23 October 2020

FCC-NTX Update - Getting started: Teams, Project Plan and Essay (Note schedule change)

All:

First: I have slipped the schedule for the Essay and Model deliverables by a week or two. See below and online: www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_sched.html. Essay is now due 20 November.

Now, as you get going 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).

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.
- Developing an initial city plan for your city.
- Starting your research for the essay problem.

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).

CITY ESSAY
The first deliverable is the City Essay – due 20 November.
Living on the Moon – resources:
• See the handbook for rules, suggested outline, topic overview and research ideas.
• Reference links (http://futurecity.org – resources section)
• Living on the Moon webinar recording posted: https://youtu.be/HZkSWQkXSV8
• Copies of past winning essays from NTX (http://www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_rsrc.html - “where to learn more”)

EDUCATOR DISCUSSION
FC HQ will be hosting a second Open Discussion Meeting for Educators on November 5th at 4:30 CST. You should be receiving an email invitation from HQ shortly.

FINALLY – it’s not too early to begin planning your model. Start collecting recyclables for building materials. Remember you have a maximum budget of $100 – and you have to account for the cost of all materials unless they are recyclable. See the Expense Form for details. NOTE – New schedule for Model Slideshow – now due 11 December. See: www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_sched.html.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

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