Competition Rules

Official Competition Rules

General

1. The Future City Competition is for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students only, enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school environment, or are members of a nationally, regionally, or state-recognized organization, such as the Boy or Girl Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, 4-H, etc. (If you are not sure if your organization will qualify, please contact info@futurecity.org). The Future City program has sole authority to determine whether an organization constitutes a nationally, regionally, or state-recognized organization.

2. Student team members must be from the same school or organization.

3. A student cannot be on multiple teams (e.g., a team at school and a team from a recognized organization).

4. Organizations may register in only one region or sub-region per year. 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, 2015.

5. You may have as many students working on the project as you wish, but only three students can represent your educational institution or organization by giving their team’s presentation and answering questions at the Regional Competition and National Final Competition. In addition, one educator (any educational professional) and one mentor (because of the nature of the competition a mentor from the engineering community is preferred, but a mentor can be anyone involved in a technical profession) are recognized as part of the official team of five members but may not participate in the competition presentation or answer questions from judges.

6. The team members that compete in the National Final Competition must be the same team members that won the Regional Competition. At the time of registering your team(s) for the Regional Competition, you may select one student who can act as an alternate for both the Regional and National Competitions. The alternate can only be utilized if one of the original three presenters cannot compete due to illness or family emergency. The alternate can only compete upon the approval of the Regional Coordinator and the Program Manager.

7. At least 20 schools/organizations must be registered in a region in order for that region’s winner to advance to the National Final Competition.

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

9. If deadlines are missed at the Regional or National level, points will be deducted from the score.

10. 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.

11. Winners of a sub-region’s competition will advance to compete at the Regional Competition.

12. All team members must sign the Honor Statement and submit it in accordance with the schedule set by the Regional Coordinator.

13. The judges’ decisions are final. Any disputes at the Regional level will be resolved locally. There is no appeal process to the National office. Prizes are non-transferable or exchangeable.

14. For the National Finals: Each Future City participant is solely and exclusively responsible for his/her health insurance coverage. Future City provides no coverage prior to, during, or following any Future City event and Future City assumes no responsibility or liability in connection with the provision of any health insurance coverage.

15. In the case of a tie at the regional competition, the team with the higher presentation score will be awarded first place. If the tie still remains after that, the team with the higher model score will be awarded first place.

16. Educators can see their team’s average scores by logging into futurecity.org following the Regional and National competitions. Teams will not receive raw score sheets from judges or further breakdown of scores. Educators may download their team’s score information by following instructions at futurecity.org/resources (filter for Judges Manual & Scoresheets) before February 28, 2016. After February 28, 2016 scores will be erased from the database.
Virtual City Design (SimCity)

17. Teams are not allowed to create their cities using SimCity’s Sandbox mode.

18. Cheat codes are discouraged but not forbidden.

City Description

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

20. The City Description maximum word count is 1,500 words. Total words will be determined by the “word count” tool within the word processing software. Word count does not include the title and reference list, but does include captions of graphics and illustrations. A maximum of four graphics/illustrations are allowed. A 10-point penalty will apply if word count exceeds 1,500.

21. Upload your team’s City Description file as a word processing document, not as a PDF.

22. If a team’s City Description is determined to be plagiarized, the team will earn zero points for the deliverable.

City Model

23. Teams must design a new model each year and are not allowed to use a previous year’s physical model. *(Note: individual materials, including the model’s platform, may be reused.)*

24. No perishable or food items may be used for building materials. Use of live animals is also prohibited. If water is used on the model, it must be self-contained or drainable.

25. Due to shipping constraints, the physical model must be no larger than 25” (W) x 50” (L) x 20” (H), including all supporting braces, materials hanging below or beyond the tabletop, and all fully extended parts, such as access doors and hinged pullouts. Failure to comply with the physical model dimensions will result in a 15-point penalty.

26. Vertically oriented physical models are not accepted.

27. The physical model must contain one or more moving parts.

28. Any power source must be self-contained, *(e.g., a household battery and simple circuit). Use of electrical wall or floor outlets is not allowed.*

29. The total value of the materials used in the city model, city presentation, and special awards (including visual aids, costumes, color copying/printing, 3-D printing, and other demonstration aids) may not exceed $100. Failure to comply with valuation guidelines for model and support materials will result in a 15-point penalty.

