



NJ needs Mentors - can you help a Middle School STEM team?

The NJ Regional Future City Competition organizers are looking for individuals, local firms and professional societies to assist with this year's program.

The Future City Competition is a program developed for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students to help them discover and foster interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers. Future City is one of the few outreach activities in New Jersey that brings together the education community, local engineering alumni, engineering firms and various professional societies. Program participants are committed to showing students that "STEM" can be fun. In recent years the Regional Competition has grown to over 500 participants, and the feedback from both students and teachers has been exceedingly positive, with exclamations of an excellent engineering experience!

This year's competition is underway and culminates with the **Regional Competition Day on Saturday January 16, 2016 at Rutgers University** in Piscataway. Students work in teams of three and are assisted by a teacher and *mentor, generally an engineer or science professional*, to design their city, build a scale model, write a technical essay and make a presentation to judges at the Regional Competition. The team that wins the NJ Regional Competition receives an all-expense paid trip to the National Competition in Washington D.C. in February. Examples of winning cities can be found at: <http://www.futurecity.org>.

It is our goal that each school has at least one MENTOR with Engineering/Planning/Architecture/Construction experience. Working with the team's educator (a teacher, parent, or afterschool leader who serves as the project director) the Future City mentor provides advice, guidance, and technical assistance as students develop their city. As a mentor, you may interact with your team in person, via email, or even via skype! Typically, most mentors volunteer 12-14 hours between September and January. In the early weeks, you'll meet with the team to get to know the students and focus them on the big picture: good urban design, an overview of the essay topic, and brainstorming possible solutions. Later, you may help students establish a scale for their model and work with them to polish their presentation.

Registered 2015 - 16 School Locations: NEED a Mentor

Burlington	Hoboken	Red Bank
Chatham	Iselin	Spring Lake
Clinton	Milford	South River
Englewood Cliffs	Millville	Upper Saddle River
East Orange	Montague	Verona
Franklin Boro	Mount Arlington	Westampton
Fords/ Woodbridge	Petersburg	Whitehouse Station
	Ramsey	As of 10/14/15

For more information regarding mentoring opportunities in New Jersey - contact Jean Hansen at: jean.g.hansen@gmail.com | C: 732-672-5614
<http://futurecity.org/new-jersey>