

Hello Teachers and Engineers!

Welcome to all new teams this year! You will periodically receive an email update from your regional committee alerting you of deadlines, helpful resources, and vital new information you will need to know. Please skim all updates and make sure you keep up to date on vital information. The updates will usually come on Mon. or Tues. unless there is an urgent message to get out to teams. If I do not have your engineer's email address and s/he would like to receive the updates, please have them email me with that request. Thanks to all of you for your time and commitment to your students in this program.

Future City Regional Update: October 4, 2004

Update Agenda:

1. *Team registrations: number of schools & registration payments received*
2. *Orientations & Help Sessions*
3. *Important Deadlines*
4. *SIMCITY Patch for Windows XP*
5. *Working with SIMCITY: Hints from some judges...*

1. Team registrations

21 Schools so far are participating in FC this year and at least 6 others are deciding on participation. Deadline for registration is October 15, 2004. The following schools are participating: (schools with * have paid)

Schools

Shawnee Middle School*, Ft. Wayne
Bluffton-Harrison Middle School*, Bluffton
Leo Jr-Sr. High School*, Leo
Evansville Christian School*, Evansville
S. Adams Jr/Sr High*, Berne
Keystone Schools*, Ft. Wayne
Concordia Lutheran MS*, Ft. Wayne
Most Precious Blood School*, Ft. Wayne
St. John the Baptist Catholic School*, Ft. Wayne
Blackhawk Middle School, Ft. Wayne
Indian Springs Middle School, Columbia City
Pioneer Jr/Sr High School, Royal Center
Garrett Middle School, Garrett
Canterbury School*, Ft. Wayne
Zion Lutheran Academy*, Ft. Wayne
St. Monica Middle School, Mishawaka
Tippecanoe Valley MS, Akron
Ft. Wayne Area Home School*, Ft. Wayne
Centerville Jr. High School, Centerville
Riverview Middle School, Huntington
Edgewood Middle School, Warsaw

If you have not paid yet, please submit your registration fee before October 15, 2004. Thank you!

2. Future City Orientation and Help Sessions

Both of the following Help Sessions will be preceded by a 30 minute Future City Orientation for new and returning schools beginning at 3:45.

Where: Science Central

When: October 14, 2005 City Design 4:15-5:45

Part 1: Understanding City Design/Layout

Part 2: Building Practical & Attractive Model Designs

October 28, 2005 Aggregates, Transportation, & Research

Part 1: Tips for Research and Writing Competitive Essays

Part 2: Understanding Aggregates & Transportation Design

Who: Students, Teachers, Engineers are welcome!

Please RSVP to Kim Wagner at 481-5756 or wagnerk@ipfw.edu if you plan to attend to make sure we have an appropriate space. Sessions will be videotaped.

3. Future City Deadlines for 2005 Competition

School Registration: October 15, 2004

SIMCITY 3000 City Submission: December 6, 2004

Team Registration: December 15, 2004 (at this time submit specific team member names)

Research Essay Submission: January 12, 2005

Competition: January 22, 2005

4. SIMCITY Patch for those who have Windows XP

SimCity 3000 -Virtual Device Driver -patch for XP operating systems

--From Game Quan, Future City Regional Coordinator in Southern California

"Older installations of Windows XP may be missing a 'virtual device driver' required to run SimCity 3000.

The patch is available at the Windows update website. To get there, open Internet Explorer, go to Tools, and select Windows Update. You will be taken to a Microsoft site. The site will scan your Windows operating system and bring up all the patches you have not yet installed. Some of these are optional, but most are critical to maintain Windows security and to prevent virus attacks, so it's a good idea to do this often to keep your computer safe."

5. Working with SIMCITY: Hints from some judges....

Don't forget when working on the city....Turn off disaster menu!

Make certain you save the city to hard drive before you save it on a disk! Many cities have gone corrupt when this procedure is not followed.

City Disk Judging

Score sheets and rubrics:

The rubrics drive the score sheets almost entirely. They are your friends -embrace them.

The best of rubrics have their own strengths and weaknesses. How do these fare?

How much subjectivity should one expect in certain areas? Make sure the objective elements (whether something is included in the design and how much of it) is certain in your design since that is a sure way to earn pts. Never leave the judge in doubt about whether you have a feature. On areas of subjectivity, ask various opinions including the teacher, engineer-mentor, or some other knowledgeable person.

Test-score your city, repeatedly:

Be objective: try to imagine-how each rubric line item could score higher (not just average). In other words...be driven by the best score, not the "ok" score for a feature.

Consider the role of money and net income rate for scoring purposes. What will get you the most pts?

Have you "walked" through of a sample city? Become really familiar with design features.

Learn the tools you'd expect judges anywhere to use to measure, quantitatively, the criteria in the rubrics.

Do you overview maps? Create a map of your city and examine it closely.

City Features;

Pollution, Crime, Fire, Etc...keep monitoring them and don't just get caught up in design and exclude these.

Zoning. Is there a good mix of light, medium and heavy zone of everything?

Do a property value check.

Judges look for how many churches, libraries, ball parks (recreation), high tech you have included in the design. Try not to be distracted by Wonders, which have zero value; focus on things with value (check rubrics)

Checking subway, train, and highway routes and ask....Do they make sense? Is the flow of traffic good?

Watch out for exceptions and problematic features that impact a judge's overall view;

Look for exceptions-like ground pollution over a dump might be acceptable, but water and air pollution would still raise flags. How much dilapidation is present? Too much can sway judge's viewpt. Sure, you can put the airport in the city but, realistically, how will that skyscraper impact the flight pattern?

Reports:

Limited value, but how much money is committed to each sector? Are the advisors pleased? Check Park and hospital reports-A, B or C grade cards. How do you do?

Strive for a well laid out city. What about size? The bigger you go, the harder it may be to maintain a good the budget.

Team Assessment:

What categories on the score sheets seem to cause the most problems for you as a team? Spend more time there to make it better. Don't just have one person do the whole thing. They may lose perspective. Have an objective person score your city when you complete it.

Reminders!

Turn off disaster menu!

Make certain you save the city to hard drive before you save it on a disk.

Good luck!

Your FC Indiana Regional Committee