2024 – 2025 Rules & Guidelines

CAPITAL DISTRICT FUTURE CITY® COMPETITION

What is the Future City® Competition?

Future City is a competition for middle school students (**6th, 7th and 8th graders**) to use their creative and innovative imaginations to design a city of the future. Students work with an educator and an engineer (a volunteer mentor from the community) to design and build their city. Students apply science, technology, engineering, art, and technology knowledge to their projects, and at the same time enhance their writing and presentation skills.

This year's regional competition will be held in person on January 18th, 2024 at Shaker High School in Latham, NY. The Official Team includes the three students who participate in the presentation, live Q&A, an educator, and engineer mentor. All teams will compete for locally-sponsored specialty awards and prizes as well as the Regional Title, which will be announced during the Awards Ceremony on Competition Day. The winner of the Regional Competition will compete in the National Competition, which may be held in Washington DC. Last year's local awards and prizes totaled over $7,000.

Requirements & Scoring:

City Essay	54
City Model	65
City Presentation and Q & A	72
Project Plan	10
TOTAL POINTS	**201**

The Future City Competition is a program that is open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Students from the same school, a home school environment, or are members of a nationally, regionally, or state-recognized youth-focused organization, such as the Boy or Girl Scouts, 4-H, youth groups are encouraged to form a team and design a city of the future. This year, due to the heightened potential for distance learning at home, parent-led teams will also be accepted. In addition, teams may participate in the competition even without completing all of the deliverables and still be recognized for their accomplishments. Registration for this year's competition closes on October 31, 2024.

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The Teacher/Educator/Parent

- The teacher will lead their team of students throughout the process.
- Dedicated time is up to each individual teacher. Estimated time 2-4 hours/week.
- Teachers are responsible for working with the mentor to co-advise the team of students.

How do I get matched with a mentor?

- The first step is to register on the National website: www.futurecity.org.
- Materials including the handbook (if requested) will be sent to the teacher.
- The Planning Committee will assist in the search for a mentor for your team, although many teams discover their mentors through parents/friends.

Mentors

- Mentors are local volunteers from the science/ engineering/technology fields who are dedicated to helping their assigned team 1-4 hours a week.
- Mentors will receive an email from IntelliCorpo with a link to a background screening process after registering. Upon successful completion, the mentor will receive a VISA Gift Card as reimbursement for the background check.
- As the team's advisor, the mentor provides valuable input and technical assistance.
- Mentors are responsible for drawing connections between academics and the real world of science/engineering/tech.
- Mentors provide enthusiasm and leadership.
- Students **MUST** do all the work. Teachers and mentors coach, guide, and teach the students to plan their project, build the city, write the essay, present their city and solution, and prepare for the Q&A.

Step 1: PROJECT PLAN (10 pts)

- Follow the template in the handbook or in the Resources section of the Educator Dashboard at www.futurecity.org to set goals for your project, define a schedule, conduct check-ins, and reflect on your experience. Points are earned for submitting the plan.
- All four parts of the project plan should be uploaded as PDFs to the Educator Dashboard at www.futurecity.org.

Step 2: CITY ESSAY (54 pts)

- The team will write an **Essay (max. 1500 words)** describing the city's key features, design attributes, infrastructure, public services and engineering solution to this year's assigned engineering related topic. **This year, teams will design a floating city and provide two innovative examples of how your floating city works and keeps its citizens healthy and safe.**
- At least 3 sources of information must be cited on the essay reference page. Modern Language Association (MLA) format is preferred. Wikipedia cannot be cited as a reference.
- Place the word count at the end of the document. 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 4 graphics/illustrations are allowed.
- AI may assist with drafting concepts, outlines, and minimal syntax, but research, writing, and structure must be completed by students. Honor Code compliance is required.
- The essay deliverable must be uploaded as a word processing document, not a PDF, to the Educator Dashboard.

Step 3: BUILD THE CITY (65 pts)

- The team will build a 3-D Model of a section of their city. The model is a creative representation that best represents the team's vision of a section of their city. Your team can choose to build one single model or multiple model segments. The score break up is as follows:

  City Design – 30 points

  Build it: Quality, Scale, & Materials – 20 points

  Judge Assessment of Model – 15 points

- The model may be no larger than 25"(W) x 50"(L) x 20"(H). During the presentation, it is permissible to have extended parts, such as access doors, compartments, and hinged pullouts, as long as they are fully self-supported by the model, or - if removable - held by a presenter.
- Model must contain at least one moving part (ie. transportation, power generation, communications, etc.). Power sources must be self-contained.

- Your team has two model options:
    - Option 1: Your team can choose to build one single model.
    - Option 2: Your team can choose to build multiple model segments. These model segments are separate pieces that represent various sections of the city
- The model must be built to scale as defined by the team. A max of 4 scales may be used. Each scale that is used should be clearly defined, easily determined by sight, and indicated on their index card.
- Students will choose the materials for building the model. Material costs for the model, presentation, etc. (e.g., visual aids, costumes, color copying/printing, 3D printing, and other demonstration aids) may not exceed $100 (cash and in-kind). The cost of the flat empty base (e.g. the cost of plywood or similar material) is exempt. It does not need to be included in your team's expense form. Students are encouraged to use recycled items. All items used in the model and presentation must be listed with values on the Expense Form with receipts where applicable.
- Rotating city models are acceptable. No vertical-oriented models. No perishables/food, live animals, drones or flying objects, hazardous items (e.g, dry ice or fire), electrical floor or wall outlets, or audio may be used in the model.
- While a small number of individual pieces from previous competition models may be reused, models must be a new representation of a future city and built from the bare baseboards up.
- Any electrical power must be self-contained (for example, a household battery). Use of floor or wall outlets is not allowed.
- Include a 4" x 6" Model Identification Index Card to be displayed next to the model including: a) the city name, b) scale(s) used for the model, c) school/organization name and d) names of the three presenting students, educator, and mentor.
- **What will you use to represent the water? (Remember: All water used in your model must be self-contained or drain-able. Plus water can get really heavy!)**

Step 4: COMMUNICATE RESULTS (72 pts)

- The team will prepare a verbal presentation of their city (up to a 7-minute presentation). Presentations should be well polished, clear, and audible. Only the three students representing the team can present. The scoring break up is as follows:

  Content & Delivery – 48 points

  Engineering and Technology – 24 points

- Students may use visual aids, such as flip charts, foam boards, poster boards, etc. that adhere to standard sizes (24" (W) x 36" (H) for poster boards, 25" (W) x 30" (H) for flip charts, 36” x 48” for tri-fold boards). A maximum of two boards or charts may be displayed at any one time, or one tri-fold at one time. The size does not include the easel, which will be provided.
- Other Demonstration Aids: accessories, small mock-ups, etc. used to assist with the presentation must collectively fit within a 6” x 6” x 12” volume (shoe box). If the team chooses to provide handouts, they are limited to one 8.5”x11” sheet of paper. All demonstration aids including handouts and costumes must be included on the Expense Form as part of the $100 maximum.
- Laptops, DVD/video players, audio equipment, etc. may not be used for the presentation.
- Teams will have 8 minutes to answer questions from a panel of judges. The official team presenters for the City Q&A session must be the same as the city presentation representatives.
- The three student representatives should share time equally and display a similar amount of knowledge and understanding of the topics.
- Model/model segments and physical visual aids (e.g., posters) may be used during the Q&A session.

Please see the handbook for scoring deductions. Deductions will be applied when necessary.