

TO BECOME AN SPS MEMBER AT MARSHALL

For anyone interested in joining, contact information for current SPS officers and the SPS Advisor is available at: www.marshall.edu/physics/society-physics-students/. Any membership fees may be covered by the Marshall SPS chapter. To join SPS, visit: <https://membership.spsnational.org/>

MARSHALL PHYSICS DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL SPS SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS AVAILABLE

The Marshall University Physics Department has several scholarships available to current Marshall University students and ones specifically for current Marshall University physics students: www.marshall.edu/physics/scholarships/

The national SPS office also offers a wide variety of scholarships for students: www.spsnational.org/awards/scholarships



SPS members and officers had a great time shooting some hoops with some of the kids at the local A.D. Lewis Center. Everyone enjoyed themselves. The kids loved it and spending the time with them was well worth it. SPS members back row left to right: Casey Frye, Logan Sutphin, and Emily Sutherland. SPS members back row right to left: Noah Jarvis, Aaron Murphy



For more information, visit the SPS website:
www.marshall.edu/physics/society-physics-students/

Herdlink:
herdlink.marshall.edu/organization/society-of-physics-students

Some information in this brochure is found at:
www.spsnational.org.



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Society of Physics Students

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www.facebook.com/MUPhysicsDept
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MARSHALL UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS



PURPOSE AND MISSION

SPS is a chapter-based society that exists to help students transform themselves into contributing members of the professional community. Traditional coursework 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, research experiences, and outreach services to the campus and local communities. Through its members, advisors, chapters, and leadership, SPS enables national initiatives and local impacts within the community. Locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally, the SPS offers the opportunity for these important enrichments to students' experience.



Former SPS President Jeremy McCloud helps students from Logan High School who were in a Motor Workshop where students built Beakman motors for an in-house competition. Such outreach and recruitment events for the Physics Department occur several times per semester and typically involve SPS members. These events are carried out with the help of those in the the Physics Department and the Office of Rural Outreach and Development, Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health, Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall University.



The 41st Annual Awards Ceremony at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, January 24, 2020. The Marshall University SPS group was honored to receive the Marshall University's Most Improved Organization Award for the 2019 year. SPS members left to right: Mckenzie Granata, Andy Prostor, SPS Advisor Dr. Sean McBride, Jeremy McCloud, Ryan Vincent, and Jacquelyn Sizemore. The most Improved Organization Award was presented by Student Involvement and Leadership, part of the Division of Student Affairs.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS AND SIGMA PI SIGMA AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

The Society of Physics Students (SPS) is a professional association open to anyone interested in physics. One does not have to be a Physics Major to be a member. At the global level, SPS members include not only physics majors, but also students and professionals in astronomy, chemistry, computer science, engineering, geology, mathematics, medicine, and other fields.

Within SPS is a separate association, Sigma Pi Sigma ($\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$), a national physics honor society that elects members on the basis of outstanding academic and professional achievements and character. Induction into Sigma Pi Sigma is not restricted to physics majors.

The Society of Physics Students (www.spsnational.org) and Sigma Pi Sigma (www.spsnational.org/about/sigma-pi-sigma) operate under the umbrella of the American Institute of Physics (AIP - www.aip.org/), which oversees ten other professional science societies.

SPS at Marshall University - A nationally recognized and award-winning student organization

Marshall University's SPS Organization has been recognized by the National SPS Office, receiving the following honors:

- Distinguished SPS Chapter (2017-2019 academic years)
- Outstanding SPS Chapter award for the (2019-2020)
- Future Faces of Physics Award (2019-2020)

HISTORY

The Society of Physics Students was formed in 1968 with a constitution that combined its two parent organizations, The American Institute of Physics (AIP) Student Sections and the Sigma Pi Sigma honor society. As of 2021, SPS now has over 820 chapters on campuses across the country. The associated honor society, Sigma Pi Sigma, now exists in about 575 of those chapters with over 100,000 inductees throughout its history.

Marshall University's Society of Physics Students has roots that extend back to a 1960 when the AIP first recognized an AIP student Section from, then, Marshall College under Physics Department Chair Dr. Donald C. Martin. Marshall College was elevated to Marshall University in 1961 under the advisement of Dr. Stewart H. Smith, the seventh and longest serving Marshall University President in the history of the institution. Marshall University established its Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter in 2008 under the advisement of Dr. Ralph E. Oberly (Marshall Physics Professor for 49 years from 1970 -2019 and Chair of the Physics Department to follow after Dr. Martin).

Today, MU SPS is partially supported by an endowment made possible by Dr. Frederick Smith, the son of former Marshall President Stewart H. Smith. Dr. Frederick Smith, was a member of the faculty of the Physics Department of the City College of the City University of New York, where he had a 43-year career as a physicist teaching and conducting experimental research in solid state physics and materials.



Marshall University's chapter of the Society of Physics Students at Green Bank Observatory. The Green Bank Observatory is located in the National Radio Quiet Zone. Students of the group, along with the Faculty Advisor to SPS, got a rare chance to go up on top of the receiver room of the 485-foot-tall Green Bank Telescope.