



SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Final Report

Project Title	Boulder Branch SPS 2022-2023 Induction Ceremony
Name of School	University of Colorado at Boulder
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	1311
Total Amount Awarded	\$500.00
Project Leader	Alexander Fix

Summary of Award Activity

The University of Colorado, Boulder branch of Sigma Pi Sigma has recently become more active and had a large number of new inductees, so an induction ceremony was held to honor these students. Inducted students were welcomed to invite friends and family, all enjoyed a selection of snacks and celebratory cake beforehand, and then inductees were formally recognized by signing their names in the school's Sigma Pi Sigma logbook and receiving official certificates of membership.

Statement of Activity

Overview of Award Activity

The project was to hold an induction ceremony for the new members joining the University of Colorado Boulder chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma in 2023. The goal was simply to host a polished and memorable ceremony for new students to help restart Sigma Pi Sigma involvement at Boulder, which we accomplished.

For undertaking the event itself, we roughly followed the plan from our original proposal, and it was executed by the two current Boulder SPS Presidents and Faculty Advisor with some assistance from the two former SPS Presidents. New SPS bylaws were crafted for our chapter and using these we worked with the Physics department to identify eligible students and invite them to apply for Sigma Pi Sigma. This resulted in 40 new students being accepted to join Sigma Pi Sigma.

With knowledge of how many students could potentially attend, sufficient quantities of food and decorations were then purchased and a room reserved in the Boulder Physics building. The existence of the induction event had been shared with Sigma Pi Sigma applications, and now multiple rounds of invitations were sent to all inductees informing them of the event and welcoming them to bring friends and family for support.

The target audience for this event was exactly who was invited – students interested in and eligible to join Sigma Pi Sigma and their supporters. Of the 40 students inducted around half made it to the event in person and several brought friends and family. At the event all enjoyed food, were treated to an opening speech by our Faculty Advisor on Sigma Pi Sigma and the history of Boulder's chapter, and then the inductees were given certificates, signed the school's Sigma Pi Sigma log book, and received other memorabilia such as pins and pens. Some students who missed the event also came later to receive their certificates.

Prior to this event the school had no active Sigma Pi Sigma members, so the mere fact that there are members now and there's a precedent to continue inducting students in the future is a success. The inductees included the four students who planned and executed the event (the current and former SPS presidents), so retroactively the event was entirely the work of the school's Sigma Pi Sigma chapter. In our original proposal we noted that the metric for success would be attendance of both inductees and potential guests. As around half the inductees attended in person and several other students from SPS attended to support their friends we consider this to have been a success. Students who were asked about the event afterwards also expressed gratitude and enjoyment of the induction.

Overall, the difficulty of this undertaking roughly aligned with predictions. Initially crafting new SPS bylaws and determining eligibility criteria did take quite a while, but now that these are established this won't be a difficulty again in the future. As expected, the existing infrastructure for sending announcements to Physics undergrads that was already being used for SPS events and information was also easy to apply for sharing Sigma Pi Sigma details. The Physics department was also highly cooperative, and not only allowed a room for the ceremony to be booked in the building but helped to fund the costs of food and decorations. This last point is an added benefit, as faculty and staff from the department appeared enthusiastic about increasing Boulder's Sigma Pi Sigma involvement and will likely be willing to aid the chapter in future projects.

Impact Assessment: How the Project/Activity/Event Met the Purpose of the Award

This project satisfied multiple SPS award purposes related to induction and awareness of Sigma Pi Sigma. First and foremost, it added greater distinction to induction ceremonies. It's been many years since we held an induction event and likely would've been unable to have one of this scale without the award funding. Given the success of this event, our chapter is planning to make this an annual occurrence, and this precedence will make it easier to plan and acquire department funding for this in the future. While this is more difficult to tangibly measure, it also seems this increased the induction of new members, as we advertised the induction event when alerting people of eligibility and encouraging them to apply. Many expressed excitement and enthusiasm for the ceremony while they were applying. Finally, this certainly raised awareness of Sigma Pi Sigma in the community. Most students were unaware of Sigma Pi Sigma before we began advertising it, but now in addition to the students who were actually inducted, their friends and family and other students who heard about the ceremony know about Sigma Pi Sigma. In fact, our Physics department's Instagram account was used for the first time in over a year to post photographs of the event, which further spreading knowledge of Sigma Pi Sigma.

Key Metrics and Reflection

Who was the target audience of your project?	Incoming Sigma Pi Sigma inductees and their supporters.
How many attendees/participants were directly impacted by your project? Please describe them (for example “3 alumni” or “10 physics majors”).	20 inducted physics majors, 7 family members of students, and 5 friends of students
How many students from your Sigma Pi Sigma chapter were involved in the activity, and in what capacity?	4 students from SPS (who were subsequently inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma) entirely planned and hosted the induction event with support from their faculty advisor.
Was the amount of money you received from Sigma Pi Sigma sufficient to carry out the activities outlined in your proposal? Could you have used additional funding? If yes, how much would you have liked and how would the additional funding have augmented your activity?	The money from Sigma Pi Sigma helped to offset induction fees, but was insufficient to cover them completely. We inducted 40 students, totalling fees of ~ \$2,000 vs. the \$500 from the Sigma Pi Sigma grant. This worked as the Boulder Physics Department covered the remaining costs, but more funding to cover induction fees would have been beneficial. The department also aided in paying for food and decorations, and had they not needed to cover as much of the induction fees themselves perhaps more money could've been devoted to the other aspects of the event.
Do you anticipate repeating this project/activity/event in the future, or having a follow-up project/activity/event? If yes, please describe.	We shall absolutely be repeating this event in the future. Given its success the plan is to hold annual induction ceremonies in a similar vein.
What new relationships did you build through this project?	We improved our chapters relationship with several faculty members who aided us such as the Department Chair.
If you were to do your project again, what would you do differently?	Sigma Pi Sigma applications were sent out later than intended so students only had about 2 weeks to apply. In the future we would try to send application earlier to give 3-4 weeks instead.

Activity Photos



Faculty Advisor Keith Ulmer introduces the induction ceremony.
(Photo Credit: Veronica Lingo)



New inductee Luke Coffman signs his name in the Boulder Sigma Pi Sigma logbook after being given a certificate of membership.
(Photo Credit: Veronica Lingo).



All of the new Sigma Pi Sigma inductees who attended the event. Most are holding glowsticks which were handed out and then cracked together at the end of the ceremony in celebration.
(Photo Credit: Veronica Lingo)