



2023 Fall Newsletter

Due to the Fact That...

Minnesota Future Problem Solving Program (MN FPSP)
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Mark Your Calendars Now! 2023-2024 Calendar and Fees

World Solutions Challenge: Coaches and Parents, please share with your students NOW!

Click here to learn more! What is this all about?

Registration ends September 12th! Registration Link

COST TO PARTICIPATE:

	\$25 for 1 student
	\$50 for a team of 2 students
	\$75 for a team of 3 students
	\$100 for a team of 4 students

Did someone say,
 “WINNERS ANNOUNCED
 on OCTOBER 26TH?”

That’s right! Not only will
 students get a great start
 on fine tuning their FPS
 skills, but there are big
 prizes for winning teams!

KEY DATES:

- **August 1 - September 12, 2023** – Registration for the World Solutions Challenge through fspimart.org
- **September 18 - October 2** – World Solutions Challenge open for students to learn and work
- **October 9 - October 23** – Judging
- **October 26** – Winners announced

**1st place – \$500 plus
 one team registration
 with their local FPS
 program.**

2nd place – \$200 plus one team registration with their local FPS program.

3rd place – One team registration with their local FPS Program.

*Prizes are per team and not per person.

Training for Coaches!

Are you new to FPS? Perhaps you've been coaching and want to improve your game. Maybe you want to coach a new component. Want to become an evaluator?

To register, go to: [Workshop Registration Form](#)

The next training for new coaches will be on Wednesday/Thursday, September 20-21.

Grants Available for New Coaches: [New Coach Grant Application](#)

NOTE: You will be asked to "Make a copy" of this form.

After you fill out the form, share it with cheryl@mnfmsp.org



Experienced GIPS Coaches, be sure to mark your calendars for **Saturday, October 7th, 9-11 a.m. via Zoom**. During this session, we will be reviewing last year's GIPS changes and focusing on areas of your concern.

While there is NO cost, be sure to use the [Workshop Registration Form](#) to register by September 29th. New Coaches who have completed the Beginner Training are welcome to participate.

Help us recruit new students and new coaches via new schools or new programs! Perhaps you have a new Principal, GT Director, Activities Director, Community Education Director, or you know a family who Home Schools their children and are looking for a way to teach the higher level thinking skills while providing a fun challenge using real life topics.

Check out and share these quick [Resource Links](#)



Student Ambassador program...

Our Student Ambassador Program continues to grow in strength through the leadership of the Ambassador Advisors.

On the left is Coach Karlyn Doyle. On the right is Coach Tom Warnemunde. Below is FPS alumna, Christopher Meng.



A Word from Our Returning Ambassadors:



Scarlett Anderson: *"I can't wait to meet with the new student ambassadors, and hope that we can make more progress toward social media advertising and develop new ideas!"*

Scarlett is also serving on the International Youth Advisory Group and is a Senior at Brainerd High School this year.

Ifrah Aden:

"My goals for this year are to connect with my team and accomplish a lot as a student ambassador."

Ifrah is a Senior at Apollo High School in St. Cloud this year.



A Word from Our New Ambassadors:



Owen Byrns: *"My goal for this year is to work on improving the numbers of coaches and students involved in the program so we can teach the future problem solving method to as many students as we can."*

Owen is a sophomore at Brainerd High School this year.

Eva Campbell:

"My goals are to gain experience in website design and managing social media for potential projects inside and outside FPS, in addition to gaining experience in communication between students and their parents, teachers, and coaches."

Eva is working on completing her Junior year and beginning her Senior year of High School. She is a member of the Campbell Family Home School.





Greetings Future Problem Solvers!

My name is Christopher Meng—I participated in the MNFPSP as part of the Centennial affiliate for nine years before graduating high school and heading off to college. Competing in both team Global Issues Problem Solving and Scenario Writing, I advanced to the International Competition several times. I also served as a Student Representative to the MN FPSP Board of Directors through the now-named Student Ambassador role. This past spring, I rejoined the Board, now as an adult board member.

