

16 October 2016

FCC NTX Update - Getting started, Mentors, Project Plan

All:

There are still two more weeks to register for the Future City Competition – tell your colleagues and encourage them to join us in this adventure. We currently have 40+ schools and organizations signed up with is more than enough to qualify the region to send our winner to the National Finals in February.

Also, we are continuing the FUTURE CITY JUNIOR program for 4-5th grades. Please help us spread the word about this program. Encourage your feeder schools to sign up – and you can reap the benefits in the next few years. See www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_junior.html for details and to register.

I'd also like to INTRODUCE JILL FREER who will be helping with the school coordination. Please add her email (she is copied on this message) to your acceptable emails list. And, don't hesitate to contact her (or me) if you have any questions.

As you get started on your project – a few tips:

SIMCITY

You can obtain your SimCity download codes from the "Teacher" menu after you log into your account on the Team Center. You must complete the program details portion of your profile before you can get the codes. There are 3 codes per organization. Codes are limited, but additional codes may be available through national (email info@futurecity.org).

I have some SimCity resources available on our NTX Team Center Resources page (www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_rsrc.html). These are in addition to what you will find on the national site and include:

- Download instructions, including how to make the most of limited download codes
- SimCity files, including information on where to find your stored cities and how to transfer city files from one computer to another
- SimCity tips, based on my many hours of using SimCity to develop the rubric

MENTORS

As you enlist your volunteer engineer mentor help, please have them enroll in the online Team Center system. Go to www.dfwfuturecity.org/teamcenter.html and register. Mentors will then be able to upload files and manage teams.

If you are having trouble finding mentors, we have some suggestions online – see the Team Center Resources page (www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_rsrc.html). You will also find tips and advice on how to be a mentor. And, finally, if you cannot find a mentor, please contact Tom Hunt thunt@survwest.com, our mentor coordinator. He will reach out to his network for volunteers.

THE PROJECT PLAN – THE FIRST STEP

The Project Management Plan is not the first deliverable to submit, but it is the first to get started. There are 4 pieces:

1. Setting goals for your FC effort;
2. Developing a Schedule and assigning resources and tasks;
3. Checking in on your progress; and finally,
4. Reflecting on your FC effort.

So, at this point you should be:

- Putting together your overall project goals and start developing the schedule.
- Deciding on the goals for your city/virtual city that will be part of the Virtual City deliverable.
- Developing an initial city plan for your city/virtual city.

There are several city planning exercises and tips on the national website (resources page, filter for activities and background info). And, there are links and references on the Team Center Resources page (www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_rsrc.html – look under “Where to Learn More”).

Please let me know if you have any questions or problems. GOOD LUCK with all your efforts.

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