Official Competition Rules

General

1. The Future City Competition is open to eligible 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial, home school environment, led by a parent whose child is distance learning due to COVID-19, or are members of a nationally, regionally, or state-recognized organization, such as the Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, 4-H, etc. If you are unsure if your organization is eligible to participate, please contact info@futurecity.org. Future City has the sole and exclusive authority to determine whether an organization is eligible to participate and has the right to require additional documentation to verify eligibility.

2. Student team members must be from the same school or organization, unless otherwise approved by a Regional Coordinator or Future City staff. Students cannot be on multiple teams.

3. Organizations may register in only one region. If they wish to transfer to a different region, they must petition and obtain the approval of the Regional Coordinator and the Program Manager. Teams must commit to a specific region by October 31, 2020.

4. As many students may work on the project as you wish, but a limited number may appear in certain deliverables. Three students will represent the team in each of these instances: the City Presentation video, the City Q&A live session, and Special Award judging. These students may be the same or different. The three students who appear in the City Presentation, in addition to one educator and one mentor, constitute the official team of five members. The Educator and Mentor may not participate in the City Presentation, City Q&A, or Special Award judging.

5. All 2021 competitions will be virtual. The same three students who participate in the City Q&A at the Regional Competition will participate in the City Q&A at the Finals Competition. At the time of registering your team(s) for the Regional Competition, you may select one student to act as a Q&A alternate for both Regionals and Finals. The alternate may only be utilized if one of the original three Q&A students cannot compete due to illness or family emergency. The alternate may only compete upon the approval of the Regional Coordinator (for the Regional Competition) and the Program Manager (for the Finals Competition).

6. At least 20 schools/organizations must be registered in a region by October 31, 2020 in order for that region’s winner to advance to the virtual Finals Competition.

7. Home school educators must submit an affidavit to their Regional Coordinator stating that the students are covering material in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grades.

8. Deliverable deadlines vary by region. Contact your Regional Coordinator for specific dates. If deadlines are missed at the Regional or Finals level, points will be deducted.

9. At regional competitions, only one team from a school or organization can advance to the final round of judging. At competitions with a single judging round, only one team from a school or organization may be awarded a place in the top five overall teams.

10. All team members must sign and submit the Honor Statement online prior to the regional deadline.

11. Judges evaluate each deliverable in accordance with the rubrics. The score a judge assigns is final. Decisions are final. Teams will not receive raw scoresheets or be able to review scores from individual judges.

12. Actions or comments by any team member or any team supporter that maligns, disparages, or harasses other team members, Regional Coordinators, Future City volunteers, or Future City staff will result in the team’s disqualification from that year’s competition and could result in the school/organization being ineligible to participate in the future.

13. If a dispute or disagreement occurs at the regional level, an official Future City Team Educator shall bring the matter to the attention of the Regional Coordinator. An official Team Educator is the only person who may submit a complaint to the Regional Coordinator. The Regional Coordinator will thereafter conduct an investigation and make a determination regarding the complaint. All decisions by the Regional Coordinator shall be final and cannot be appealed.

14. In the case of a tie at the Regional Competition, the team with the higher Q&A score will be awarded first place. If the tie still remains, the team with the higher presentation score will be awarded first place.

15. Educators can see their team’s average scores by logging into futurecity.org after the Regional and Finals competitions. Educators may download their team’s score information by following instructions at www.futurecity.org/resources before April 30th, 2021. After April 30th, 2021 scores will be erased from the database.

16. A person who volunteers in the capacity of a judge (at any level) during the competition cycle may not serve as a mentor nor an educator during that same cycle. Nor may they provide guidance, coaching, tips, etc., to any active team member, teacher, engineer mentor, etc., during that same competition cycle. If violated, that judge’s scores will be invalidated.

17. If a team is located outside the typical geographical parameters of a region, whether or not they are permitted to participate in said region is at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator.

18. The team’s educator must be present any time team members meet virtually or in person with the team mentor.

19. Future City is an educational program established to encourage children to consider and explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. Future City participants and their supporters acknowledge that
participation in Future City is not a right. By participating in the Future City Competition, team members and team supporters agree and are bound to behave with respect and dignity for their team and for their fellow participants.

20. Future City reserves the sole and exclusive right to amend these rules at any time.

City Essay

21. Students must submit a reference page citing at least three sources of information with the essay. (Note: Wikipedia cannot be cited as a reference.)

22. The maximum word count is 1,500. Initial tabulation is done by the “word count” tool within the word processing software. The final word count does not include the title and reference list but does include captions and words that appear within a graphic, illustration, or table. A maximum of four graphics or illustrations are allowed. A penalty will apply if word count exceeds 1,500.

23. The City Essay file must be uploaded as a word processing document, not a PDF.

24. If any part of a team’s City Essay is determined to be plagiarized, the team will earn zero points.

City Model

25. Teams will build a single model or multiple model segments. Teams will submit a slideshow of photos and brief descriptions using the provided template and following instructions on page 65. The moving part will be demonstrated in a short video, whose link will be included in the slideshow.

