



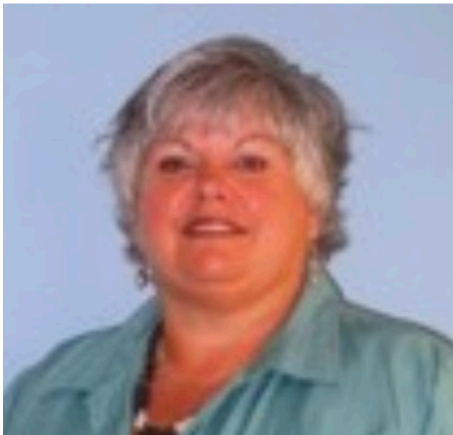
# PARENT

May 2022

# PERSPECTIVES

This edition of *Parent Perspectives* comes from our Kentucky Affiliate. Affiliate Director, Brenda Darnell, gives us some excellent tips and strategies to prepare for the 2022 International Conference. We hope these suggestions are beneficial to you and your students as you plan to enjoy this engaging and memorable experience, whether you are attending in person or virtually. Please enjoy!

## Tips for the 2022 Future Problem Solving Program International Conference



**Brenda Darnell, Kentucky AD,  
former parent of FPS students,  
coach, evaluator, and life-long  
supporter of FPSP.**

**Hello and greetings to all!** As we traverse through the ever-changing, health-related issues following the first cancellations in the northern hemisphere in summer of 2020 that resulted from the COVID pandemic, we are finally able to have a Future Problem Solving Program International Conference (IC) with participants on-site in Amherst, Massachusetts, or virtually in locations around the world. This hybrid form for IC is moving our organization from the pre-Covid status, and for that, we are thrilled to say, "In 2022, WE ARE BACK!" No matter the location of the competition, I hope all participants, coaches, parents, spectators, evaluators, Affiliate Directors, and Board of Trustees are feeling the excitement as preparations are made for this year's competitions. While the southern hemisphere is in mid-term of the end of their first semester, these students must balance the travel and/or schedule for various events offered by FPSP. For many other affiliates, participants may have end-of-the-year celebrations such as graduations. Plans often coincide with IC for those successfully

completing their local high school or university programs. All are equally important as we return to share and experience these milestones with these exceptional children that we connect with through FPSP.

For me, the nervous anticipation and delight as a parent and coach with students advancing to IC is a cherished memory. The great unknown of what to expect was uppermost because the parents of my team looked to me for the answers to their questions. Since their children received this honor of competing on an international level, they all wanted to be prepared. I felt inadequate in my ability to offer guidance for all concerned. Not only did the parents have high expectations of me, but so did my school administrators.

At this point, most of you have secured funding and transportation for the trip and need help with understanding what to expect in the days leading up to the competition. For help, please refer to the FPSP conference webpage at <https://www.fpspi.org/ic-information/> which includes important information about specific events, shirt sales, and research materials for the IC topic of Antibiotic Resistance. Please note that all registrations will close on May 4<sup>th</sup>. In order for the FPSP staff and volunteers to provide the best competitive experience for all on-site and virtual participants, the registration is critical for planning a hybrid event. The task of providing a competition using one format is huge, but organizing both would be overwhelming without all the registration data. So, if your team or individual participant's registration is not complete, please take a few minutes to complete the process.

**Covid Protocol Information** will be made available for any updates necessary to keep all in attendance on the Campus of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst safe with the most recent guidelines available at <https://www.fpspi.org/pdf/ic/2022/Covid%20Information.pdf>. The most recent update provided two (2) options for participants on campus. Proof of being fully vaccinated or proof of negative Covid PCR test no more than 72 hours prior to check-in will allow either document to be uploaded on the Crowdpass platform. It will be strongly recommended **ALL** participants mask indoors and the preferable type of mask is a KN95. Other guidelines are available at the link. For those participating virtually, the local safety pandemic guidelines should be followed.



**The registration packet for the 2022 Hybrid IC** is available with detailed information at the following link: <https://www.fpspi.org/pdf/ic/2022/Participants%20Hybrid%20IC%202022%20Registration%20Packet%20-%20Access%20Code%20removed.pdf>

Take time to read the information about the events that will be offered. The Tentative Schedule begins on page 6. Some events begin as early as May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are some social events that occur on-site you will not want to miss. A trip to the Zippy Mart to shop with friends for souvenirs will be fun for all (and this is available online, too!) Beginning on Wednesday and continuing throughout the week are friendship-building opportunities with others from around the globe. You may want to attend the FPS Connect Social, Scavenger Hunt, Choir Rehearsal, Variety Show Auditions, Dance, Game Night, Memento Exchange, Improv Workshop, as well as many workshops geared to hone your skills as creative problem solvers and communicators. New presentations to showcase the Value of Academic Competitions and the FPS Experience (only for non-competitors at IC) are also offered...and many, many, many more. And, my personal favorites, are the Opening and Awards Ceremonies with the parade of flags. To see the respect shown to each affiliate by all in attendance still gives me chills as the anthems are played. Without a doubt, nothing more allows the world to see how problem solvers are accepting of others. Whether this is your first time attending IC or you are returning to IC for your annual trip since it began in 1974, there is something for everyone at every level of expertise.



**A required medial form** must be completed for each participant and is available at this link: <https://www.fpspi.org/pdf/ic/2022/Medical%20Release.pdf>. Parents or guardians of participants should provide the information to the coach or chaperone attending on-site.



**Transportation** from nearby airports is available at the link below. All reservations must be completed by May 22<sup>nd</sup> for any participants that need round trip or one way travel. Prices vary according to location.

<https://www.fpspi.org/pdf202FPSPi%202022%20Airport%20Transfer%20Information.pdf>. Cancellation policies are also listed.

