

8 November 2017

FCC NTX Update: Getting Started, Overview Tutorials, Project Plan

All:

First – Registration has closed for the 2017-18 Future City Competition. We have 42 schools signed up this year for the North Texas Region. You can see a list of those schools online at our NTX Team Center website: www.dfwfuturecity.org/teamcenter.html. Look for the link to “list of organizations.” BTW – 42 is more than enough registrations to qualify the region to send our winner to the national finals. I know we can’t do any better than our 1st place finish in February, but let’s set our goal at trying to repeat it!

Now, as you get started on your project – a few tips:

SIMCITY

You can obtain your SimCity download codes from the “Teacher” menu after you log into your account on the Team Center. You must complete the program details portion of your profile before you can get the codes. There are 2 codes per organization. Codes are limited, but additional codes may be available through national (email info@futurecity.org). I have some SimCity resources available on our NTX Team Center Resources page (www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_rsrc.html). 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

ENROLL YOUR 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.

WEBINARS:

I have finally finished recording the two of the orientation videos. You will find them online on our Future City YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCacW1hQSPrW-wSotEbDlasQ>.

FCC OVERVIEW WEBINARS: I have broken up the usual Introduction and overview tutorial into a 4 pieces that will be shorter, and hopefully easier to utilize.

1. FC Basics – this is basic information for groups that are new to the program. Includes information on deliverables and rules.

2. FC NTX Introduction for 2017-18 – information specific to this year’s program. Includes what is new/changed for this year and schedule information.
3. FC model slideshow (still to come) – slide show of models from past regional and national competitions.
4. NTX Competition Day (still to come) – what to expect on competition day, rules, and procedures.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT WEBINAR: we have a new webinar on project management for your Future City project. This was created by the Project Management Institute specifically for Future City. It is posted on our YouTube Channel.

AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES WEBINAR: There is a webinar recording of the essay topic at: <https://youtu.be/j9ATCg7LBhw>.

You can find the links to these webinars and other resources in the NTX Team Center (link in first para). Look for “Resources.”

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.
- Deciding on the goals for your city/virtual city that will be part of the Virtual City deliverable.
- 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 Team Center Resources page, including the PROJECT MANAGEMENT WEBINAR (www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_rsrc.html – look under “Orientation Workshops” and “Where to Learn More”).

Please contact me or Jill Freer if you have any questions or problems. GOOD LUCK with all your efforts.

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