

April / May 2013

Volume 7

FPSPI



PARENT PERSPECTIVES

Its not too late!!! Congratulate your team from home by purchasing a personalized ad in the 2013 IC program. Ads must be submitted by May 3, 2013. Order through FPSPI Mart on the FPSPI website.

Please send your questions or comments to the Parent Committee via Chair, Deb Woythal at dwoythal@gmail.com

Your TIPS and TICKETS for the International Conference!

The tips and suggestions this month come from **Gretchen Hundermark**, former Affiliate Director of Alaska. Gretchen has been involved in the Future Problem Solving Program since 1994, and was an Affiliate Director for eight years. Gretchen has been an international CmPS evaluator for many years and also evaluates GIPS and CmPS for Alaska. Enjoy!



Did You know?....

You can purchase a CD from the FPSPI Mart of selected events: Opening Ceremony, Awards Ceremony, and the Variety Show! If you can't be there, order a copy!



Dear Parents:

It is exciting to attend FPSPI International Conference. This year the conference will be in Bloomington, Indiana, June 6-9. Your coach will have a booklet full of information to share with you and your student. There is also information at www.fpspi.org.

You can help the coach prepare the team for this trip. Check with the coach. She or he might like help with fundraising and making the travel plans.

*HAMILTON MEETINGS & INCENTIVES (HMI)

HMI is the preferred travel agency for IC 2013. Representatives from HMI will be available to you at the HMI Travel Desk at the airport and on campus. They can help you with your travel arrangements and there is a link at www.fpspi.org; just click on the HMI Travel Agency button on the left side of the page.

Are you interested in chaperoning? Is the cost an issue? Think about volunteering to help with IC. You will have some duties but would be on hand to see your team too.

*Be a Volunteer!

Do you have an interest in volunteering at International Conference 2013 at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, June 6 - 9?

Please note:

1. Volunteers must be recommended by an Affiliate Program or FPSPI.
2. Volunteers are responsible for travel to the conference site.
3. FPSPI will provide on-campus housing and meals.
4. Volunteers are expected to be present throughout the conference.

If you meet the qualifications above and would like to volunteer, please complete a brief questionnaire on the FPSPI.org website under the International Conference button.

*Help your students prepare.

Do you know an expert you could invite to talk to the students? Hearing an expert in person is a nice change and can really help the students to engage in the topic.



*Students

Be prepared to be in different surroundings when you do your packet. *Be flexible!* You could be in one large room with many competitors! If you go into the situation knowing that it may be different than you are used to then you will be prepared for anything.

Is this your student's first time traveling without you? Reassure them. Be sure they know what is expected. Are they flying? Have they done this before? Do they know what going through TSA is like? Remind them that this is a time to put on their best behavior. No joking in the TSA line. This is serious business. Students age 17 and younger are not required to have ID to pass through TSA. If you have questions about TSA you can visit their website: <http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information>.

Make sure you have everyone's phone numbers in your phone. There will be an emergency number for FPS, make sure you have that number too. You never know what could happen and you want to be able to get in touch with everyone if something goes wrong. Be sure your student has this information too. If they don't have a cell phone be sure they have the information on a small card in their pocket.

Your student will be staying in a college dorm; it is a great experience to prepare them for when they go to college. They will share a room with teammates. The coach will probably be in an adjoining room with another coach from another team. The dorm building will be shared with other IC attendees. Students will be issued key(s) to their room and to the building; remind them to keep track of this as there is probably a fine if your student loses it. Linens will be provided (sheets, blankets, and towels). There will be a shared bathroom down the hall. It is important that students be considerate and responsible. They should try to be tidy. Label personal items (clothes, hygiene kit, etc) so that lost items can be returned.

Students will be eating in a college cafeteria. They will be issued a meal "card". It is very important to keep track of the meal card. There will be a number of food selections offered at each mealtime. Students will be expected to clean up their own space after each meal. If your child has food allergies, be sure the coach is informed. Special arrangements can be made.

