

What is Future City?



Future City is a project-based engineering education program that challenges middle-school students to imagine, design, and build cities of the future.

Participants learn about the wonders of engineering, use the engineering design process to address civic and social issues, and become change-makers in their own communities.

What Do Participants Do?

Guided by an educator and STEM mentor, participants:

- Use the Engineering Design Process and Project Management Cycle to explore city design and management
- Brainstorm and design a solution to a city-wide issue
- Build a scale model using recycled materials
- Record a short video to showcase their future city
- Answer questions about their city from a panel of technical judges

The Need for Future City

“Future City connects with an incredibly diverse range of students, providing the kind of exciting, hands-on experiences, resources, and mentorship that can make the difference between a student pursuing further education and a STEM career or not.”

- Chris McFadden, Vice President, Turner Construction

2021 Challenge: Living on the Moon

Design a lunar city and describe how it uses two of the Moon’s resources to keep the city’s residents safe and healthy.



What Sets Future City Apart?

“What draws me to Future City is that students are encouraged to inquire deeply. They learn about the roles of engineering; the key aspects, levels, and layers of STEM – as they engage, many often develop an interest in pursuing a career in it someday.”

- Jeffery Flagg, Future City Educator in Southern CA

Future City Participants Say It Best

- ◆ *“Future City taught me to look at the world around me in a new way.”*
- ◆ *“Now I can go into a real-life city and know why things are where they are.”*
- ◆ *“I love Future City. It makes my brain sweat!”*

Be a Team Mentor



The Mentor's Role

Mentors work alongside the team educator (a classroom teacher, afterschool program leader, homeschool educator, or parent) and act as a coach and role model. They provide guidance, connections between academic concepts and real-life, and technical assistance to the middle school team members.

What Do Mentors Do?

Future City is student-led, but mentors are an integral part of the team. You could:

- Explore research resources with the team
- Read the team's City Essay and offer feedback
- Help the team polish their City Presentation script
- Practice Q&A with the team
- Share information about your career
- Be a sounding board for the team's ideas
- Help the team determine a scale for their City Model

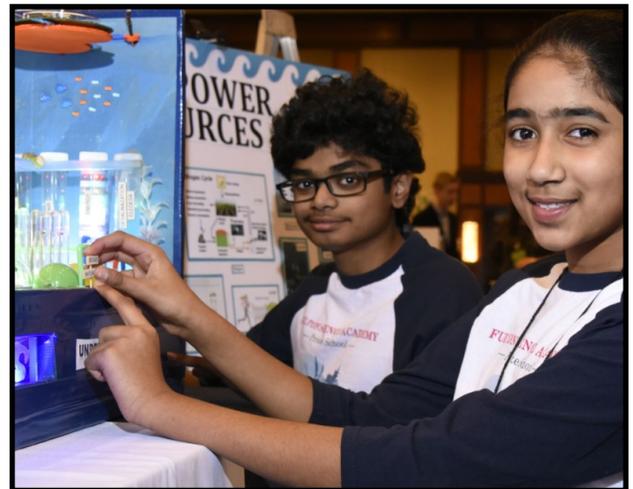
Volunteer From ANYWHERE!

Future City is completely virtual for the 2020-2021 program cycle, which means teams can fully participate whether they are able to meet in person or remotely.

You can choose to mentor a team in your local area or across the country!

Mentors Have Diverse Backgrounds

Are you an engineer or technician? An urban planner or architect? Are you an undergrad or graduate student studying a related field? Join our community of mentors!



"Being involved in Future City has been very rewarding. I shared my professional knowledge about sustainability, architecture, and planning - while watching the students get excited about what they were learning and future careers. This is a wonderful program that allows kids to problem solve some of the big questions our cities will face in the future."

- Kristin Schuster, Architect & Future City Mentor

Great Reasons to Volunteer:

- Share your passion for your career.
- Make a lasting impression on kids.
- Inspire the next generation.
- It's fun!