



SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS

An organization of the American Institute of Physics

Marsh W. White Award Proposal

Project Proposal Title	Science Fridays
Name of School	Towson University
SPS Chapter Number	7338
Total Amount Requested	\$500.00

Abstract

Towson University's SPS chapter is running a program with Wolfe Street Academy, a public charter school in Baltimore City, to teach elementary school students science in a weekly after school program. The program will cover 5-6 science related topics integrating projects, demonstrations, and lessons to excite and educate students in the sciences.

Proposal Statement

Overview of Proposed Project/Activity/Event

Towson University's SPS chapter has coordinated in past semesters with Wolfe Street Academy to bring the Science Friday program (formerly known as Science After Hours) to the Hampden Family Center. This year we will be continuing this program in Wolfe Street Academy. We will be running Science Fridays every available Friday from 3:00 to 4:30 pm.

Each week consists of a short lesson taught by our outreach coordinator. The lesson is followed by a hands on experiment lead by the coordinator and fellow general members. The lessons are designed to outline basic concepts while allowing the students further to investigate the subjects. Our goal is to introduce science in a fun and exciting manner. Every Science Friday is ended with a few wrap up questions asked to the students. This is done so that the students have an overall sense of the lesson and how it might relate to the world outside of school. It also allows for an overall observation of how receptive the lesson is for the students; and where there is room for improvements in the lesson plans. Throughout the entirety of the lesson, students are encouraged to ask questions and suggest topics they want to learn more for future Fridays.

The program is considered an extracurricular activity, so all students and members of SPS who attended do so voluntarily.

Some examples of topics/experiments taught are:

- Projectile Motion/Kinematics
 - Proposed Activities:
 - Battleship: The class will split into two teams, each team is given a spring loaded ball launcher. The teams take turn setting the angles and launching at eachothers boats. This lesson teaches about parabolic projectile motion. Students learn the relationship between angles and range.
 - Catapult Construction: The class will work in groups to design, construct, and test a small catapult/trebuchet. The students will learn engineering and kinematics principles.
- Optics
 - Proposed Activities:
 - Laser Waterfall: Students will construct "laser waterfalls". This contraption uses total internal reflection to send a laser through a falling stream of water. This experiment demonstrates how light is transported for things like fiber optics.
 - Polarization: Demonstrations will be conducted with 3-D glasses to show the principles of polarization. Then students will use blank overhead sheets to construct polarization "art". This experiment will teach students about polarization.
 - Laser Race: Students are split into two teams. Each team is given a set of mirrors. Each team will take turns either directing their own light source to its target or reflecting the opposings team light away from the target. Whichever team hits the target first wins. Students will learn about reflection
- Electromagnetism and Circuitry
 - Proposed Activities:
 - Squishy Circuits: Student are split into groups and given an assortment of materials such as paper clips and rubber bands. They are also given a power

- October 18, 2019 (10/18)
- October 25, 2019 (10/25)
- November 1, 2019 (11/1)
- November 8, 2019 (11/8)
- November 15, 2019 (11/15)
- November 22, 2019 (11/22)
- December 6, 2019 (12/6)
- December 13, 2019 (12/13)
- December 20, 2019 (12/20)
- January 10, 2020 (1/10)
- January 31, 2020 (1/31)
- February 7, 2020 (2/7)
- February 14, 2020 (2/14)
- February 21, 2020 (2/21)
- February 28, 2020 (2/28)
- March 6, 2020 (3/6)
- March 13, 2020 (3/13)
- March 20, 2020 (3/20)
- March 27, 2020 (3/27)
- April 3, 2020 (4/3)
- April 10, 2020 (4/10)
- April 17, 2020 (4/17)
- April 24, 2020 (4/24)
- May 1, 2020 (5/1)
- May 8, 2020 (5/8)
- May 15, 2020 (5/15)

Activity Evaluation Plan

Because our main goal is to educate students, we will create a “Science Wall”. This will be a large area on which students write down new and interesting science facts that they have learned. The more filled the board gets, the better we have done as a group. We will also be in contact with their teachers throughout the semester. We hope to see the students find the value in education, which could potentially help them focus more in a class. Finally, we will debrief every other week with the volunteers from Towson University’s SPS chapter. The volunteers should be able to gauge how the students receive the material, as well as provide information on their own involvement.

Budget Justification

Thankfully, due to years of dedicated outreach activity, most of the supplies needed to create the projects described above can be found within Towson University’s physics department. However, we are asking for \$50.00 to make any necessary updates or repairs to already existing demonstrations. In addition, Towson University’s SPS chapter can provide funds from past fundraisers, snack sales, and funding from Towson University’s Student Government Association.

The main materials our program needs this year are mirrors, magnets, poster board for our “Science Wall”, and “crafts” materials for projects the students will be doing. These crafts materials include small things such as 2 litre bottles, popsicle sticks, rubber bands, projector slides and tape. These materials are going to be

purchased ahead of time but could also be purchased on the fly as lessons adjust. We are requesting \$50.00 to purchase these materials with the intention on using the funds “on the fly” as lessons may adapt and/or change. We also need to purchase mirrors as this is the first year we are doing the laser race experiment described above. We want to purchase 10 for \$7 each. Our compass experiment is also relatively new. We cannot use the magnets from Towson as they are neodymium magnets which are way too powerful (and therefor dangerous) to be used by elementary schoolers. The magnets will cost us \$6.80 each and we wish to purchase 6. The poster board is to create our “Science Wall.” This is a 6-foot poster board that we can design and decorate ourselves, it will cost \$14.90.

We are also ask for funding for transportation to and from the site as well as snacks and drinks for the students and volunteers. For transportation; we estimate \$0.25 per mile and travel 10.6 miles each way. This adds up to \$111.30. We are budgeting \$8 per-session for snacks and drinks.