Reflecting on my time in the MN FPSP, I am thankful for all the skills it has given me. Understanding how to identify problems in complex situations and generate appropriate solutions is a crucial ability, both in careers and in life more generally. Recently, while assisting a friend through a challenge they were facing, I found that I was implicitly using the FPS process. I first conducted research and consulted others, who helped me recognize some important considerations I had overlooked (just like how thinking about categories can help you generate problems and solutions!) With these ideas in mind, I discussed some criteria and potential solutions with my friend, which ultimately enabled us to settle on an action plan.

I also find the FPS process useful in academic settings. Evaluating my biochemistry laboratory research often necessitates critical thinking skills that also find use in analyzing literature and sources of information. Another useful skill is being able to communicate information logically and concisely. Writing itself requires practice, as through FPS, alongside the speaking and acting skills developed through the Presentation of Action Plan. Even the basic principle of filling out a packet, writing a scenario, or developing a project helps refine executive function skills that are key to have whenever you want to accomplish a task.

These skills that you develop may be taken for granted now, during elementary, middle, or high school, but you will find that they become superpowers later in life. With all the problems going on in the world today—from legal disputes to natural disasters to concerns over artificial Intelligence - it is clear that we need more problem solvers in the world who can think critically and creatively to design and implement effective solutions. And that's where you come in!

To learn how YOUR student can learn these skills, go to www.mnfpssp.org

Or email: cheryl@mnfpssp.org

Did you know that you can earn Bing Rewards for the MN FPSP?

To sign up with Bing to donate to a nonprofit, you need to follow these steps:

1. **Join** Microsoft Rewards and Give with Bing by clicking on the [Join now](#) button on the [Give with Bing website](#)¹. It's free and easy to join.
2. **Choose** your nonprofit (It would be GREAT if you chose us!) from more than 1.4 million national and local organizations. You can search for your preferred cause by name or category on the [Give with Bing website](#)¹. (NOTE: You will find us under "Future Problem Solving Program International." Look for our affiliate program under the "Brownsville MN" address.
3. **Search on Bing** when you're signed in. You'll earn points that turn into cash for your chosen nonprofit. You can track your impact and change your nonprofit anytime on the Rewards Dashboard.
 - Have fun earning points that will translate into dollars to serve our students.
 - Please encourage your friends and family to designate Minnesota Future Problem Solving.



Thank you for choosing to give back with Bing. You are making a difference in the world.



Also remember to mark your calendars for:


Thursday, November 17, 2021

To Give To The MAX!

<https://givemn.org/>

So you'd like to share FPS with your friends and colleagues? Have them check us out in the [2023-24 Reach for the Stars Catalog](#) (Just click on the link.) Scroll down to the top of page 31 and point out the in front of our name:

MINNESOTA FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM

The  indicates that we are a Minnesota Academic

League Affiliate, certified by the MN Department of Education.



LEGACY: by TC Meng

The Legacy Silent Auction capped off another successful fundraiser in 2023. In its 5th year, the Silent Auction was held online, in parallel with the State Competition. Businesses, Board Members, parents and other supporters of MN FPSP donated a total of 40 items. When the (virtual) gavel came down, a total of \$1,577.00 had been raised to benefit the MNFPSP Legacy Program. This was up \$182.00 from the previous year. Legacy provides grant support to: State Competition winners requiring financial assistance to attend the International conference to represent Minnesota; Community Problem Solving teams requiring funds to accomplish their project goals as they apply problem solving skills to an area of concern in their community; and to support coach training for new programs. Thanks to all those who donated items or time to support the 2023 Silent Auction! We will gratefully accept donations for the 2024 Legacy Silent Auction anytime. To donate, email: taintorjulie@gmail.com



A Message from the Board President: Cynthia Allen

We exist for our FPS Community, especially for our participating youth and young adults. This column is dedicated to the importance of student involvement on the Board and also involvement by all participants.

On our MN FPS Board, we have been actively promoting to expand meaningful student participation through our Student Ambassadors serving on the MN FPS Board and supporting their effective contributions to planning and programming for all student FPS participants. Why is this important?

Student Voice: What is student voice?

