



### Utah Future Problem Solving Directors

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[www.utahfps.org](http://www.utahfps.org)

## 2023-2024 Utah Future Problem Solving

Future Problem Solving is a fun and futuristic program that teaches **creativity, critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills** to students in grades K-12. Work with your students in creative writing or to solve global and community problems using our **powerful 6-step problem-solving process** in competitive and non-competitive divisions. Competitive programs are offered for students in grades 4-12, while non-competitive programs are provided for students in grades K-12.

### FPS New Coach Training

New Coaches who want further information, please contact us for in-school or after-school assistance. Training is available on request.

#### Global Issues Training:

Tammy Wright: [tammyswright@q.com](mailto:tammyswright@q.com)  
New coaches training Sept. 11, 2023, at 4:30pm  
Refresher training Sept.18, 2023, at 4:30pm

#### Community Problem Solving Training:

Patti White: [patti.white@uw.org](mailto:patti.white@uw.org)

#### Story Writing, Scenario Writing, and Scenario Performance Training:

Jennifer Flitton: [jenflitton@msn.com](mailto:jenflitton@msn.com)

### The Future Problem Solving 6-Step Process

1. Identify problems.
2. Choose a significant problem to solve.
3. Brainstorm solutions to the chosen problem.
4. Develop criteria to evaluate solution ideas.
5. Apply the criteria to identify the best solution.
6. Develop an action plan for making the best solution happen.

### More information...

[www.fpspi.org](http://www.fpspi.org)  
[www.utahfps.org](http://www.utahfps.org)

Like us on Facebook at

**Utah Future Problem Solving**

**Prepare students for the future today!**

### FPS Registration

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

or go to

<https://forms.gle/99LiC1T2kUK5DSrm7>

Registration due October 31, 2023

(late fee \$10 per entry)

**Idaho students may participate in Utah FPS in all categories. For competitive divisions, Idaho students may compete against Utah students and may qualify separately for the International Competition. Please use Utah registration link.**

# Register for the 2023-2024 Future Problem Solving Program



As exciting as ever!

## FPS Competitive Divisions

*Participate in the full program—with potential to compete at the State Bowl and Internationals!*

### **Global Issues Problem Solving (Team) . . . . . \$100 per team**

In Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) students in grades 4-12 compete in teams of four to research and problem-solve topics of current relevance in the world. Teams complete two practice problems (optional), which are evaluated and returned with feedback. They then submit a third problem to try to qualify for the competitive State Bowl. Qualifying teams are invited to compete at State for the opportunity to represent Utah at the annual International FPS competition in June.

See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NB5CxAUNow&sns=em> (fast forward to 2:42)

### **Global Issues Problem Solving (Individual) . . . . . \$40 per student**

Individual Global Issues Problem Solving is designed to give self-motivated, confident students the opportunity to compete, using the same format as the Team Division but completing shorter booklets independently. This is an ideal option for coaches who have a few extra students who won't fit evenly onto teams. Individuals complete two practice problems (optional), which are evaluated and returned with feedback, and then submit a third problem to qualify for the competitive State Bowl. Qualifying individuals are invited to compete at State for the opportunity to represent Utah at the annual International FPS competition in June.

### **Community Problem Solving (Team or Individual) . . \$70 per team or \$60 per individual**

In Community Problem Solving (CmPS), teams in grades 4-12 use the FPS process to identify and solve current problems in their own communities. This experience builds hands-on problem solving skills, strengthens analytical skills and leadership ability, and offers many different types of communication opportunities—all while actively involving students in giving back to the community in which they live. Teams spend the year working on the problem they chose, and compete for an invitation to the State Bowl and the International competition. Because teams may include 15 or more students, this is an excellent experience for whole classrooms. Individuals are also welcome in Community Problems Solving and will be evaluated separately.

See: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1\\_QL169aY0&sns=em](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1_QL169aY0&sns=em)

### **Story Writing (Individual) (Formerly “Scenario Writing”) . . . . . \$25 per entry**

Scenario Writing gives students in grades 4-12 who are interested in creative writing the opportunity to research any of the year's Global Issues topics and compose a creative, dramatic, and futuristic story. The story may be written over a period of days, weeks, or months, without any time limit. Length of entry is a maximum of 1,500 words. Winning scenarios will be provided with state championship awards but will not advance to the International Competition (please make sure to use this year's topics – shown on pages 3-4).

