

16 October 2015

## NTX Future City Update: Webinars, Getting Started

All:

GOOD NEWS: we have more than enough schools enrolled to qualify to send our regional winner to the national finals in February. And, there are still two weeks left to register for Future City, so encourage your colleagues to sign up. Also, we are still accepting registrations for the FC Junior competition for 4-5<sup>th</sup> grades – please help us spread the word about this program.

### BOOKMARK THIS PAGE:

<http://www.dfwfuturecity.org/teamcenter.html>.

This is the Team Center of the N TX regional competition information, including **\*schedule\***, resources (in addition to those on the national site), and information updates. You can also use this page as the Launchpad for logging into the online team center system.

### TRAINING AND WEBINARS:

I have recorded two webinars that you can find online – either through the Team Center (above link) or on our Google+ page: <https://plus.google.com/+DfwfuturecityOrg/videos>.

- Introduction & Orientation to N TX Future City Competition – covering basics of program phases, due dates, online team center, and lessons learned.
- SimCity & new Virtual City Deliverable – getting started with SimCity and tips for a successful city, goal of the new VC slide show, and how to collect the information and screenshots for the slide show

Also, national has broadcast and recorded a webinar on the essay topic: Waste Not, Want Not. You can find that at: <http://futurecity.org/resource/waste-not-want-not-webinar-recording-slides>.

### SIMCITY:

You can obtain your SimCity download codes from the “Teacher” menu after you log into your account on the Team Center. In previous years, you got your codes from an email – don’t look for the email this year. 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.

I have some SimCity resources available on our NTX resources page (Team Center link above). 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

### FIRST STEPS – THE PROJECT PLAN:

This year, we have included a Project Management Plan to the list of deliverables. Although it isn’t due until January, the teams should start work on it now. There are 4 pieces: Setting goals

for your FC effort; Developing a Schedule and assigning resources and tasks; Checking in on your progress; and finally, Reflecting on your FC effort.

So, at this point you should be:

1. Putting together your overall project goals and start developing the schedule.
2. Deciding on the goals for your city/virtual city that will be part of the Virtual City deliverable.
3. 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 N TX resources page (Team Center link above) – look under “Where to Learn More”).
4. Downloading and starting SimCity

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

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