26. The slideshow should be completed in accordance with the template instructions and be submitted as a PDF.

27. Teams must design a new model/model segments. Teams may not use previous years’ models. Previous models may be broken down and scavenged for materials including the bare model platform. Any previously used materials must be reconfigured in a new and original manner and assigned a current market value.

28. Models have no physical size restrictions. Teams may create as many model segments as they want (provided they stay within the budget).

29. Prohibited model items: live animals, perishables/food, drones or other flying objects, hazardous items (including dry ice) and fire.

30. Each model must include a moving part. A team with multiple model segments is only required to create one moving part, not one for each segment.

31. Each team will record one video (not longer than 1 minute) demonstrating their moving part, describing the role it plays in the city, and explaining how the team designed and built it. The video should be posted on any video platform that is publicly accessible (e.g. YouTube), and a link to the recording will be included in the slideshow.

32. Power sources must be self-contained, (e.g., a household battery/simple circuit). Use of electrical wall or floor outlets is not allowed.

33. The total value of the materials used in the Model, Presentation, Q&A, and special awards (including visual aids, costumes, color copying/printing, 3D printing, and other demonstration aids) may not exceed $100.

34. All materials used must be listed on the Competition Expense Form and their value documented for the Model, Presentation, Q&A, and special awards. This includes donated and borrowed items at fair market value. This will be uploaded to the website.

35. Each model or model segment must be consistent in scale. However, different segments (even among the same team) may use different scales.

36. Use of 3D printers for any model materials must be assessed using the following values, which account for the cost of filament and the hardware/printer:

- White 3D printing: $2.00 per cubic inch
- Color 3D printing: $5.00 per cubic inch
- All 3D printed materials used – whether new or reused – must be reported on the competition expense form using these values.

37. Programmable circuit boards (ex: Raspberry Pi, Arduino) are permitted as long as the full cost is listed on the expense form. A minimum $35 value is required to be listed for such boards.

City Presentation

38. The Presentation may not exceed 7 minutes and only three student representatives may appear in the video.

39. Presenters may use their model/model segments, photos of their model, posters, graphics, slides, costumes, and other visual aids.

40. No copyrighted materials (such as music, photos, and videos) may be used.

41. Materials used onscreen in the video (e.g. costumes and props) must be included in the $100 budget. Items like cellphones used for filming, cameras, and editing software, if used, do not need to be included in the budget nor listed on the competition expense form.

42. Digital handouts/brochures are not permitted.

City Q&A

43. Virtual City Q&A sessions will be scheduled by each region. Finals sessions will be scheduled by Future City Headquarters.

44. At the virtual regional competitions and Finals, each team will have 10 minutes to answer questions from a panel of judges.

45. Only three students may participate in the Q&A session with the judges.

46. Teams may use their model/model segments and physical visual aids (e.g. posters) during their Q&A session. Screen sharing and videos are not permitted.
**Scoring Deductions**

By completing all five deliverables, teams can earn up to 208 points. Judges evaluate each deliverable in accordance with the rubrics. The score a judge assigns is final. At the virtual Regional Competition, the Regional Coordinator has the final word on any dispute. At the Finals Competition, the judges’ decisions are final. There is no appeals process at either level of competition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Penalty</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5–10 points</td>
<td>Missing the submission deadline for a deliverable</td>
<td>The deliverables must be received in accordance with deadlines set by the Regional Coordinator. Check with your Regional Coordinator to determine if they accept late submissions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>Exceeding City Essay word count</td>
<td>Maximum of 1,500 words.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 points</td>
<td>Competition Expense Form is missing or submitted late</td>
<td>The Competition Expense Form, with receipts, must be submitted by the regional deadline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>Missing team identification information in City Model Slideshow</td>
<td>Teams must identify their future city’s name and school/organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 points</td>
<td>Exceeding City Model Slideshow slide limit</td>
<td>Slideshows may not exceed more than 25 slides. Teams may not add any slides not included in the template.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 points</td>
<td>Not adhering to City Model slideshow text boxes</td>
<td>Teams cannot change the sizes of text boxes nor include written content outside the approved text boxes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 points</td>
<td>Exceeding the $100 limit or misrepresenting the values of materials used in the city model and/or video presentation</td>
<td>The total value of the materials used in the model, as well as those used in support of the video presentation (including visual aids, costumes, color copying/printing, three-dimensional printing, and other demonstration aids) may not exceed $100.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 points</td>
<td>Missing Honor Statement</td>
<td>Each student team member, the educator, and the mentor must electronically sign (and adhere to) the Honor Statement. Complete the form at futurecity.org/resource/honor-statement-form.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>Unsportsmanlike conduct</td>
<td>Rude behavior or disruption of judging by any team member or guests.</td>
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<td>0 points earned for deliverable</td>
<td>Plagiarism</td>
<td>If a team’s deliverable is determined to be plagiarized, the team will earn zero points for it.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Disqualification</td>
<td>Destruction of another team’s model or presentation materials or actions or comments from team members or team supporters that malign, disparage, or harass regional coordinators or volunteers</td>
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**QUESTIONS?**

Check out the Frequently Asked Questions at futurecity.org.

Don’t see your question there? Email your Regional Coordinator or info@futurecity.org.