



Chapter Report 2026

School Name:

Directions: Respond to the following prompts by telling us your chapter's story of the past year. Use bulleted narrative or free text and be as quantitative as possible. Use as many pages as needed. Before submitting your chapter's report delete the italicized text that explains what you should highlight in each section. Feel free to elaborate on things that may not be included in the italicized text. You may embed pictures within this document to help tell your story but also be sure to upload your best photos directly via the Google form. NOTE: there can be overlap of items between several parts of the report, it is okay for something to be discussed in more than one part of the report.

Part 1: What have been your SPS Chapter's interactions with SPS Office and Regional Programs?

In this section, tell us about how your chapter connected with SPS Programs.

- *Did your chapter take advantage of group rates or chapter membership options?*
- *Did anyone from your chapter apply for any SPS awards: scholarships, chapter awards, adviser awards, etc.?*
- *Did anyone from your chapter apply for an SPS internship?*
- *Did you nominate anyone for SPS Associate Zone Councilor or Zone Councilor?*
- *Did your chapter vote in the SPS National Council election?*
- *Did you collaborate with other SPS chapters on activities?*
- *Did your chapter make use of any SPS Outreach materials?*
- *Did you attend SPS Zone meetings, SPS events at professional meetings, or Sigma Pi Sigma inductions?*
- *Did you host a Zone meeting? If your chapter hosted a Zone meeting, describe the program, institutions represented, number of papers presented, guest speakers invited, tours conducted, etc. Photos are always welcome.*
- *(remember-these are just ideas—feel free to elaborate and expand)*



Chapter Report 2026

Part 2: How has your SPS Chapter engaged with your campus community?

In this section, tell us about activities within your chapter and how you engaged with your campus community.

- *What did you do to make your meetings welcoming and enjoyable?*
- *What did your chapter do to make your gathering space(s) welcoming and supportive places for everyone?*
- *What did you do in your meetings? What were successful activities for your meetings?*
- *Describe any social media that you used to bring your chapter together.*
- *What is your chapter's strategy for **promoting SPS membership and increasing inclusivity and diversity in your chapter?***
- *How does your chapter develop future chapter leaders and build traditions?*
- **IMPORTANT: share details on how you fund your SPS activities!** *This certainly could be related to other parts of this report.*
- *Social events – parties, movies, picnics, banquets outings that were for fun, etc.*
- *Science events: colloquia, workshops, poster sessions, invited speakers, **eclipse viewing**, etc.*
- *How has your chapter helped with student recruitment and retention efforts for your department or college/university*
- **How has your chapter interacted with alumni** – *include newsletters, invitations to speak, arranging internships or visits with local industries through alumni contacts, **mentorship** programs, etc.*
- *How did your SPS chapter connect to the campus in service or outreach in on-campus events (e.g., blood drives, campus fundraisers, etc.)*
- *How did your chapter participate in on campus events in cooperation with other student organizations or campus groups...like co-sponsoring a colloquium...*



Chapter Report 2026

Part 3: In what ways has your SPS Chapter interacted with the professional physics and astronomy community outside of your college/university?

In this section, tell us about how members of your chapter engaged with the professional community or presented scholarly results at meetings.

- *Describe your chapter's participation in **professional physics/astronomy meetings** (e.g.: AAPM, AAPT, AAS, ACA, AMS, APS, ASA, AVS, OSA, SOR or other)— Include titles and authors of papers presented by your chapter members, attendance by your members, distances traveled, tours or other special events;*
- *Describe any publications or presentations by your chapter members (authored or co-authored) – please list titles, and full reference.*
- *Did anyone from your chapter submit a paper to the Journal of Undergraduate Research in Physics and Astronomy (JURPA)? Details!*
- *Did anyone from your chapter present a talk or poster at an SPS Zone meeting?*
- *Did anyone from your chapter present a talk or poster at any event celebrating undergraduate research, on your campus or any other campus?*
- *Did you have any guest speakers or other visits from professionals in physics or astronomy?*



Chapter Report 2026

Part 4: What does your SPS Chapter do to interact with the off-campus public community?

Tell us about efforts related to topics including but not limited to these prompts. There can be overlap with other parts of the report.

