

Hubfest: Physics Outreach Day for Mississippi's Pine Belt Community

Society of Physics Students Chapter #6626

University of Southern Mississippi

Dept. of Physics and Astronomy

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Abstract

Over the years, the Society of Physics Students chapter at USM has participated in a plethora of different outreach activities at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. We would like to expand our target audience to the entire Hattiesburg, Mississippi community and surrounding cities, known as the Pine Belt.

Hubfest: Physics Outreach Day for Mississippi's Pine Belt

Community

Purpose:

“Hubfest: Physics Outreach Day for Mississippi’s Pine Belt Community” is a one day outreach program to be implemented by our SPS Chapter upon receiving the 2013 “Marsh White Award” from the Society of Physics Students National Organization. Each year the University of Southern Mississippi’s Chapter of the Society of Physics Students participates in outreach events at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. A few years ago, it was brought to our attention that conducting physics demonstrations at an event for the entire community would not only be a fantastic outlet for outreach, but a catalyst for “Connecting Worlds” to resonate within our city. For the last two consecutive years, we have participated in “Hubfest,” a Pine Belt community-wide festival located in Downtown Hattiesburg, Mississippi, comprised of hundreds of booths by local vendors, organizations, and artists alike, appealing to a majority of the population. Our chapter would love to continue the success of this outreach event, if made possible by the SPS Marsh White Award. Upon being granted the opportunity to participate in this outreach event for a third consecutive year, our target audience will include approximately 30,000 attendees.

Our Plan of Action:

“Hubfest: Physics Outreach Day for Mississippi’s Pine Belt Community” will be a one day event, in conjunction with Hattiesburg’s “Hubfest” festival. The event occurs on the last Saturday of March. Information on planning for vendors will be released in January 2013. The event will last between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm, not including set up and take down times of the booth. In order to appeal to a majority of the community, our SPS Chapter has decided to focus on low temperature physics, allowing us to use demonstrations with liquid nitrogen and lasers. In the past, we have found that these types of demonstrations have the most success when dealing with such a broad group of people.

In the past, our set up has consisted of 2 to 3 SPS Members working approximately 2 to 3 hour shifts. Our booth typically has two tables, one containing demonstration supplies, and the other displaying pamphlets for the Society of Physics Students and the Physics and Astronomy Department at the University of Southern Mississippi. Although our booth is typically a 10’x10’ space, our SPS Chapter by no means “stays inside the box.” Once the liquid nitrogen demonstrations begin, attendees and SPS Members fill the streets for our demonstrations, sometimes producing a crowd of up to 30 people. The USM Chapter of SPS is thrilled by the possibility of hosting “Hubfest: Physics Outreach Day for Mississippi’s Pine Belt Community.” Not only is the event a way for our SPS Chapter to bond over a day filled with fun, but a way for us to “Connect Worlds” and show our community that physics is an interesting and exciting field to be a part of.

Budget

Booth Rental	\$150
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Demonstration Supplies	\$150
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Total	\$300
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