Student voice is having a say in matters that affect them in their pursuits, and to have their views and opinions taken seriously. They are then better able to engage and make meaningful contributions. Student voice can vary from simple self-expression to taking on leadership roles. Student voice can be characterized by increasing complexity of involvement and responsibility:

- Expression - voice an opinion
- Consultation - asked for an opinion
- Participation - attend and preferably play an active role in a meeting

- Partnership - have a formal role in decision-making
- Activism - identify a problem, propose a solution, and advocate its adoption
- Leadership - plan and make decisions
- Student voice is at the very heart of the FPS process!

FPS teaches students how to think, not what to think. This is accomplished by teaching critical and creative thinking skills, and problem solving and decision making skills via a six step process. Our mentored student ambassadors have had a very successful year in all of these areas and have laid the positive framework for this upcoming year and for others in the future that will follow them. They have been using, and will continue to use, their honed FPS skills and their Voice to achieve goals to help others.

Some student ambassador contributions from this past year follow:

1. Working with their adult mentors for best avenues to benefit their peers.
2. Collaborating digitally and in person as appropriate.
3. Considering timelines useful for peers.
4. Successful contributions in Board meetings.
5. Excellent participation in Committee work.
6. Relevant feedback about surveys.
7. Hosting two fun Socials via Zoom.
8. Getting to know other students outside the competition setting.
9. Providing an Informational session useful for younger students, including about other components.
10. Hosting the State Social: Did a BINGO Get to Know You.
11. Creating posts and videos for Facebook and Instagram to keep them active.
12. Promoting the Visual Arts pilot to IC board.
13. Creating a components promotional video for the students, coaches, social media and the website



How can EVERY participant develop their voice while participating in FPS?

To encourage and support practicing student voice is important in developing FPS skills for everyone. Whether while being coached, collaborating with team members, planning practice sessions, researching to creatively problem solve, asking for clarity when learning skills, trying out team strategies, or getting involved with the student ambassadors, EVERY student can nurture his or her own confident communication growth.

Best wishes for a great FPS year and growing Your voice!

Message from Executive Director:



I'm excited about the year before us as we continue to reach out to more students. This year brings Year Five of piloting the Visual Arts Component. Our Student Ambassador Leader, Michele Li, graduated and has moved onto Columbia University in New York City. However, she plans on staying involved as a judge. In her place, our new Student



Ambassador and Visual Arts Competitor, Eva Campbell, will be taking Michele's place as our Lead Student Coach.

As we live out Dr. E. Paul Torrance's dream to "prepare kids for their future, not our past," we will continue administering the Qualifying Problem virtually. Our students have become quite savvy competing via google docs and submitting their Presentations electronically. This year watch for something new as we are looking at ways to support students in improving their recordings.



The State Competition written work will be done over the course of two weeks before the onsite event on April 13th. This is to allow students adequate time to prepare and submit their Presentation of Action Plans as well as to accommodate for several religious holidays. The shorter day last year gave everyone the opportunity to check out our Community Problem Solving Projects; to view the Visual Arts Submissions; to listen to a winning Scenario Writer's work being read. We're hoping to add Scenario Performance this year, as well. We also had more time for socializing as the greatest challenge has always been getting enough time to meet, greet, and to network as students, coaches, and parents.

I'm proud and honored to work with an actively engaged Board. They come with ideas and support at every turn. At this time there are still two empty seats. If you're interested in serving, contact me at: chery@mnfppsp.org OR Board President, Cynthia Allen at: callen@isd94.org

Anytime you have ideas, questions, or concerns, be sure to contact me via my email above. If you'd like to phone or have a Zoom conversation, email me to schedule a time to chat.





Virtual FPS Teams

As our virtual experiences continue to improve, we will continue to provide FPS to students who are in schools or programs who do not offer FPS, to students who are homeschooled and don't have a local coach, and we're offering FPS to Online Academies.

This continues to be a great opportunity to reach out to more Minnesota students than ever! We're excited about the many possibilities that might grow as students who live near each other and know each other...or they might not know each other...yet. Imagine a team of students where each member comes from another part of the state! Also imagine the excitement when they get to meet each other in person at the State Competition on April 13th, 2024!

Do you know of someone who would like to be challenged and is interested in learning critical and creative thinking/problem solving skills? Have them contact: cheryl@mnfmsp.org

Be sure to visit us on



and look for "minnesotafpsers"



on Instagram

**"Teaching kids how to think,
not what to think"
since 1980!**

