



2021-2022 FUTURE CITY COMPETITION FACT SHEET

- The 30th annual Future City Competition for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students will be held from September 2021 through March 2022.
- More than 45,000 students from 1,500 middle schools typically participate in the United States, Canada, China, and Nigeria. The winning team from each qualifying region competes at the Future City Finals.
- For a second year due to COVID, teams can complete the deliverables in-person (i.e. in a classroom or afterschool program) or remotely (i.e. collaborating online while learning from home). The entire project can be completed by team members working remotely.
- Regional competitions may be virtual or offer in-person elements. Plans vary by region.
- A decision about holding the Future City Finals in-person or virtually will be made in the Fall and based on CDC guidelines.
- Future City, a STEM program, is reaching girls and underserved students:
 - 49% of participants are girls.
 - 33% of participating schools have 50% or more of their students enrolled in the reduced or free lunch program.
- Future City students learn the value of Math, Science, and more:
 - 85% of students reported that Future City helped them see that math and science are important to their future.
 - 57% said Future City helped them in their other classes at school.
- Future City is a program of DiscoverE, a consortium of professional and technical societies and major U.S. corporations.
- Major funding for Finals comes from Bechtel Corporation, Bentley Systems, and Shell.
- Student teams, along with an educator and volunteer STEM mentor, research and design a solution to a city-wide issue that changes each year. This year's challenge—*A Waste-Free Future* — asks teams to design a futuristic city using the three principles of a circular economy: designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems.
- Competing teams are judged by panels of volunteers from the STEM and design communities on five deliverables:
 - City Essay: Teams have 1,500 words to describe their futuristic city and solutions to the *Waste-Free Future* challenge;
 - City Model: With only a \$100 budget, teams creatively repurpose recycled materials to build a scale model of their city. This year, teams will present their model work to judges in the form of a slideshow with photos, descriptions, and a short video of the moving part;
 - City Presentation: Teams record a 7-minute video presentation about their city;
 - City Q&A: Teams will have a 10-minute Q&A session with judges from the engineering, technical, and city design fields, conducted live via a video conferencing platform or in-person (depending on your region), and;
 - Project Plan: Students complete a four-part plan to help them organize their project.

- The top prize at the Finals is \$7,500 for the organization's STEM program plus a trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama for five team members, awarded by Bentley Systems. Second place is awarded a \$5,000 prize for the organization's STEM program, provided by Shell. Third prize is \$2,000 for the organization's STEM program, provided by Bechtel Corporation. The 4th and 5th place teams each receive \$750 for their organization's STEM program, provided by NCEES.
- Thirty-nine regional competitions will be held in January 2022. Participating regions include: Alabama; Arizona; California (Northern); California (Southern); Colorado; Florida (South); Florida (Tampa Bay); Great Plains, Idaho; Illinois (Chicago); Indiana; Iowa; Kentucky; Michigan; Mid-Atlantic; Minnesota; Missouri; Nebraska; Nevada; New England; New Jersey; New Mexico, New York (Albany); New York (City); New York (Western); North Carolina; North Dakota; Ohio; Oklahoma; Pennsylvania (Central); Pennsylvania (Philadelphia); Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh); South Carolina; Tennessee; Texas (Houston); Texas (North); Washington; Washington (Inland Northwest) sub-region, and Wisconsin. Future City's international programs in Canada and China will also host competitions.
- In 2017-18, Future City received a prestigious national award for being a leading engineering education program. It was recognized as the "Most Innovative Hands-On Project" by [US2020](#) and co-founding sponsors, Chevron and Tata Consultancy Services, for its achievements and innovations in STEM education and its accessibility to underrepresented youth. In 2016, Future City received the *Henry C. Turner Prize for Innovation in Construction* from the Turner Construction Company and the National Building Museum. Future City was also honored in 2015 as the grand prize winner of a \$100,000 award in the UL (Underwriters Laboratories Inc.) Innovative Education Award program (ULIEA).
- DiscoverE is leading a growing volunteer movement that inspires and informs present and future generations to discover engineering. Our network of volunteers in the US and abroad is drawn from the DiscoverE coalition of more than 100 professional societies, major corporations and government agencies. Together we meet a vital need: introducing students, parents, and educators to engineering, engaging them in hands-on engineering experiences and making science and math relevant.
- For more information, visit www.discovere.org and www.futurecity.org.

For more information:

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