

Our Mission

To develop the ability of young people globally to design and achieve positive futures through problem solving using critical and creative thinking.



Future Problem Solving Program International is a nonprofit, tax-exempt educational organization. Founded in 1974 by creativity pioneer, Dr. E. Paul Torrance, the program's goal is to inspire creativity in students and encourage them to develop a positive vision for the future.

Future Problem Solving Program International empowers students to solve global challenges.



Welcome Parents!

Subscribe to our parent newsletter. Visit www.fpspi.org and enter your email at the bottom of the page under eNewsletter.

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Future Problem Solving Program International

The Basics

WHO – Parents! You!

WHAT – Help students learn and apply the skills of creative problem solving to:

- Problems in your own community
- Significant global issues
- Futuristic scenarios

WHERE – Worldwide

- 40 Affiliate Programs globally
- Mentoring available for new areas
- Classroom/curricular or community settings

WHEN – Current school year

- Northern and Southern hemispheres have different school year schedules.
- Start-up possible at any time.

HOW – We'd love your help:

- Coach a team or an individual
- Train to become an evaluator
- Volunteer at your Affiliate Bowl
- Sponsor a team to the International Conference
- Host a fundraiser for your local teams
- Start an FPS parent advocacy group

Other ideas?

The possibilities are endless.

FPSPi Components

Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS)

Teams or individuals research up to five different topics annually, applying the 6-step problem-solving model addressing issues within the provided Future Scenes.

Community Problem Solving (CmPS)

Teams or individuals explore local, regional, or global issues to design and implement a CmPS project.

Scenario Performance

Students use the storytelling model to create and orally present a futuristic story based on one of the current FPSPi topics.

Scenario Writing

Students develop and polish their creative writing skills as they create a futuristic 1500 word scenario based on one of the current FPSPi topics.

***Divisions:**

- Junior – grades 4-6
- Middle – grades 7-9
- Senior – grades 10-12
- Adult (GIPS only)

The **non-competitive** classroom component, **Action-based Problem Solving (AbPS)**, explores authentic concerns and prepares students to take action.

***Divisions:**

- Primary – grades K-3
- Junior – grades 3-6
- Middle – grades 6-9

***Division based upon US grades 4-12**

FPSPi Goals

- Increase global awareness and interest in the future
- Explore and problem solve complex, societal issues
- Develop, utilize, and improve research techniques
- Learn and apply problem solving strategies
- Develop and enhance creative and critical thinking skills
- Engage in real-life problem solving
- Develop teamwork skills
- Improve oral and written communication

*Results of our FPSPi Program Evaluation are found at <http://www.fpspi.org/pdf/FPSPi-EvaluationArticle%20-%20treff.pdf>

Our Six-Step Problem Solving Model

1. Identify Challenges to the topic or Future Scene.
2. Select an Underlying Problem.
3. Produce Solution Ideas to the Underlying Problem.
4. Generate and Select Criteria to Evaluate Solution Ideas.
5. Apply Criteria to Solution Ideas.
6. Develop an Action Plan.

“I began participating in FPS for my kids, but I have stayed with it because of what I get from it.”

-- An FPS Parent