### **Scenario Writing (Individual) *new this year* . . . . . \$25 per entry**

Scenario Writing gives students in grades 4-12 who are interested in creative writing the opportunity to compose a spontaneous futuristic scenario. Students will be provided with a future scene prompt related to the State Bowl topic of Autonomous Transportation to create and develop a story in a two-hour block of time. Winning scenarios are chosen to compete at the International Competition. Since this is the first year Utah is offering this competition, students may advance directly to the State Meet without competing in the qualifying round.

### **Scenario Performance (Individual) . . . . . \$25 per entry**

Scenario Performance (ScP) is for students who enjoy telling stories. Students in grades 4-12 are challenged to create a story that is between 4-5 minute duration, set at least 20 years in the future, and arises from any one of the topics set for Global Issues in the FPS year. Submission will take the form of a video file of the student delivering an oral telling of their story, undertaken in one take without any edits.

See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDpv84hwdzU&sns=em>

## **International Competition**

Teams, individuals, scenario writers, and community problem solvers who qualify for the State Bowl compete for the opportunity to represent Utah at the International Conference, which will be held at Indiana University in June 2024. At least one team/individual from each level of Global Issues, Community Problem Solving, Scenario Writing, and Scenario Performance will move on to compete at the International Conference. This is an exciting opportunity that students will not want to miss, if selected. Utah students will be among 2,500 students from around the world participating in the competition. For more information about the FPS International Competition, visit [www.fpspi.org](http://www.fpspi.org).

## **FPS Non-Competitive Curricular Divisions**

*Learn problem solving methods  
without the pressure of competition*

### **Action-based Problem Solving (K-9) (Individual or Team) . . . . . \$35 per class**

This year-long, non-competitive component (AbPS) is designed for use in the regular classroom and introduces students to the skills of global issues problem solving in a hands-on, non-threatening manner. Students are encouraged to work on two topics, one per semester. Three divisions are offered: Primary (grades K-3), Junior (grades 3-6) and Middle (grades 6-9).

### **Community Problem Solving (4-12) (Individual or Team) . . . . . \$35 per entry**

Similar to the competitive CmPS, but in a non-competitive format.

## **Topics for Global Issues and Scenario Writing**

### **Topic**

### **Global Issues Submission Date**

**Practice Problem #1 – Tourism**

**October 10, 2023**

Tourism not only benefits host locales but those on holiday. Travel enriches their lives, expands their understanding of people and cultures, while also serving as a respite from daily life. The economic stability of such destinations depends on the sustainability of their tourist trade. As the popularity of such destinations grows, international corporations and developers typically flock to these growing places, trying to capitalize on the financial possibilities. There is money to be made in building hotels, restaurants, and in developing an area's growing tourism industry. As outside groups seek to attract tourists and the revenue they generate, locals often struggle to maintain their location's unique appeal and ability to support local venues. As this build-up occurs, local people can have their cultures exploited, lands destroyed, and their local businesses put in jeopardy. As the tourism sector grows and expands, we are seeing the expansion of the Special Interest (SIT) market - tourists wishing to match their vacations with their interests (e.g., ecotourism, wellness tourism, event tourism, ancestry tourism, etc.) How will changing forms and trends of tourism impact tourists and hosts alike? How can the advantages of expanding tourism be balanced with the protection of destinations?

**Practice Problem #2 – Urbanization****December 14, 2023**

Today nearly half the world's population lives in an urban area. By 2050, that number is expected to reach 70% due to this increase in Urbanization. Urban areas and their large populations often hold power over governance, economic development, and international connectivity beyond their immediate regions. With proper planning, urban centers can provide educational and economic opportunities to residents not found elsewhere. However, they can also easily give rise to slums and increase income inequality. With growing footprints, cities are also struggling to provide basic needs, essential services, and safety. Future urban planners must address tough questions: What qualities in society should be valued most? What is fair and equitable? Whose interests will be served first? Planners must balance the speed of decision-making with the need for thoughtful, well-considered programs for development. As urban areas expand, how can we develop areas that are efficient, resilient, and inclusive? Future urban planners must address tough questions: What qualities in society should be valued most? What is fair and equitable? Whose interests will be served first? Planners must balance the speed of decision-making with the need for thoughtful, well-considered programs for development. As urban areas expand, how can we develop areas that are efficient, resilient, and inclusive?

