The Michigan Regional Future City Competition is not just another school requirement. It goes beyond the classroom to inspire 6th, 7th and 8th grade students and nurture their interest in math, science, engineering and technology.

Volunteer mentors are an integral part of this rewarding and hands-on experience. Students learn how engineers turn ideas into reality and apply their knowledge to real world situations.

As a mentor, giving a few hours of your time could mean a lifelong interest and even commitment to core academic subjects. Throughout the Future City Competition, engineer mentors work with student teams as they design and build their city of the future. Your commitment entails:

1. Spending one or two hours every week or every other week with your team.
2. Sharing your technical expertise with participants- (Mentors must have a technical background sufficient to understand the project and coach the team).
3. Working with your students to help them harness their enthusiasm and channel their ideas into a coherent city.

Students must do all of the actual work from designing of the city on the computer to writing an essay, building a physical tabletop model and giving a verbal presentation.

Mentoring the next generation of engineers and scientists is truly a rewarding experience.

The Engineering Society of Detroit matches engineers with school teams. Interested engineers can volunteer by contacting Allison Marrs at 248-353-0735, ext. 121 or amarrs@esd.org. To learn more about Future City, visit esd.org/programs/futurecity