



SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS

An organization of the American Institute of Physics

Marsh White Award Report Template

Project Proposal Title	Promotion of Physics in the Hattiesburg Community
Name of School	The University of Southern Mississippi
SPS Chapter Number	6266
Project Lead (name then email address)	Braden Hudson Braden.hudson@usm.edu
Total Amount Received from SPS	\$500
Total Amount Expended from SPS	\$500

Summary of Award Activities

The SPS chapter at the University of Southern Mississippi participated in the annual festival Hubfest held in downtown Hattiesburg, Mississippi. At the event, members of the chapter were performing a series of demonstrations to children and other individuals in the greater Hattiesburg community. The members also connected with students going into higher education who showed great interest in learning more about physics in their high school and college experiences. The chapter was able to interact with more than 150 people over the course of the eight hour event and made many fruitful connections.

Statement of Activity

Overview of Award Activity

The Overview should be a more detailed description of the proposed project/activity/event than the Summary.

This section should include:

- Brief description – The Society of Physics Students worked a booth at Hubfest, an annual festival held in the city of Hattiesburg by the University of Southern Mississippi. We performed a series of different demonstrations that showcase basic physics concepts such as polarization, pressure, freezing/boiling points, and angular momentum. We did multiple demonstrations for passersby and attendants who came by our booth to learn more about our chapter and our physics and astronomy department in general.
- Outcomes – We had more a than 150 people come to our booth. Many of which were children that were grade school age. We had more people that were high school age this year that were interested in the university as well as our chapter, and we spoke more about our mission and the things that we do as members. We also encountered local educators that were interested in collaborating in outreach with us for their schools as well.
- Audience – Our target audience was children and young adults particularly families. We encountered many family with at least one child that was in high school or about to enter college.
- Context of the Project – It fit in very well with our outreach to both the Hattiesburg community and grade school students. We were able to meet both of those demographics through this event.
- Highlights and stories – We had a couple of families of the members that came to see our booth with cousins and siblings. It was a nice interaction seeing our members demonstrate the experiments and to teach their families what is happening from the experiment.

Impact Assessment: How the Project/Activity/Event Promoted Interest in Physics

The project allowed us to directly connect with students and the general public. We had more high school age students inquire about our physics and astronomy department compared to last year, which is important to provide resources to the students that see our university as high on their list of schools to attend, but it also helps us in trying to build a familiarity with the students to recruit more members to our chapter to continue operations. We were able to also speak with parents on different things that their younger children are interested in and how physics relate to that as well. We get many children who are very engaged with our demonstrations, and parents see that and want to continue to show their children similar things to see what else they may be interested in. In addition to working with our target audience, we were able to look into collaborating for future outreach projects through some educators that range from elementary to high school students. These interactions are great to have as it helps to continue to promote physics to some of the children we got to talk to at the festival.

Key Metrics and Reflection

Who was the target audience of your project?	Families and students of all ages
How many attendees/participants were directly impacted by your project? Please describe them (for example "50 third grade students" or "25 families").	We had about 40 families of 3 and 150 total individuals
How many students from your SPS chapter were involved in the activity, and in what capacity?	We had 7 total students involved in the entire event from set up to take down.
Was the amount of money you received from SPS sufficient to carry out the activities outlined in your proposal? Could you have used additional funding? If yes, how much would you have liked and how would the additional funding have augmented your activity?	yes
Do you anticipate repeating this project/activity/event in the future, or having a follow-up project/activity/event? If yes, please describe.	Yes, it our main outreach event that we participate every year in.
What new relationships did you build through this project?	
If you were to do your project again, what would you do differently?	We would cultivate new demos to grab more attention to our booth.

Press Coverage (if applicable)

Expenditures

Please provide a brief explanation of your expenses. Include a written description of your expenditures below, those covered by your SPS funding and by other funding sources, and then fill in the table with the name and cost of each item purchased with your SPS funding. Add rows as needed.

This year we had many of our major equipment that needed to be replaced. Our canopy and lasers were not in good shape, so we decided to replace them with quality equipment that would last us multiple years until we would need to get a new one. We also needed to update our chapter t-shirt as we have had our old design since the year 2019. This t-shirt helps not only show who we are, but we also use it to give in exchange of donations.

Expenditure Table

Item	Please explain how this expense relates to your project as outlined in your proposal.	Cost
Canopy	We needed a new canopy to replace our older, broken canopy. This one we bought to last multiple years	\$179.95
Hubfest Booth Reservation	This is the reservation for the booth space where we participate in the festival.	\$200.00
T-Shirts	These are the t-shirts that we wear to identify ourselves and to use as merchandise for donations	\$449.40
Lasers	Old lasers used in our light experiments were replaced with new ones.	\$85.70
Total of Expenses		915.05

Activity Photos



