

# Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI) Community Problem Solving Overview

## What is Community Problem Solving?



Community Problem Solving (CmPS) is a team or individual activity in which students identify real problems and implement real solutions in a community – local, state, national, or even global. Students use the skills of the problem solving process as they work on their project; however, since real life is not always as organized as an academic exercise, the process may not proceed neatly from step to step. CmPS can be pursued as an extracurricular activity or as part of the regular school curriculum and projects can be one or more years in length.

Future Problem Solving Program International’s problem solving model aligns with State and National Curriculum Standards, and the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Standards. Through participation in Community Problem Solving, students refine critical and creative thinking skills, focus on a real community or school issue, produce solution ideas, generate criteria to evaluate solution ideas, determine the best plan of action, and implement the plan to resolve their problem.

## Who can participate in Community Problem Solving?

Students may participate in CmPS in multiple divisions equivalent to grade levels of the USA: Junior (grades 4-6), Middle (grades 7-9), and Senior (grades 10-12). Having a background in the Global Issues or Action-based components of FPSPI is a great start for students in CmPS, but this is not required.

Individuals or teams of any size may participate in Community Problem Solving. Please note that a maximum of 15 students on a team advancing to the International Conference may participate in the CmPS interview, but all team members may participate in the CmPS Showcase. Note: not all team members are required to participate in either the interview and/or CmPS Showcase. Since CmPS projects are long-term activities students need to be committed to following through with the activity.

## 2018 Beyonder Award

“Foster Friends” began when a little girl who attended Highland Elementary was placed into Foster Care. She left school one cold dreary day, frightened and alone with nothing to call her own. The team decided to fill backpacks (age, gender, and size appropriate) with everything a child would need for the first couple of nights in their new environment: blanket; new pajamas; stuffed animal; journal; school supplies; small toy/craft; and hygiene products. In addition, they contacted their Kentucky Senator, Representative, and Governor in an attempt to get a law passed stating, “All children placed into Foster Care will receive a Foster Friends Emergency Pack,” giving children all they need for the first three days with their new family.

## How do I register students for Community Problem Solving?

Each Affiliate Program of FPSPI determines its own processes and fees for registration and entries. Mentoring where the CmPS component is not offered is done through FPSPI. [www.fpspi.org/fps-mentoring](http://www.fpspi.org/fps-mentoring). Your Affiliate Director can provide you with registration and submission materials and may be able to put you in touch with experienced CmPS coaches.

### 2018 Middle Grand Champion

Our project, 'Saving Water At All Times', aims to raise awareness about the impact of water wastage on our environment and to encourage children to actively participate in water saving activities so as to reduce their water usage in school and at home. After implementing solutions in our school, we reached out to kindergartens near our school's vicinity to engage preschoolers in activities which educate them about the importance of water saving. To spread our message to the masses, we shared about our project efforts with the public during Singapore World Water Day events held all over the country.

## How are CmPS projects evaluated?



CmPS projects are scored by trained evaluators who consider all elements of the project. At the Affiliate level, these assessments usually include evaluation of a written report, supporting documentation within an addendum, and a scrapbook. Additional requirements for projects that qualify for International Competition include a CmPS Showcase where the team shares their projects and presents a table-top display, an oral presentation, a media presentation, and an interview. In most Affiliate Programs, at least the first place projects move on to the International Competition (IC).

## Where can I find a sample project to view?

An example of a written report, addendum, and the team's PSA media presentation are found on [fpspi.org](http://fpspi.org) (ABOUT US menu/COMPETITIVE COMPONENTS/Community Problem Solving).