**Adults Background Checks**, all registered adults attending IC must have a cleared criminal background check including criminal and sexual offender registries within 12 months prior to the conference.

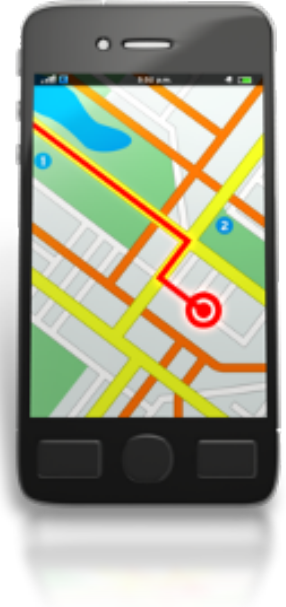
**When and where to be so that participants are on-time for the scheduled events.** Use the webpage <https://www.fpspi.org/ic-information/> There are two (2) important pieces of information that participants need: (1) a schedule that specifically indicates where and when to be at the competition and (2) a map that marking the site of the competition. The final schedule of events will be available on May 6<sup>th</sup> and the **map on page 31** for onsite participants is a must. Use the method that is most functional for the students. No one should arrive late for any scheduled event no matter if it is a writing competition for Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) or a CmPS interview. If you are unaware of the exact location of where you need to be for the scheduled competition, take a few minutes after participants are settled in and walk the campus for directions from the site where you are staying. This is especially important for younger children and may prevent a lot of tears on the day of the competition. I also discovered that UMass has some virtual tours of the campus that you may be able to view before arriving on campus.

All participants should be ready to start at the scheduled time which in essence means they should arrive at least 30 minutes early. Virtual participants should be seated and logged onto their devices at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start time. This does not mean they access the Future Scene for (GIPS) competition, or try to join a Zoom meeting (virtual CmPS interview), it simply means they have access to the Internet. This simple troubleshooting task will let you know if the GIPS or other participants who are writing onsite or virtually need to convert to paper copies instead of the electronic version. The guidelines specifically state that all participants on a team use the same work method - electronic or paper. Also keep in mind that all computers must have their own power source that can last the length of the competition or interview.



**Plan ahead and provide as much information as possible!**

As a parent or coach, it is easy to see how this can be overwhelming for the adults, and extremely stressful for the students. To help alleviate some of the negative energy and make a positive impact for the students, create a master schedule for everyone which lists the specifics about each of the items that are interesting to the students. After all, this is one time that parents and coaches are able to be included because of the accomplishments of the children or students. Print the final schedule and hold a meeting with those attending IC. Prioritize the selections. Review all the things the participants must do and the events the students want to do. Don't forget to be very specific about the date, time, event name, and location. Some items overlap and may require that the parent-chaperone goes to one site and the coach goes to another. Take advantage of these opportunities that are made available to those who attend the 2022 Hybrid FPSP IC because this was created especially for the participants and attendees of IC. Your teams and individuals earned this honor. The FPSP staff have worked diligently over the past year to provide the most creative and competitive experience possible.



Many thanks to April, Debbie, Kyla, and Damien in the International Office (IO) for this year's slate of events, and all their dedicated efforts!

**Good luck to all! See you in June from UMass-Amherst!**

## **Cultural Corner—Kentucky**

**Famous people from Kentucky:** The 16<sup>th</sup> President of the US Abraham Lincoln, Boxer and Olympic athlete Muhammad Ali, Country Music and Award winning singer Chris Stapleton, statesman and explorer Daniel Boone, Nobel Prize winner of split genes Phillip Allen Sharp, Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Penn Warren, Founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken Colonel Harland Sanders

**Mammoth Cave:** The longest cave in the world with 412 miles, or 663 kilometers, of explored and mapped passageways

**Happy Birthday to You:** The traditional, 30-second, birthday song was composed by 2 Kentucky sisters, Patty and Mildred Hill, in 1893. The sisters complimented each other in their talents, an educator and a pianist/composer created simple songs for kindergarten students to sing

**Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby:** The iconic Twin Spires of the Downs boast the longest continually-held annual sporting event in the United States. The Kentucky Derby is held in Louisville, Kentucky the first Saturday in May

**Bourbon making capitol of the world:** Due to the limestone deposits which act as a natural purifier, approximately 95% of the US bourbon products are processed in Kentucky

**Bluegrass Music:** The birth of this musical genre with Bill Monroe known as the “Father of Bluegrass” provides lyrics about home and the simple joys of life

**Louisville Slugger Bats:** The world renown supplier of the official wooden bats for professional baseball players

**Edison Light Bulb:** Thomas Edison introduced the light bulb to the public for the first time at the Southern Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky in 1883

**Post-It Notes:** Every Post-it note originates in the small town of Cynthiana, Kentucky

**Corvette automobiles:** Each very slick, fast-paced car is manufactured in Bowling Green, Kentucky

**Fort Knox Bullion Depository:** The largest depository for gold in the US since 1936

**City built inside a crater:** Middlesboro has one of the most unique origins since the city location was created by a meteor

**First cheeseburgers:** The first cheeseburger was served in Kaelin’s restaurant in Louisville, Kentucky

**Navigable waterways and streams:** Kentucky has the greatest length of navigable waterways and streams in the continental US

**Cumberland Falls Moonbow:** The only place in the western hemisphere where you can see light bouncing off the moon at night

**Louisville’s Annual Idea Festival:** A unique festival that draws creative thinkers of all ages to encourage innovation to impact the arts, education, technology, and business—thus creating positive change through great ideas, regardless of their position in life



**The population of  
Kentucky is  
approximately 4.5  
million!**