IC will offer a number of field trips for attendees before and after the competition day (Friday). There is a cost for these. The list will be provided in the booklet that coach will provide.

What should your student bring? School clothes are appropriate for IC. Sometimes students dress up for the awards ceremony; after all, they have worked hard and this is a celebration of their achievements! They should bring a jacket. They should bring shoes that are appropriate for walking; sometimes the distances on campus can seem long. They could have a little spending money.

When teams register they will get a lanyard/name tag with a zippered pouch to keep track of room keys, meal tickets, a bit of money. This must be worn at all times. It is the student's pass to all events.

Remember to bring extra sharp pencils, a dictionary, a thesaurus, and your creativity!

*Memento Exchange (Mixer)

Who: All participants

What: An opportunity to meet other students and adults from all over the world by exchanging mementos from their respective home or region

When: Thursday at 6:30PM and continued after the Opening Ceremony. *Students are encouraged to trade mementos throughout the conference.*

How: Contact your Convention and Visitors Bureau of your state or the local government office for donations of commemorative items. Anything that represents your area/state or region: pencils, pens, hats, maps, posters, pins, etc. Bring approximately 300 items to exchange. Participants are responsible for transporting their mementos. **Shipping to IU or FPSPI is not an option.**

If you have questions about Bloomington check out their Visitors Guide at www.visitbloomington.com. Your students will HAVE FUN! This will be a wonderful trip and they can make lots of new friends. It is a life changing event! Good luck!



*IC Topic: Global Status of Women---To learn more go to: www.fpspi.org

***New ideas for doing Research!**

Marian Rutledge (Indiana coach), does the following to prepare her kids.

1. Finds an expert to talk about the topic.
2. Writes a Future Scene that they can use or finds one in her file from long ago on the same or similar topic.
3. Invites the scenario writers in for topic discussion and then has them work with a scenario writer who has been to IC. The scenario writer has the kids do a mini IC group write.

A great source for social research is: <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus>. For this topic add <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/womensday/index.asp>.

***Make Friends!**

Reach out to other teams when you see them at events. Everyone will be shy and they will appreciate you taking the initiative. You will find out that you have a lot in common with almost everyone you meet!

***IC – Means International Friends!**

Students from outside the USA can apply to **Buddy Up** with participants from the United States. If you would like to request a buddy or serve as a buddy for an international student please go to fpspi.org, then click on the International conference link. You must register by **May 6, 2013**.

***Community Service Project.**

FPSPi would like to give back to the Bloomington community

Who: All IC participants

What: Stepping Stones, Inc.

When: Throughout IC

Where: Drop offs at IC registration, PSC, and CmPS Fair

What: Stepping Stones provides transitional housing and support to 16-20 experiencing homelessness.

Suggestions: gift cards, hygiene/care/health/personal supplies/unique fun items. For more information go to: **IC Topic: Global Status of Women.** To learn more go to the FPSPi website and click on International Conference.

***CmPS Fair**

See how other FPSers have applied their problem solving skills in real-life situations.

Who: All participants

What: Community Problem Solving projects displayed for the public

When: Friday evening

Why: Teams and individuals will be on-site to share their exciting projects

***Dances/Coach Social**

Who: All participants

What: Division level dances with DJ; Social for coaches; casual attire or dress up--your choice!

When: Saturday evening following the Variety Show

***International Conference Choir**

Who: Singers of any age

What: Performance at the Variety Show

When: First meeting on Thursday; several practices as scheduled

How: Show up to participate!

***Mural**

Who: All participants who like to draw or create graffiti!