30. All materials used must be listed on the Competition Expense Form and their value documented for both presentation and special awards. This includes donated items at fair market value.

31. A team may use two distinct scales if they are clearly defined, easily determined by sight and indicated on their index card. A maximum of two scales may be used.

32. Rotating city models are acceptable. The model will be measured from the tabletop up, including dimensions of any turning device below the model itself.

33. Use of 3D printers for any model materials must be assessed using the following values:
   - Regular (white) 3D printing: $2.00 per cubic inch
   - Color 3D printing: $5.00 per cubic inch

City Presentation

34. Student presentations may not exceed 7 minutes. When the timer signals time, the team must stop their presentation. Question and answer sessions immediately following the presentation will be 5 to 8 minutes as determined by the Regional Coordinator. During the National Competition, the Q&A session will be 5 minutes.

35. Laptop computers, overhead projectors, DVD/video players, battery-operated audio equipment, and any mobile device may not be used for the presentation.

36. Visual aids, such as flip charts, foam boards, poster boards, etc. must not exceed the following limitations: one visual aid displayed at a time *(e.g., a stack of signs displayed one at a time resting on an easel) can be up to 60” x 36”; two visual aids displayed concurrently *(e.g., two stacks of signs on separate easels) can be up to 30” x 36”. The size limitations do not include easel stands.

37. With the exception of handouts/brochures (limited to one 8.5” x 11” sheet of paper) and costumes, and other demonstration aids including pointers, small mock-ups, musical instruments etc. used to assist with the presentation must collectively fit within a 6” x 6” x 12” volume *(e.g., a shoe box).*
Scoring Deductions

To compete in the Future City Competition, teams must complete the five program components and can earn up to 264 points. Judges will evaluate each component in accordance with the component rubrics. Judges’ decisions are final. At the Regional Competition, the Regional Coordinator has the final word on any dispute. There is no appeals process. At the National Finals, the judges’ decisions are final.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Penalty</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-10 pts.</td>
<td>Missing the submission deadline for Virtual City Design, City Description, or Project Plan.</td>
<td>The Virtual City Design, City Description, and Project Plan 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 pts.</td>
<td>Exceeding City Description word count.</td>
<td>Maximum of 1,500 words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 pts.</td>
<td>Exceeding City Model dimensions.</td>
<td>The maximum dimensions of the model are 20”(H) x 50”(L) x 25” (W). Height and width dimensions include all supporting structures, such as braces, and any model materials hanging below the tabletop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 pts.</td>
<td>Competition Expense Form is missing.</td>
<td>The Competition Expense Form, with receipts attached to the back, must be brought to the competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 pts.</td>
<td>Receipts missing from back of Competition Expense Form.</td>
<td>Receipts must be attached to the back of the Competition Expense Form. Follow instructions on the form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 pts.</td>
<td>Exceeding the $100 limit on the physical model and presentation materials.</td>
<td>The total value of the materials used in the model, as well as those used in support of the presentation and for special awards (including visual aids, costumes, color copying/printing, 3-D printing, and other demonstration aids) may not exceed $100. Materials must be accurately assessed at fair market value according to the instructions on the Competition Expense Form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>Missing all or part of the Model ID card.</td>
<td>The Model ID card is 4” x 6” index card with future city name, organization name, team members’ names (three students, educator, mentor), and scale used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 pts.</td>
<td>Exceeding visual aid display size.</td>
<td>Support materials must adhere to the size restrictions listed in the Competition Rules on page 51.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 pts.</td>
<td>Missing Honor Statement.</td>
<td>A properly filled out Honor Statement Form must be submitted. Follow instructions on the form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 pts.</td>
<td>Unsportsmanlike conduct.</td>
<td>Rude behavior or disruption of judging by any team member or guests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 points earned for deliverable</td>
<td>Plagiarism</td>
<td>If a team’s City Description is determined to be plagiarized, the team will earn zero points for the deliverable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disqualification</td>
<td>Destruction of another team’s model or presentation materials.</td>
<td></td>
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QUESTIONS?

Check out the Frequently Asked Questions at futurecity.org/resources (filter for Handbook & Clarifications). Don’t see your question there? Email your Regional Coordinator or info@futurecity.org.