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FCC NTX Update - Getting started: Teams, SimCity and Project Plan

All:

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

NORTH TEXAS REGION INFORMATION
Bookmark out regional site: www.dfwfuturecity.org/teamcenter.html. This is where you will find all of the regional data like **schedule**, rules and resources.

TEAM BUILDING AND 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 (tom8hunt@yahoo.com), our mentor coordinator. He will reach out to his network for volunteers.
There are teambuilding exercises and tips (team building, brainstorming and conflict resolution) on the national website (http://futurecity.org - resources page, filter for activities and background info).

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 2 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 [NOTE: For the veteran FCC educators, you may be able to use last year's codes by accessing last year's Origin accounts. Set up Origin and log in using last year's username and password. The SimCity that was associated with that account should (fingers crossed) download.]
- 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

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.

For references on planning, see our Team Center Resources page (www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_rsrc.html). There is a webinar on Project Planning and links under "Where to Learn More" section. There are also some city planning exercises and tips on the national website (http://futurecity.org - resources page, filter for activities and background info).

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

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