What: A graphic presentation of FPSPi topics and IC

When: Ongoing throughout the conference

Where: Registration area & Zippy Mart





***Zippy Mart!**

Who: All participants
What: A shop where you can buy FPS stuff
When: Ongoing throughout the conference
Where: TBD

***Parent Informational Meeting!**

Who: All parents
What: A presentation of FPS components by experienced coaches
When: Friday morning during the competition
Where: TBD

***Professional Photos!**

Who: All participants
What: Pictures taken by professional photographer
When: Times provided in your on-site registration packet

Scenario Readings!

Who: All participants
What: Dramatic readings from the 1st Place International Scenario writers; panel discussion
When: Friday evening, as scheduled

***Slide Show! See your friends on the big screen!**

Who: Participants with digital cameras
What: IC pictures submitted for Award Ceremony slide show
When: Submission of pictures on Saturday, as scheduled

***Graduating Senior Student Forum!**

Who: Graduating Seniors
What: Meeting to exchange and generate ideas regarding FPSPI and IC
When: Friday evening after CmPS Fair at the senior residence hall
Rule: Seniors must register by filling out survey on fpspi.org prior to IC.

***Variety Show! Be sure to attend! Lots of laughs and fun for everyone.**

You can even be a part of the show:

Who: Students who play an instrument, dance, sing, or have talents to share
What: Entertainment by conference participants

When: Auditions either Saturday morning or afternoon; performance Saturday evening

Rules: * Each act must audition on Saturday.

* Acts are limited to four minutes.

* Each act must have active participants from at least two FPS Affiliate Programs or Mentored Areas.

* In the spirit of involvement, individuals are limited to one act.

*The list and schedule for the acts selected for the Variety Show are posted at Problem Solving Central by 6 PM on Saturday.

***Zippy News!**

Who: Anyone interested in writing for the newspaper
What: Newspaper article for final Zippy News
When: Throughout the conference with meetings as scheduled





"The healthiest competition occurs when average people win by putting in above average effort."
- Colin Powell

***Please Note:**
A variety of campus activities are being planned for free time. This information will be provided in the on-site materials provided at check-in.
****The location of all events will be published in the official International Conference Program**

***Stay tuned!**
Continue to log on to the International Conference page at www.fpspi.org to find extra events that will be offered. Communications with other participants and FPSPI will be possible via Twitter. Follow April Dennis (@aprilfpspi) and use #2013IC to Tweet at the conference June 5-9.

***Be Safe!**
Be sure that you and your student know how to contact one another, the coach and/or other chaperones. Stay with your group. Let your chaperones know where you are at all times. Lock your dorm room doors at night.

Bring an umbrella and a great attitude!

ALUMNI TESTIMONIAL

I started participating in FPS around 3rd grade with my Quest class. We split up into teams of four, and in our 8 year old wisdom solved the futures most pressing issues—overpopulation? No problem, we will just build Bio-domes under the sea to make formerly uninhabitable terrain a new metropolis for the ever increasing population! FPS continued to be one of my favorite extracurriculars throughout high school, although our childhood creativity and imagination gave way to a more scientific and academic way of problem solving. I didn't revisit my FPS days until my first semester of grad school, studying program development and implementation in my Public Health program. We were settled into small groups, no more than 5 or 6 people, and given a topic (childhood vaccination), a country (Liberia), and a data set. We had the semester to analyze our data set (a numerical "fuzzy"), identify the main challenges with childhood vaccination in Liberia, and develop, "implement", and design an evaluation plan for a proposed vaccination program. I found that the FPS process really prepared me for this project, and that the team brainstorming and writing method was remarkably similar. In fact, many times throughout my master's program I found myself using skills cultivated though years of FPS practice. From research to writing, working in teams and turning crazy farfetched ideas into an actionable solution, FPS really prepared me for a career in public health programming, and I had so much fun along the way!

Formerly of Alaska
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Parent Perspectives will take a northern hemisphere summer break, and will continue our monthly newsletters in September. Please send your testimonials or ideas for future newsletters to:
crogers2@austinisd.org



Good Luck and Safe Travels to Everyone Attending IC 2013!

Your Tickets are waiting!