

Engaging speakers,
exciting lab tours,
networking, and
fun icebreakers!

For any students with
an interest in physics,
astronomy, science,
and the Universe!

March 27-29, 2026

SPS ZONE 11 Annual Meeting

North Dakota State University
Fargo, North Dakota

STUDENTS FROM:

ND, SD, MN, NE & IA

We are honored to have you here! All are welcome!

About the Event

Hello and welcome to the annual SPS Zone 11 Meeting! Zone meetings bring together students from SPS chapters within geographical zones. You are a part of Zone 11, which includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa! Zone meetings are a fun and effective way for undergraduates to meet other students, present their research, and interact with practicing scientists.

Every SPS Zone meeting takes on a unique style and culture, shaped by the traditions of the schools in the region. This year, we're at North Dakota State University. This event is primarily planned by students, both in the hosting university and in SPS National leadership. Take some time to thank the organizers who made this entire experience possible and we hope that you have lots of fun during your time here!



Society of Physics Students

ZONE 11 MEETING AGENDA

Friday, March 27

7:00 PM	Check in and Welcome
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7:30 PM	Liquid Nitrogen Soft Serve Ice Cream
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Saturday, March 28

9:00 AM	Donuts and Coffee
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10:00 AM	NDSU Lab Tours
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12:00 PM	Lunch Break
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1:00 PM	Discussion: Chapter Updates
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2:00 PM	Undergraduate Students Speak about Personal Projects
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3:00 PM	Plenary Talk: Dr. Wayne Barkhouse, University of North Dakota
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4:00 PM	Interactive Discussion about Science
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5:00 PM	Dinner Break
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6:30 PM	Planetarium Event Hosted by MSUM's SPS Chapter
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Society of Physics Students

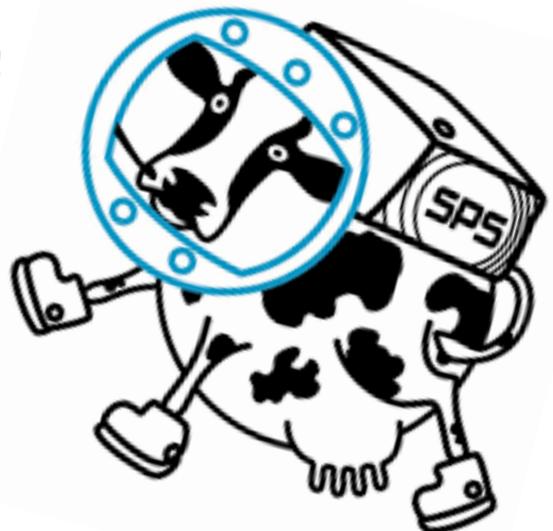
ZONE 11 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, March 29

9:00 AM	Donuts and Coffee! Again!
9:30 AM	Popsicle Bridge Competition
11:00 AM	Competition Results
11:30 AM	Final Thoughts and Goodbyes

Tips for Success:

- Add the people you meet at this conference on LinkedIn and other social media to stay in touch!
- Park at the Memorial Union Parking Lot (on the next page!)
- Take lots of pictures and record what you do for your chapter's social media and annual reports!
- Become an official SPS member, if you aren't already!
- Talk to other chapters and try to take some of their ideas home with you!
- Stay hydrated and carry a water bottle!
- Make sure your peers know where you are!
- Have fun!



About Our Plenary Speaker:

Dr. WAYNE BARKHOUSE

“Spiral Galaxy Evolution in Cluster Environments”

Dr. Wayne Barkhouse is a professor at the University of North Dakota, where he teaches in the Department of Physics and Astrophysics. He holds a Ph.D. from the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Toronto in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Before earning his Ph.D., he completed a B.Sc. degree in Physics and an M.Sc. degree in Astronomy at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Following the completion of his graduate studies, Dr. Barkhouse held postdoctoral positions at both the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and the Department of Astronomy at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign for a total of five years.

Dr. Barkhouse stars in a podcast for the University of North Dakota called *Cosmic Pi* and has made an appearance in many YouTube videos, which can all be found and viewed on his personal website (sites.google.com/view/waynebarkhouse).

Dr. Barkhouse's main research goal is to understand the formation and evolution of galaxies that populate high-density galaxy clusters.

Popsicle Bridge Competition:

Welcome to the 2026 Popsicle Bridge Competition, where creativity meets the world of science and where a handful of popsicles will be used to build real bridges! This will be a friendly competition between teams competing to build a bridge. It's all about a little friendly rivalry as teams build bridges that balance strength and style. Whether you're here to win, just have fun, or try a bold and ambitious concept, everyone is welcome to compete and enjoy the challenge! While the winners will be able to brag about their accomplishment, everyone will be eligible to win nifty prizes!

Be ready! Be creative!