

National Engineers Week Future City® Competition

Dreams Need Doing Doing Takes Volunteers

■ Design it! ■ Build it! ■ Show it!

You can help 6th, 7th and 8th grade students make dreams a reality as they imagine, design, and build cities of the future in the National Engineers Week Future City® Competition. They'll use math, science, and technology to 'do' engineering. Along the way, they'll tackle real issues affecting real people and discover engineering as well as talents, confidence, and insights they never knew they had. They'll act as citizen engineers in a future world while becoming more aware citizens in their own communities.

Why Volunteers?

Volunteers are critical to Future City. They share professional knowledge, real-world career experience, and encouragement. The program aims to serve as many educators and students of various interests and abilities as possible, and there are no barriers to participation. The program's reach is dependent on volunteers. There is no volunteer fee, and Future City headquarters provides a variety of resources and tools.

In the non-profit Future City program, middle school teams:

- Design a city 150 years into the future using award-winning SimCity4 software.
- Build a tabletop scale model of the city using recycled materials.
- Research an engineering problem and write an essay on the solution.
- May choose to present their models and ideas at a regional contest in January. In addition to local prizes, the winners of each local event travel to Washington, D.C. to represent their region at the national finals in February.

Working with students and educators, volunteers will:

- Help teams complete their projects.
- Impart skills like project and time management, and using technology to collaborate and create.
- Encourage engineering habits of mind including systems thinking, optimism, and attention to ethical considerations.
- Inspire students and see students motivate one another.

Future City alumni have gone on to become engineers. A recent survey by the program's headquarters shows that students enter the program with little knowledge of engineering, but in 2009–2010 70% of participants ended with an interest in engineering careers.



Volunteer Opportunities

Future City volunteers donate more than 225,000 hours nationwide. There are many volunteer opportunities to become involved with local teams and competitions. Volunteers experience numerous opportunities for collaborations with other engineers and professionals as well as community employers and service organizations.

Engineer-Mentors: The mentor is involved in all phases of the competition as an advisor and provides input and technical assistance integrating real-life engineering experiences. Mentors also encourage teams to have fun. Mentor assistance is required in project planning and following the rules as well as for guidance in thinking, testing, and creating. Mentors may also help connect teams to other professionals for field trips, lectures, etc. Approximate time commitment: 35–45 hours, August-January.

Judges: Volunteers evaluate all student submissions. The five major team deliverables are: a computer disk containing the logical design of their city; two essays; a physical model of a city section; and a verbal presentation. Approximate time commitment: 6–35 hours, November-January.

Day-of Event Support: Volunteers assist with all aspects of the competition including team check-in, awards, gift distribution, and other logistical requirements. Approximate time commitment: 10 hours, January.

Local Committees: Members help ensure a successful experience for all. Committees handle volunteer recruitment, schools' support, administration and finance, publicity, awards, and logistics. Technical and non-technical volunteers are welcome.

*To become a volunteer, talk to your local coordinator.
See www.futurecity.org for contacts.*



Future City is a program of the National Engineers Week Foundation