**NJ Region Policy for non-school-affiliated groups**

Certain non-school affiliated groups are pre-approved at a national level. Regional, state, or nationally recognized groups such as Boys & Girl Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, 4-H are three examples of approved groups for the competition. Please check with the NJ Region if you are not sure if your group qualifies.

For non-school groups that wish to enter the NJ Region competition, it is required that a leader or coach is designated. This leader must submit to the NJ Region Schools Coordinator the names of the students in the group and the middle schools that each student in the group attends, as well as identify him/herself as the leader by providing us contact information. If any student attends a middle school that is participating in the competition, he/she must compete with the school.

For 6-8th grade students attending schools that are not participating in Future City, the school must first be given the opportunity to join the competition and register a team, where the attending student would have the opportunity to participate. If the school is not interested in competing, the group leader must submit a letter from the school’s principal stating that the school will not be participating in the competition. The leader will also need to submit letters from each of the students’ parents/guardians approving the students’ participation in this out of school activity.

The group leader’s submission of the letters from the school(s) and parents/guardians to the NJ Region School Coordinator shall constitute a petition for the group’s participation. This submission shall be made as one package and must be received no later than October 15th before the regional competition date. Petitions will be decided by the NJ Region Steering Committee on a case-by-case basis, and be decided on in no later than two weeks from when the petition is received.

Any non-school group that is accepted into the competition must follow all competition rules and deadlines as set forth by Future City and the NJ Region.