

What is the Georgia Future Problem Solving Program?

The GA FPSP sponsors three different academic competitions for students in grades 4 through 12. Each competition revolves around a six-step problem solving process. The competitions are team booklet competition, scenario writing, and community problem solving (CmPS).

Team Booklet Competition

Teams of no more than 4 students read a short scenario set in the future based on a given topic. They then apply the six-step process to the scenario, writing an 11- or 12-page booklet that is sent in for evaluation by trained FPSP evaluators. There are 3 booklet competitions during the school year – Practice Problem 1 (October due date), Practice Problem 2 (December due date), and Qualifying Problem (February due date). Teams receive scores and feedback from the evaluators for each problem and, based on the work teams do on the Qualifying Problem, they may be invited to compete at the state bowl in late March. Winners in each division at state bowl are invited to attend the FPSP International Conference in late May or early June.

Scenario Writing Competition

Individual students write a future scenario, based on one of the year's topics, of 1,500 words or less, with a problem-solving focus. The due date for submission of scenarios is late January. The scenarios are evaluated by trained evaluators, and each scenario writer receives scores and feedback. The top scenario winners are recognized at the state bowl awards ceremony, and the most promising of the top three winning scenarios in each division are sent onto international competition. The first place state winners in each division as well as the top scenario winners in the international competition are invited to compete at the FPSP International Conference in late May or early June.

Information on this year's topics can be found at www.gafpsp.org or www.fpspi.org.

Community Problem Solving Competition

Individuals and teams of any size attack a local, national, or world problem of their own choosing. Students follow guidelines to produce a six-page written report with supporting documents tracking their work – progress, accomplishments, and obstacles. The due date for this competition is early March. Winners in each division are recognized at the state bowl and invited to attend the FPSP International Conference in late May or early June.

Calendar

The GA FPSP follows the calendar of most schools in Georgia. Registration takes place in the fall, and the year ends with the FPSP International Competition in late May or early June. See the year's Calendar at the GA FPSP website.

Who Can Participate

Teams and individuals in grades 4 – 6 (Junior division), grades 7 – 9 (Middle division), and grades 10 – 12 (Senior division).

Affiliation with a school *is not required*. While we encourage individual students to participate in the scenario writing and CmPS competitions, the team booklet competition is for teams only (two-student minimum) during the school year. Teams who qualify for state bowl may bring up to three individuals to compete in individual problem solving competition at the state bowl.

Coaching

Each team or individual competitor is required to have an adult sponsor, referred to as the “coach.” The coach is any adult who agrees to sponsor, oversee, and be the contact for the competitors. Training for coaches is held in early September. Find more information at www.gafpsp.org.

The coach registers with GA FPSP, trains the team for the competitions, mails in the work by the due date, and receives all the competition materials and evaluations after the competitions.

We encourage parental participation, particularly as coaches. However, it must be pointed out to both teachers and parents that after the initial coach’s training in the fall, it is up to the coach to carry out the student training for the competition(s) they will be entering.

Costs

Cost for each competition can be found at www.gafpsp.org under fee schedule or on the competition registration forms.

Coaches may also need to plan for the cost of coach training and any materials purchased from FPSP International.

There are additional fees for team booklet competitors at the state bowl and any individual competitors who accompany the team.