- *Describe your chapter's efforts related to **service** and **outreach** beyond the campus community—for example, working with grades K-12 children or the general public-- include projects such as "Physics Circuses," classroom demonstrations, tutoring services, assistance with school science fairs, open houses, promoting the US Physics Olympiad Team, etc.*
- *Describe any other **community service** or chapter-organized **charitable service**, fundraising, etc. that was performed on behalf of individuals, families, charities, non-profit groups, etc.*
- *Describe participation in off campus social events or interactions with other civic groups*
- *Describe anything that you did to represent physics, astronomy or SPS in events or activities outside the campus community*



Chapter Report 2026

Part 5: How does your SPS Chapter further the SPS purpose and mission? (this category is double weighted)

In this section, tell us about your chapter's efforts and activities that advance the purpose and mission of the Society of Physics Students:

SPS MISSION: "The SPS exists to help students transform themselves into contributing members of the professional community. Course work develops only one range of skills. Other skills needed to flourish professionally include effective communication and personal interactions, leadership experience, establishing a personal network of contacts, presenting scholarly work in professional meetings and journals, and outreach services to the campus and local communities."

So, this is the section where you get the chance to tell us more about your chapter, there can be some overlap with other sections of the report. These are only suggestions!

- *Describe who you are as a chapter and how your group adds a unique dynamic to the broad spectrum of what SPS is all about.*
- *What is your strategy for **increasing inclusivity and diversity in your chapter?***
- *How do you build enthusiasm for physics and astronomy?*
- *Interesting ways that your group uses technology-- websites, online videos, or other social media activities to engage students and/or the public.*
- *Describe how your chapter meets the unique needs of the students, department, or school – what do you do that you think others might find fun and rewarding too?*
- *Describe how you build connections with your alumni.*
- *Describe any other unique brand of enthusiasm, passion, and effort the chapter fits into the overall purpose and mission of SPS and any way you can improve areas that are lacking.*

This is your chance to tell your unique story!



Chapter Report 2026

Part 6: If your school maintains a Sigma Pi Sigma chapter, how has this chapter demonstrated the four pillars of the society? This does not count in the score for Outstanding Chapter!

Sigma Pi Sigma exists:

- *to honor outstanding scholarship in physics;*
- *to encourage interest in physics among students at all levels;*
- *to promote an attitude of service of its members towards their fellow students, colleagues, and the public;*
- *to provide a fellowship of persons who have excelled in physics.*

Sigma Pi Sigma's mission is not completed in the induction ceremony with the recognition of academic accomplishment. In the four dimensions of Honor, Encouragement, Service, and Fellowship, the mission of Sigma Pi Sigma takes a longer view.

*In this section, tell us about the efforts of your Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter (as distinct from your SPS chapter) to uplift these ideals and promote lifelong engagement with the physics community. Note that this section is only intended for those schools with Sigma Pi Sigma chapters and **does not** factor into the Outstanding Chapter award criteria.*

- *Describe your most recent induction ceremony.*
- *What are your plans for inducting students and alumni into Sigma Pi Sigma in the future?*
- *How does your chapter engage with alumni (e.g., invitations to inductions, department events with alumni, invited talks)?*
- *Did you honor anyone with a Sigma Pi Sigma Outstanding Service Award during this year?*



Chapter Report 2026

Highlight an activity or initiative your chapter is proud of this academic year.
This may be published in an issue of *The SPS Observer*. (OPTIONAL)

In this section, describe an activity, event, or initiative your chapter is proud of, in an article format. Suggested length: 750-1500 words.

Please include the following information:

Title:

Authors:

Point of contact for further questions:

List of image names and captions and photo credit to include if published. Ex. UMD_October_Outreach.jpg, SPS students build a spaceship with local children. Photo courtesy of Brad Conrad.

For examples of published articles, check out the Features in the Winter 2025 issue of The SPS Observer:

<https://students.aip.org/observer/volume-58-number-3>



Chapter Report 2026

Blake Lilly Prize Application

The Blake Lilly Prize, named after the late Blake Lilly and given in his honor, recognizes SPS chapters and individuals who make a genuine effort to positively influence the attitudes of school children and the public about physics. For example, many chapters perform something like a "Physics Circus," conduct classroom demonstrations, offer tutoring services for grades K-12, or assist with school science fairs. The Blake Lilly Prize is an opportunity to be publicly recognized for these types of physics outreach efforts. More details about the Blake Lilly Prize are available at: <https://students.aip.org/blake-lilly-prize>

There is no longer an additional section to apply for the Blake Lilly Prize. The SPS National Council will nominate chapters and/or individuals mentioned in chapter reports that they believe deserve the Blake Lilly Prize, with up to one award granted per zone each year.