

4 November 2013

FCC NTX Update: Getting started with the Team Center, Mentors, SimCity

All:

Registration has now closed for the 2013-14 Future City Competition and we have signed a record number of schools/groups in the NTX region: 55. There is a list in the Team Center area of the website: www.dfwfuturecity.org/teamcenter.html.

1. TEAM CENTER – BECOME FAMILIAR WITH IT

Please take the time to become familiar with the Team Center area of the website, where you will find:

- Resources – including information on orientation/training, mentoring, SimCity, lessons learned, where to find out more...
- Schedule – details of due dates and deliverables
- Rules – for the NTX regional
- List of schools participating
- Updates – announcements and copies of all email updates

This is also the best (most reliable) place to log into the team management portion of the website. Where you will create and manage your team information, upload files and forms, and obtain score information (available after the competition).

CREATE AND MANAGE YOUR TEAMS – log in and create your teams (if you haven't already done so). The student names need not be finalized until later (Dec-Jan). The three students listed will be the presenters. But, feel free to list additional students – we will make certificates for all the students listed on the site.

NOTE – you are welcome to enter multiple teams. We will score the SimCity, Essay and Narrative deliverables for all. However, due to space constraints, we will have to limit the number of teams-per-school to 8 at during the preliminary round on 25 January 2014.

2. MENTORS

We always recommend that you find your own mentors (see suggestions at http://www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_menfind.html). Our Mentor Coordinator, Tom Hunt, will be contacting you about your mentor status. He is also scouring the Metroplex for volunteers, but with the large group we have this year, our resources are being strained. Please have patience and don't stop your own search.

Mentors should also sign-on to the Team Center. Once approved, they will have the same access to Team Management and Deliverable submission as the teachers.

3. FIRST DELIVERABLE – (SIMCITY) VIRTUAL CITY

The Virtual City (SimCity) file is due 22 November, 2013. You can turn in you Virtual Cities up until 20 Dec with points deducted (see schedule for details).

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED THEIR SIMCITY DOWNLOAD CODES – they came in an email from Bill Knight at FC national. If you have not received your codes, contact Bill or me ASAP. Extra codes may be available (contact Bill – bknight@futurecity.org).

Some of you are having some problems with the online SimCity and your school or district networks and firewalls. There is some information at: <https://help.ea.com/article/which-ports-do-i-need-to-open-in-order-to-play-simcity>.

4. ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

We've broadcast two sessions: 1) Overview and 2) Essay topic. Recordings of both are online (see Team Center Resources page). You will also find copies of past sessions on SimCity 4 and model building ideas, as well as links to the national webinars on SimCity (new version) and FC 101. We will also be holding a session on Presentation Skills – schedule TBA.

5. RIGHT NOW, YOU SHOULD BE WORKING ON

- Your initial city plan
- Building your city in SimCity
- Collecting recyclables and other potential building materials for the model.

Good luck to everyone and don't hesitate to ask questions.

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