LOOKING FOR A HANDS-ON, EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGE FOR YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT?

Does your middle school student like working with their hands? Do they enjoy learning math, science and engineering concepts? Then the Future City Competition would be a perfect venue for them to showcase their talents! The Future City Competition was created by the National Engineers Week Committee to provide middle school age students with a fun, hands-on project that combines a stimulating educational challenge with a real world application as students present their vision of a city of the future.

The Future City Competition challenges three 7th and/or 8th grade students to work as a team with a teacher or home school parent and a professional engineer on designing a future city. From October through January, teams meet to prepare for the competition. Using the SIMCITY 3000 software, they design a city on the computer and then build a scale model of a city section by using recycled items. Teams will also submit an essay after researching this year’s topic: the field of land surveying!

When you register for the event, you will receive:
- SIMCITY 3000 software;
- T-shirt for each student;
- Handbook and tutorial CD-Rom for parents to guide them through the process;
- Free entrance to 2 help sessions;
- The chance to win multiple regional awards; and
- The opportunity to see displays of 40 other future cities by teams throughout the state.

You will receive all of this for just $25! The registration deadline is October 15. However, the faster you register, the earlier you will receive your materials to get started!

On Saturday, January 21, 2006, teams will display their models at Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne. Teams will also do a presentation for a panel of judges with the goal of being chosen the Indiana Regional Champion. Awards abound, but the most sought-after award is First Place in the Regional Competition, which qualifies the team to travel, all-expenses-paid, to Washington D.C. to compete in the National competition in February.

To assist educators in preparing for the competition, the Indiana Future City Competition Executive Committee is hosting an Educators Workshop. This workshop will provide them:
- assistance to implement the program for new teachers;
- a connection to curriculum and state standards;
- an opportunity to share ideas with other participating educators.

The workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, from 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the IPFW campus. The workshop cost is $15, with $10 going towards the registration fee if you decide to enter the competition.

To see information about the competition, please visit the regional website at: www.etcs.ipfw.edu/fcc or the national website at: www.futurecity.org. For more information about the event or Educator Workshop, contact Carol Dostal, Director of Outreach Programs, at 260-481-6905, or by email at dostalc@ipfw.edu.