

Collaborating Together for Team Success



Roles: Future City is unique because students drive the project: the ideas, the research, the deliverables, and the outcomes. However, the adult members of the team – the educator and the mentor – are important guides for students. The educator registers the team, oversees the overall project success, and uploads the team’s deliverable submissions. The mentor supports the team as they explore engineering— facilitating discussions, helping students refine ideas, and providing feedback. By tying in real-life professional experiences, the mentor helps students connect academic concepts to the real world.

Meetings: Educators and mentors can meet with the team in person or virtually. The educator needs to be included in all communications between the students and the mentor.



Virtual Possibilities: Don’t let geography get in the way of inspiring the next generation! Physical location isn’t a barrier during this virtual program cycle. A team could be located on the East coast and have a mentor on the West coast, or vice versa.

Questions for the Educator to Consider:

- What are the rules and requirements for external people interacting with kids at your school/organization? Check with your school district or principal to ensure all guidelines are followed.
- What is your vision for working with your team this year? How does the mentor fit into this vision?
- Will your team meet in person or virtually? Which meetings would you like the mentor to attend?
- How can you and the mentor combine your strengths and skills to be great resources and guides for your team?

Questions for the Mentor to Consider:

- Do you know a team who needs a mentor? If not, email the Program Coordinator, Jake Williams at info@FutureCity.org to be matched to a team who needs your expertise.
- Teams may meet in person and/or virtually this year. How much time can you volunteer to the team?
- What strengths, knowledge, and skills do you have to offer the team?
- Would any colleagues be interested in mentoring a team, too? Spread the word!
- You may need to undergo a simple background check via a service like [Intelius](https://www.intelius.com/). Ask your team educator about their school/organization’s requirements.

Resources for Mentors and Educators:

- Learn about how to effectively talk to kids about engineering [with this free workshop](https://www.discovere.org/workshop) from DiscoverE.org (<https://bit.ly/2DqZdps>).
- Learn best practices for Future City from veteran mentors in this webinar recording:
 - [Best Practices and Advice for Mentors](https://bit.ly/3keJs5z) (<https://bit.ly/3keJs5z>)
 - Find additional helpful materials on the [Future City Resources page](https://futurecity.org/resources) (futurecity.org/resources)

“I enjoyed having the opportunity to share my professional knowledge... while watching the students get excited about future career opportunities and what they were learning.” -- Kristin Schuster, Architect and Future City Mentor