

Future Problem Solving Program International

Action-based Problem Solving



**Coach Information
2015-16**

ACTION-BASED PROBLEM SOLVING



Do you want your students to be able to problem solve when faced with a difficult situation? Is your goal to foster creativity and innovation in young minds? Are you looking for an opportunity for students to discover challenges in their own community with a process that allows them to make a difference?

Future Problem Solving Program's creative problem solving process will enable you and your students to make a difference in their world. Action-based Problem Solving is the non-competitive component of Future Problem Solving Program International. Use fairy tales and daily challenges to learn the process. Focus on topics that impact your community and future as you learn the process. Brainstorm, investigate, analyze and learn more about the world around you. Register with North Carolina Future Problem Solving today.

What is Action-based Problem Solving (AbPS)?

- AbPS is Future Problem Solving Program's **non-competitive** problem-solving component designed specifically for use in the regular classroom.
- AbPS introduces the classroom teacher and students to creative problem solving, higher-level thinking, and action skills in a hands-on, non-threatening manner.
- The concepts behind each problem-solving step are taught in short, challenging lessons making the concepts easy to understand and apply.
- AbPS actively engages all students in learning, constructing meaning, and applying both knowledge and process to real-life situations.
- AbPS is performance based and has real-world applications for authentic learning. It is designed to guide students into Global Issues Problem Solving or Community Problem Solving components.
- Four to six students comprise a team in JR/Middle divisions. Primary Division teams may be the whole class. JR/Middle teams work on one topic per semester. Primary teams work on one topic per year. Team registration fee is **\$50 per team**.
- The Action Fair provides students and teachers with an opportunity to identify a local need or problem area, create a comprehensive plan of action using the AbPS model, and introduce the local community to the upcoming project through the presentation of a five-minute skit based on the action plan. Teams of any size can engage in an Action Fair coordinated by the individual school(s).
- AbPS provides a model that is effective in the classroom for all students:
 - * a strategy for use in the inclusion model
 - * a curriculum in exploratory classes
 - * an extension of any curriculum unit
 - * a model to introduce higher level thinking skills to students

How does Action-based Problem Solving work?

- NC FPS provides training and distributes registration material. When a registration is received NC FPS sends the fuzzies, instructions, Student Action booklets, and submission cover pages to the coach. NC FPS provides evaluation and feedback on submitted booklets.
- Junior and Middle Division teams receive two action-based fuzzies and complete two Student Action Booklets
- Primary Division teams engage in problem solving activities using fairy tales, field trips, and guest speakers. Teams complete one Student Action Booklet. The coach may serve as the recorder.
- Team members (4 to 6 students) may vary from problem to problem. Primary teams may include the whole classroom. It is recommended a team complete all steps in the second semester topic in order to prepare for the Action Fair.

AbPS 2015-16 Topics

Primary Division—choose one topic for one booklet

Treatment of Animals
Recovering from Natural Disaster

Junior/Middle Division—choose two topics for two booklets

Treatment of Animals
Disappearing Languages
Recovering from Natural Disaster

Primary Division (Grades K-3) AbPS: Teams will choose **one of two topics.**

Action Booklet due April 2, 2016

Junior (Grades 3-6) & Middle Division (Grades 6-9) AbPS: Teams will choose **two of three topics.** **AbPS Action Booklets Due Dates:**

First Topic due January 9, 2016

Second Topic due April 2, 2016

NC FPS ACTION-BASED PROBLEM SOLVING ACTION FAIR

With Student Action Booklet #2 (or the submitted booklet for primary teams), teams may plan to present an Action Fair for their class, school, or community. The Action Fair is a culminating event where teams teach others the five step problem solving steps, share research, present skits on action plans, and plan activities that teach their community what they have learned about the topic for Action Booklet #2. Teams engage in an Action Fair coordinated by the individual school.

The Action Fair presents students and teachers with several opportunities:

- identify a local need or problem area based on one of the topics
- create a comprehensive action plan using the AbPS five step problem solving model in their second Action Booklet
- introduce the local community to the challenges and solutions the teams uncovered in research and the completion of their booklet
- invite local businesses, organizations and experts to share their latest research on the topic with the community
- present Action Plans creatively through five minute skits



WHAT IS AN ACTION FAIR?

- ✓ Action Fairs are optional culminating experiences that allow students to share their findings, research, and five-step Student Action Booklets with others in the community.
- ✓ The Action Fair provides an opportunity to show a relationship between the team's second semester Student Action Booklet and their local community (school, neighborhood, county, city, state, etc.)
- ✓ Teams demonstrate how their Action Plan will make a difference to classmates, parents, the school, or the local community.
- ✓ Students use their second semester action booklet or they may identify a specific local need or problem area and create a comprehensive Student Action Booklet using the AbPS model to introduce the community to their project at the Action Fair.
- ✓ At the Action Fair, teams can develop and perform creative skits to demonstrate their action plans.
- ✓ Coaches and teams decide how in-depth their Action Fair will be. It may be as simple as sharing booklets with parents or as complex as including local experts and the latest research on the topic to the community.