

# Indiana Regional Future City Competition: Community Support Opportunities



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Engineer-Mentor

**Service:** Each school must have an engineer-mentor associated with their team(s). The engineer-mentor serves as an advisor to the team on various aspects of the design and model building project, meeting with the students and teacher on a regular basis. The engineer-mentor is considered part of the team and if their team wins the regional event, they are included in the February Washington D.C. trip for National Engineers Week.

**Time Commitment:** The engineer-mentor and teacher decide how often they should meet according to their respective schedules. One to two hours for each meeting as time allows. Some mentors meet a few times a month at first and then more often as the time of the regional competition gets closer. Other mentors meet only three or four times through the course of the whole project from October to January.

### Teacher Sponsor(s)

**Service:** To participate in the Future City Competition, teams must register through their school. The Teacher Sponsor is responsible for guiding the team(s) throughout the project in either the classroom or as an after school project. Teachers may work alone or involve other staff members also. The teacher will work closely with the Engineer-Mentor to guide the students through the entire project, including assisting students with the SIMCITY disk design, writing the essay and abstract, building the model, and preparing for the team presentation. To assist teachers in preparing for the project, a Teacher Workshop is held in September and provides numerous resources and speakers about the competition's topic. The teacher is also considered part of the team and will accompany their team to Washington D.C. during National Engineers Week in February if they are named the regional winner.

**Time Commitment:** Teams often meet on a weekly basis. The schedule is set by the teacher and may be built around his/her other obligations. Teams can also meet and work on the project on their own at home. The duration of the project extends from October to January; approximately one semester.

### Judge

Each year, approximately 75 people are needed to serve as judges to review different aspects of the competition. Some judges must be available the day of the event while others do their judging prior to the January competition. **The following types of judges are needed:**

- **Special Award Judge:** Several organizations provide special awards for the competition. Judges are sometimes needed for these awards. Judges are given specific requirements for each award and must examine the model and ask teams questions while rotating throughout the displays in Walb Ballroom.  
**Time Commitment:** 2-3 hours at the competition.
- **Presentation/Model Judge:** Each team is required to give a 5-7 minute presentation to a panel of judges about their future city and model. Judges follow up with a series of questions provided by the Future City Competition and rank the teams. Judges also study the teams' models and rank them based on provided criteria.  
**Time Commitment:** 4-5 hours at the competition.
- **SIMCITY Disk Judge:** Each team is required to design a city using SIMCITY 3000 software. These disks are due in December and judged before the day of the competition. Judges review the designs to ensure certain guidelines have been met.  
**Time Commitment:** Approximately 4 hours before the day of competition.
- **Essay Judge:** The essay judge is responsible for reading an essay and abstract about the year's current topic. In 2006, students must create an engineering feasibility study for a redevelopment area in their city. Traditionally, this role has been filled by educators in a local school system, however, anyone with a strong research and writing background could easily assist in this role.  
**Time Commitment:** Essays are due in early January and are judged before the day of the competition. The number of essays and abstracts given to each judge varies.

### **Help Session Panelist**

**Service:** Each October, Science Central and IPFW host a series of orientations and help sessions depending on the current needs of teams participating in the competition. Traditionally, 2 help sessions are held; one focuses on the year's research topic, while the other focuses on basic city planning and design. Members from the fields of engineering, city planning, and the years' research topic present at the session. Members can opt to give a brief speech or instruction and then answer questions, or simply follow a Q&A format. Up to 4 panelists are needed at each help session. 2006 Topic: Engineering Feasibility Study

**Time Commitment:** Approximately 1 hour

### **School Presenter**

**Service:** Many schools enjoy having a volunteer presenter visit their school to give a presentation about their field of expertise and how it relates to the Future City project. It gives teams the opportunity to show their work to someone and gain advice on possible improvements. Teachers may ask for presenters during the day if a class is working on the project, or later in the afternoon/evening if they are doing it as an after school club.

**Time Commitment:** Will vary depending on your availability.

### **School Advisor**

**Service:** Many schools are interested in having a professional available to answer basic questions they may have about any given topic. While the engineer-mentor is responsible for working directly with the students, the advisor should be available to answer questions via phone or email that may fall under their area of expertise. They may also be asked to present to the class or group working on the project.

**Time Commitment:** Will vary depending on your availability and amount of advising the school may require.

## **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Special Award Sponsor**

Many organizations choose to support the Future City Competition by sponsoring a special award associated with their business. The organization selects a name for the award, determines the criteria for judging, and can also provide a judge the day of the competition.

### **School Engineering/Technology Sponsor**

Your organization can choose to offer a cash award for technology equipment or software to the school(s) that meet specified criteria. For example, you can award \$200 to one or more schools from a certain school district, county, or city that have at least one team complete the competition process and who earn a designated number of points with their project. There are 400 points possible in the competition and overall project excellence may be achieved by schools that miss out on advancing to the finals due to tough competition. These schools would benefit from being identified and rewarded for their work. Your organization would determine the cash amount and the award criteria. The Future City Committee can advise if needed.

### **Finalist Sponsor**

Organizations can choose to sponsor the trophy or plaque (with your organization name), medals and gift certificates for one of the finalist placements at the competition. Six teams are named as finalists after preliminary judging. Organizations that have sponsored the finalists have also provided additional gifts such as books, camp entries or other items at their discretion.

### **Participation Gift Sponsor**

Each student is given a participation gift for completing the project and taking part in the regional competition. These gifts include the Future City T-shirt and one item which the regional committee orders from National Future City. Your organization can choose to sponsor one of these regional participation gifts.

### **General Event Sponsor**

By choosing to be a general event sponsor, organizations donate money to assist in funding the event itself. Money raised by these means is used to pay for materials, travel to national coordinator's meeting, administrative supplies, judge and participant meals, etc. All event sponsors are recognized through various methods, depending on the amount of their contribution.