

## **NTX FUTURE CITY JUNIOR COMPETITION (2024-2025) 4-5TH GRADE RULES AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The North Texas Regional Future City Junior Competition is a STEAM project-based learning program for 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades where students imagine, research and model a solution to a real-world problem in a city 100 years in the future. It is an abbreviated version of the award-winning Future City Competition for middle-schoolers. Components of the Junior Program include a research essay and a physical model of the city's solution to the annual challenge.



2024-2025 Challenge: *Above the Current*. Design a floating city and explain the innovative technologies used to protect the citizens and environment.

Rules and description of the project scope follow. For complete details, consult the NTX Junior Team Center: [http://www.dfwfuturecity.org/team\\_junior.html](http://www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_junior.html).

### **REGISTRATION:**

Schools and youth organizations with 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade students may register through 31 October by completing the online form at <http://futurecity.org>. Registration fee is \$25 per school or organization.

### **TEAMS:**

The students will work in teams. Teams consist of three 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade students, an educator and an engineer-mentor. (For suggestions on finding mentors, see: [https://www.dfwfuturecity.org/team\\_menfind.html](https://www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_menfind.html).)

- Students must be from the same organization, but not necessarily the same class or grade.
- Organizations with large groups may either
  - Enter multiple teams (maximum of 8), or
  - Work as a class or large group prior to the model showing but must select the three students (one team) that will represent the group.

## **PART 1**

### **RESEARCH ESSAY: FLOATING CITIES**

This component will describe the team's solution to the annual challenge: *Above the Current*. Design a floating city and explain the innovative technologies used to protect the citizens and environment.

Download the Essay Requirements from the Junior Team Center ([http://www.dfwfuturecity.org/team\\_junior.html](http://www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_junior.html)) for a complete description. Briefly, the essay should:

- Introduce the team's city – at least 100 years in the future.
- Describe what the city and life was like in the past (on land) and the impacts of moving off-shore.
- Describe the future city's innovative technologies and:
  - How they work to reduce health and environmental impacts

- How it addresses and resolves the major issues from the past.
- Contain no more than 1000 words.

Refer to the Essay Requirements document for a Suggested Outline and the FC Junior Essay rubric.

The essay is due 6 December 2024. Late submissions will be accepted (with penalty points deducted) through 18 December 2024.

## **PART 2**

### **PHYSICAL MODEL**

Download the requirements for this component in the Model Requirements document in the Junior Team Center ([http://www.dfwfuturecity.org/team\\_junior.html](http://www.dfwfuturecity.org/team_junior.html)). Briefly, the Physical Model should:

- Be built to scale (scale chosen by the team).
- Illustrate the team's concept of their future city.
- Be focused on demonstrating the solution to the challenge: Floating Cities.
- Not exceed the total of \$50 cost of materials. The total value of the materials used must be reported on the Competition Expense form.
- Be no larger than 25" (w) x 36" (l) x 20" (h).

Model Judging:

- The model will be judged using the Junior Model rubric.
- Judging will take place at the NTX Regional Competition (tentatively 25 January 2025).
- Team of students (max 3) will stand with their model during judging to answer any questions and *briefly* explain their model, their future city, and their solution to the annual challenge (floating cities). No formal presentation is required or expected.
- Judges will spend approximately 5 minutes with each model display.
- Adults (educators, mentors) may observe, but are not allowed to participate.

Refer to the Model Requirements document for the Junior Model Rubric.

### **PROGRAM HANDBOOK:**

The Future City Competition program handbook has been written for the middle-school program (available to registered participants only) and is a valuable guide for the teaching/leading the project. Download a copy from the Educator Dashboard (<https://dashboard.futurecity.org>). The Junior program has been simplified somewhat from the complete middle-school program described in the handbook.

Specifically, for the Junior Competition:

1. The Project Plan is NOT included in the Junior program.
2. There will be no formal oral City Presentation. However, the student team-members will have the opportunity to talk to the judges. See Model Judging information.
3. The Essay is shortened such that it need not include a detailed description of the city and the maximum word count is 1000.
4. The Model, likewise, is simplified to be smaller in size, focused primarily on demonstrating the annual theme, and to cost no more than \$50.

Keeping in mind these changes from the middle-school program, the Program Handbook contains elements that might be useful for leading the Junior program:

1. The following sections are helpful in getting started:
  - a. Preparing to Lead and Preparing your Students
  - b. Introduce Engineering and The Engineering Design Process
  - c. Activities on Teambuilding and Brainstorming
2. You might also find these activities useful:

- a. Project planning - setting goals and monitoring progress
- b. City planning - learning the elements of what makes a good city beyond the basic questions posed by the annual challenge.

### **REQUIRED FORMS:**

1. Honor Statement
2. Media Waiver
3. City Model Expense form (max expense = \$50)
4. Model ID card (attached to model)

### **NTX COMPETITION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:**

There are two online systems for Future City:

1. Educator Dashboard (<https://dashboard.futurecity.org>). We will only be using this system for registration and downloading resources as needed for the Junior competition.
2. NTX Competition Management System (<https://secure.dfwfuturecity.org/NorthTXJunior/Teachers>). This is the system we will be using for the majority of the competition – to create teams, upload essay and forms, and obtain scores following the competition.

### **JUDGING:**

The Essay and Model will be judged by multiple judges (technical professionals). The judges' scores for each deliverable will be averaged. Those average scores will be added together, less any penalties incurred, to come up with a composite-total score for each team. Prizes will be awarded based on those scores.

### **AWARDS CEREMONY AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS**

The results of the NTX Future City Junior Competition will be announced during the Awards Ceremony at the Regional Competition event in late January. Scores for individual teams and deliverables will be available for educators to download from the Junior Team Center following the competition.

### **Prizes:**

- Future City Competition Junior will provide prizes for Best Essay, Best Model, and Best Overall Junior Team.
- Sponsors will also give out Special Awards recognizing accomplishments in various categories, such as: Green City, Energy Efficiency, etc.

### **OTHER RULES:**

- Participants will comply with the basic rules of the Future City Competition program as laid out in the handbook and as modified herein.
- Deadlines will not be extended. Teams making submittals after the deadlines will receive penalty points.
- Any conflicts will be resolved locally. There is no appeal.
- The judges' decisions are final.
- Prizes are not transferable or exchangeable.