspire the Future: Be a Future City Mentor!

Mentors make connections to real-life experiences, serve as technical coaches, and help students translate academic concepts to the real world of engineering and city design.

### What is Future City?

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

- designing a virtual city (using SimCity),
- researching and designing solutions to a city wide issue (this year's topic—The Age-Friendly City—asks students to identify an age-related challenge that exists in today's urban environment and engineer two innovative solutions that allow their city's senior citizens to be as active and independent as they want to be), and
- building a scale model of their city. In January teams present their vision to a panel of volunteer judges.

Future City is a powerful program that strengthens students' 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, teaches them civics concepts, motivates them to study math and science, and introduces them to potential careers.

### Mentor Role & Commitment

Working with the team's educator (a teacher, parent, or afterschool leader who serves as the project director), the Future City mentor provides guidance, real-life connections, and technical assistance.

You may interact with your team in person, via email, or even via skype! Typically, most mentors volunteer 20-40 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 essay 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 or city design community – such as engineers, technical professionals, architects, and urban 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!**

#### **For more information:**

Visit: [www.futurecity.org](http://www.futurecity.org)

Email: [info@futurecity.org](mailto:info@futurecity.org)

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