



One of the best things about Future City is how many ways there are to structure the program. From a weekly afterschool program to a full semester class, program leaders can use Future City to support their learning goals and objectives.

To help you get started, we've compiled tips from veteran leaders and important things to consider.

Educator Dashboard & Program Resources

The [Dashboard](#) is your interactive hub for all things Future City. From here you can:



1. Download Resources

- Program Handbook
- Leading Your Team
- STEM Activities
- Student Handouts
- Rules & Rubrics
- Competition Forms

2. Request Two Free SimCity Codes

- Go to Account Details (upper right-hand corner) and select Tools.

3. Manage Your Teams

- Create & organize students into teams
- Upload required competition forms
- Submit Essay and Project Plan Deliverables
- View team scoresheets and judges' comments

4. Track Competition Dates

- Keep track of important due dates right from your Dashboard

TIP: Bookmark this site. You'll want to return to it often.

Organizing Your Participation

Start by assessing your goals, available time, and support from your organization's administration, parents, and others. Ask yourself:

- How much time do you and your students have to work on Future City each week? One afternoon a week? Two or three times a week?
- Do you want to incorporate it into a class, create an elective, or an afterschool club?
- How important is competing to you, your students, and your administration?
- Can you team up with another educator or parent?



As you begin to answer these questions (and many others) consider how you'd like to participate:

1. **Resource Only**—Access Future City's resources at no cost. Great for those who want to support other lessons or activities or who want to organize their own competition and not compete at Regionals.
2. **Partial Competition**—Not sure about the full program? Pick one or two deliverables and get feedback at competition. Check with your Regional Coordinator about this option in your area.
3. **Full competition**—Complete all five deliverables and fully compete in regionals. Eligible for special awards and prizes.

NOT SURE WHICH PATH IS RIGHT FOR YOU OR YOUR STUDENTS?

Register as resource only and you can choose to change your registration to partial or full at any time simply by emailing your Regional Coordinator.

TIP: Ask your Regional Coordinator to connect you with a veteran teacher or to help you think through how best to engage in Future City.

When I first started, my coordinator put me in touch with an awesome teacher with tons of Future City experience. My region even has workshops for new and returning educators."

— Margo Gore, South Carolina



Team Format Options

Future City is open to kids in grades 6, 7, and 8 who are 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, Boys and Girls Clubs, or 4-H.

1. OFFICIAL TEAM

The Official Team includes three student representatives, one educator, and one mentor. Most Future City regions welcome teams that are larger than three students; however, only the three official student representatives are allowed to participate in the team's City Presentation and City Q&A with judges.

2. MULTIPLE TEAMS

An organization can form multiple teams under one Future City Educator Account. If you are interested in this option, check with your Regional Coordinator about the number of teams that may participate in the Regional Competition. Note: Only the top-scoring team from an organization is allowed to advance to the final round of the Regional Competition. See Competition Rule number 9 for more information.

3. OTHER TEAM FORMATS

Some clubs or classrooms choose to work together as one team, dividing the tasks into smaller working groups such as a research group or city model group. If you decide to work in this manner, you will need to select three students to serve as the official student representatives who will participate in the City Presentation and City Q&A with judges.

STEM Mentors

STEM mentors can be engineers, technical professionals, architects, urban planners, city managers, or others who work in the engineering and technical community. They can work with your in-person or virtually. Whatever works best with your team!

1. Finding a Mentor

- Ask your students if their parents or relatives are engineers or technicians. Don't be shy—mentors who participated in a recent survey told us they volunteered because they were asked!
- Can't find a mentor? Reach out to your Regional Coordinator.

2. Working with Your Mentor

- Download [Collaborating Together for Team Success](#), a resource for educators and mentors to work together to successfully guide their team.
- Establish a schedule of when the mentor can connect with the team. Be sure that you are always on these calls or video meetings – the mentor should never connect with the students by themselves.

DID YOU KNOW? 80% of students said the mentor was important in guiding them through the project, and 53% said the mentor helped them see themselves as an engineer someday!

Other Things to Consider

• Trainings and Team Leader Sessions

Future City hosts regular online “open discussions” for educators to connect with each other, discuss challenges, and share tips and ideas. Keep an eye out for invitations to these events!

• Leading Your Team

Check out this step-by-step guide. It's structured around the engineering design process and project management steps and gives you a detailed path to successfully facilitate your student's Future City experience.

• Gather Supplies for the City Model

It's never too early to start stockpiling a wide variety of recyclable materials—art supplies, bits of household appliances, paper towel rolls, leftover paint, water bottles, and so on.

• Place to build and get messy

Teams will need a space where they can work on their model builds, store supplies as well as safely store their projects in between meetings.

• Internet and computer access needed

Students will need internet access at times for research and essay writing.

• Review the Rules and Don't Forget to Submit the Competition Forms

- **Honor Statement:** This online form must be signed by all members of the team and approved by the Educator.
- **Media Waiver:** Electronically signed by each team member's parent or guardian, then approved by the Educator.
- **Competition Expense Form:** There is one per team and it must include scanned receipts. Be sure to review the expense form instructions as well.

“The kids were fascinated to hear about what I do in my day job. They took the breadcrumbs I gave them about the work engineers do, then went on to create an unbelievable project of their own.”

– Tom González, Pennsylvania Mentor

Contact your Regional Coordinator

They are a great resource for any questions you may have about the program and offer lot of local support as well.

Visit futurecity.org/regions for your regional coordinator's email address.