

16 November 2012

NTX FCC Update: Looking forward to the essay

All:

SIMCITY UPLOADS – NOW THROUGH 19 DECEMBER

SimCity files are beginning to show up in the Team Center. The first deadline is next week: 21 November. Final deadline (with penalty) is 19 December. VIRTUAL CITY FORM IS OPTIONAL – the Team Center has the option for you to upload the form, but it is not required.

MAKE SURE YOU UPLOAD THE CORRECT FILE

I know you have been saving backup copies of your SimCity file ... make sure you upload the correct file. Every year, some team uploads a previous (younger) version of their Virtual City and misses out on points. Or they upload the wrong file – not the saved city. You can resubmit a file, but if it is past the deadline, it will receive a penalty point deduction. Instructions on how to find the correct file are on the resources page: www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_rsrc.html - under SimCity instructions.

NEXT UP – RESEARCH ESSAY AND NARRATIVE

The next deliverable is the Research Essay – topic: Rethink Runoff-Design clean solutions to manage stormwater pollution. Check out the resources page (www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_rsrc.html) for links to background information and copies of past winning essays. The essay has a max word count of 1000 words and should include a list of references (not included in the word count). The Narrative is a short, max 500 word, description of your future city and it's unique features and services. It is due at the same time as the essay: 19 December.

START COLLECTING YOUR MODEL BUILDING MATERIALS

It's never too early to begin collecting recyclables and other materials to use for building materials for your model. If you want ideas of some of the things that have been used in the past, take a look at the pictures of past models: www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_rsrc.html under "where to learn more." There are also lists of materials used in some of the past top models. And, take a look at the past orientation session on model building.

FEELING BOGGED DOWN? DON'T GIVE UP – ELECT PARTIAL PARTICIPATION

You have the option of selecting "partial participation" for your teams. Under this option, you do not have to submit every deliverable. You can still present your model at the competition if you haven't – for instance – submitted your SimCity. These teams will not, of course, be among the finalists, but they may still be considered for some of the special awards. We would rather see you continue with the Future City program and reap the educational benefits than drop out because a deliverable or deadline was out of reach.

Good luck everyone – I'll be keeping an eye on the Team Center. Let me know if you have any problems with anything. And, if all else fails, email me your SimCity files.

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