Suggestions for Finding a Mentor
Role of the Mentor

• The engineer serves as an advisor to the students. It is important to tie-in real life engineering experiences as students work on the competition.

• The engineer should be available in all phases of the project.

• The students must complete the actual creation of the city model and essay.

• Typically, most engineers will devote 20 to 40 hours of assistance throughout the program.
Things to Consider when Finding a Mentor

- The time commitment for the mentor can sometimes be an issue.

- Roles and responsibilities between the mentor and the teacher have to be determined on a case by case basis.
  - Make a basic plan before you get started
  - Communicate team goals throughout the project

- Some mentors may be willing to provide extra assistance via non-traditional means
  - e.g. video conferencing, email
Suggestions for Finding a Mentor

• **Step 1:** Ask your students if they have any parents or relatives who are engineers
  - Ideal situation because they will likely be very involved.
  - The majority of successful teams at the National Competition had a strong link between the engineer-mentor and either the teacher or one of the students.

• **Step 2:** Ask to speak at the next PTA meeting about Future City and your need for a mentor.
Suggestions for Finding a Mentor

- **Step 3:** Local businesses.
  - Many companies support educational activities. It provides positive exposure to the community and rejuvenates their engineers.

- **Step 4:** Retirees in the area and/or local engineering societies
  - SWE, IEEE, AIChe, ASME

- **Step 5:** Contact your regional Mentor Coordinator.
  - Leslie Sprague, Leslie.Sprague@srs.gov
Additional Suggestions that Apply in Some Locations

• Local military facilities.
• Engineering students.
• Others that may have interaction with the school.
• Electronic/webcast mentoring.
General Information

• One engineer can support multiple teams at your school.

• A team of engineers can mentor one team at your school. However, only one engineer will be recognized and awarded at the competition.

• Engineering websites that may help your students learn about engineering:
  • [www.discoverengineering.org](http://www.discoverengineering.org) (linked to future city website)
  • [www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org)
  • [www.asce.org/kids/](http://www.asce.org/kids/)
Engineering Society Websites

- American Society of Civil Engineers - [www.asce.org/](http://www.asce.org/)
- American Society of Chemical Engineers - [www.aiche.org/](http://www.aiche.org/)
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers - [www.asme.org/](http://www.asme.org/)
- Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineers - [www.ieee.org](http://www.ieee.org)
- Institute of Industrial Engineers - [www.iienet2.org](http://www.iienet2.org)
- Society of Automotive Engineers - [www.sae.org/](http://www.sae.org/)
- Society of Women Engineers – [societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/](http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/)
Summary

• The mentor is part of the team and should participate in each phase of the process.

• If you do not have a mentor at the beginning of the school year, please begin working on the competition while you continue to look for a mentor.

• It is ideal to have an engineer for each team (if the school has multiple teams), but one engineer can support all of the teams.