**State Qualifying Problem – Antarctica****February 2, 2024**

Antarctica, the highest, driest, coldest continent, has no permanent population and is governed by a collection of agreements between fifty-four countries. The Antarctic Treaty System designates the entire continent and surrounding waters for scientific endeavors, bans military activity, and promotes environmental research and preservation. Although Antarctica remains the most remote place on Earth, it is highly regulated and heavily impacted by activities around the globe. Parts of the continent are polluted by sewage, discarded machinery, fuel products, and rubbish. Antarctica is thought to be rich in minerals and resources, though an 'indefinite' ban on mining is in place through 2048. Antarctica also holds over 60% of the Earth's fresh water in an ice sheet that contains 90% of the Earth's total ice volume. As global temperatures rise, these are breaking apart and melting faster, endangering local wildlife and entire ecosystems. Without a consistent population or a sovereign state, Antarctica possesses a unique space within political, economic, and environmental crossroads. How can Antarctica be sustainably utilized yet simultaneously preserved to best benefit our global population?

**State Bowl – Autonomous Transportation****GPS Problem due March 14, 2024  
Story Writing due March 14, 2024  
Presentations March 22, 2024**

Our transport needs, desires, and realities are rapidly changing due to global growth and increased connectivity. As modes of transportation continue to evolve, increasing levels of complexity and efficiency are pursued. What role will autonomous vehicles, cars, airplanes, ships, etc., which operate without human intervention, play in this pursuit? Their development continues to increase exponentially with advancing technological capabilities. Since all scenarios are not programmable, autonomous vehicles must learn and react. They do this by surveying their environment with multiple sensors and utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) to process vast amounts of data. Autonomous vehicles can deliver on demand, refuel, park, and store themselves. By creating a network of these vehicles, entire systems of transport could become autonomous, controlled by a central AI. How will the efficiency of autonomous vehicles affect the development of transportation, on land and sea, in the air, and possibly space? How will autonomous transport cope with unexpected risk situations and ethical decisions? In what ways will autonomous transport impact jobs, industries, infrastructure, and lifestyles?

State Bowl – TBA  
International Competition – Indiana University

March 27 or 28, 2024  
June 2024

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**Other Dates:**

Registration due for all competitions (late registration accepted until Feb. 1)

October, 31, 2023

Story Writing due  
Scenario Performance due

February 1, 2024  
February 8, 2024

CmPS Proposal due  
CmPS Intent due  
CmPS due

November 2, 2023  
December 14, 2023  
March 12, 2024

## What? A free team? How???

- **Evaluate** at least two of PP1, PP2, the Qualifying Problem, and State Bowl packets this year. Please contact Jill Powlick ([jpowlick@gmail.com](mailto:jpowlick@gmail.com)) for more information, or
- **Recruit** a new coach with no previous FPS experience who registers at least one team for this school year.
- **Granite Schools:** GSD pays registration for up to two entries per teacher.

## [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

or go to

<https://forms.gle/99LiC1T2kUK5DSrm7>

## Get Involved in Utah Future Problem Solving!!!

Utah FPS needs people willing to help! If you are interested in helping out, please contact one of the members of the board listed below:

### Utah FPS Board Members:

Tamera Wright, Board President/Affiliate Co-Director

[tammyswright@q.com](mailto:tammyswright@q.com)

Jill Powlick, Affiliate Co-Director/  
GIPS Evaluation Coordinator

[jpowlick@gmail.com](mailto:jpowlick@gmail.com)

Tina Romney, Treasurer

[tromney0782@msn.com](mailto:tromney0782@msn.com)

Patti White, CmPS & Problem/Project-Based  
Learning Co-coordinator

[patti.white@uw.org](mailto:patti.white@uw.org)

Jennifer Flitton, Scenario Coordinator

[jenflitton@msn.com](mailto:jenflitton@msn.com)

Elisa Jennings, Teacher Outreach, GIPS Specialist

[elisaannie@hotmail.com](mailto:elisaannie@hotmail.com)

Jennifer Shields, Parent Outreach Coordinator

[jzshields@gmail.com](mailto:jzshields@gmail.com)

For more information on FPS, please visit [fpspi.org](http://fpspi.org) or watch this overview:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsKH0B\\_rlg&sns=em](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsKH0B_rlg&sns=em)