



September 1, 2012

To: Parents of Future City Competitors

Re: National Engineers Week Future City® Competition 2012-2013
North Texas Region

Your student has the opportunity to participate in the National Engineers Week Future City Competition. It is a national program sponsored by the engineering community to promote technological literacy and engineering to middle school students. Our goal is to interest young people in the math, technology and scientific studies needed to develop the engineers of the future.

Because the project involves *lots* of volunteer engineer-mentors and *lots* of parent/community volunteers – in addition to lots of fun and hard work – it is important for both students and parents to understand the project requirements:

1. Students participate as a team consisting of three students, a teacher, and a volunteer-engineer mentor representing the school.
2. They use *SimCity*™ software to design the city of the future.
3. After designing the future city on the computer, students use their design to build a 3-D scale model of a section of that city. The model must have one moving part and has to be built out of recycled materials. In addition to the model, they write an essay on managing stormwater pollution.
4. Finally, they take all of these pieces over to North Texas Regional Future City Competition at UT Arlington in January and present it to a panel of judges – engineers from around the Metroplex.

The winning team from the regional competition gets an expense-paid trip to Washington, DC for the national competition in February 2013. The first-place team from the national competition wins a trip to the US Space Camp.

Timeline

The Future City Competition has several phases running from now until the competition on 21 Jan, 2012. Participating teams may need to meet after school and on occasional weekends in order to meet the competition deadlines.

- Oct-Nov Work on *SimCity* city design
- Oct-Dec Research and write Essay
- Nov-Jan Build 3-D model of city section using recycled materials
- Dec-Jan Prepare verbal presentation
- **Sat., Jan 26** **Future City Competition at UTA**
- Feb Winning team competes in national competition in Washington, DC.

We hope that you will support the students and us as they explore the future and learn how engineers turn ideas into reality by competing in the National Engineers Week Future City Competition.

Educator

Jean Eason
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www.dfwfuturecity.org