



September 16, 2016

To: Parents of Future City Competitors

Re: National Engineers Week Future City® Competition 2016-2017

What is Future City?

The Future City Competition is a national, project-based learning experience where students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade imagine, design, and build cities of the future. Students work as a team with an educator and engineer mentor to plan cities using SimCity™ 4 Deluxe software; research and write solutions to an engineering problem; build tabletop scale models with recycled materials; and present their ideas before judges at Regional Competitions in January. Regional winners represent their region at the National Finals in Washington, DC in February.

For more information please visit www.futurecity.org or the regional website <http://futurecity.org/new-york-western>

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. My 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 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 storm water pollution.
4. Finally, they take the top pieces over to The Western New York Regional Future City Competition scheduled Saturday January 21st, 2017 at Mount St. Mary Academy in Kenmore, NY and present it to a panel of judges.

The winning team from the regional competition gets an expense-paid trip to Washington, DC for the national competition in February 2017. The first-place team from the national competition wins a trip to the US Space Camp.



competition in Washington, DC.

Timeline

The Future City Competition has several phases running from now until the competition in Jan, 2017. Participating teams may need to meet after school and on occasional weekends in order to meet the Competition deadlines.

- Sept-Nov Work on *SimCity* city design & Virtual City Benchmark Form
- Sept-Dec Research Essay & City Narrative
- Nov-Jan Build 3-D model of city section using recycled materials
- Dec-Jan Prepare verbal presentation
- **Sat., Jan 21 Future City Competition at Mount St. Mary's Academy in Kenmore**
- Feb Winning team competes in national

3756 Delaware Ave, Tonawanda, NY 14217

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.

We will begin meeting on Tuesday, October 4 from 2:20 - 3:20 PM. We will meet weekly. As the competition draws near, we will increase our meeting times as needed. Please return below permission slip by FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23rd in order for your child to join the SME Future City Team!

God Bless,

Ms. Poepsel, Mrs. Connors & Mr. Lemiesz

Cut and return to teacher

2016-2017 FUTURE CITY PERMISSION

I/we give our child _____ permission to join the SME Future City Team. We understand that attendance at all meetings is mandatory and understand that meeting times will increase as needed to make sure that we are prepared for the January competition.

_____ / _____

Print parent/guardian name / signature

Parent/guardian contact info

I am interested in assisting and mentoring the SME Future City Club **YES NO**

(Please know that as a volunteer, you are not REQUIRED at every meeting as the kids are required.)

If you answered YES, how should we contact you? _____