



SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Proposal

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

Abstract

The University of Colorado, Boulder branch of Sigma Pi Sigma is planning to host an induction for new members. The branch has recently become more active and would like to welcome inductees with a grand event. This ought to motivate students and keep participation high in the future.

Proposal Statement

Overview of Proposed Project

The CU Boulder branch of Sigma Pi Sigma will be hosting an induction ceremony for the numerous new members added to the branch in the Spring 2023 semester, bringing together all the new members to celebrate. While Sigma Pi Sigma was previously very active at CU, we have not held an induction class since 2017. We aim to use this grant to help restart Sigma Pi Sigma at CU Boulder. The goal of such a ceremony is simple: to formally welcome new inductees and expand their sense of enthusiasm and community in regards to SPS. We expect to have approximately 40 students who should be eligible and inducted this year.

How Proposed Project Meets the Purpose of the Award

This project easily fulfills one of the primary purposes of SPS grants: adding greater distinction to induction ceremonies. We are yet to hold an induction event for the new members, and while we will even without grant funding, it would be far more limited in scale and impact. Having the resources to hold a grander event will make this a core memory for members that connects them to Sigma Pi Sigma. Simultaneously, this will likely aid in increasing the induction of new members. Our chapter of SPS has not inducted anyone into Sigma Pi Sigma since 2017, causing interest to largely die out, so holding a large event to bring back Sigma Pi Sigma involvement will encourage more students to seek membership. We can also use photographs or positive feedback from the induction in future years when advertising Sigma Pi Sigma, as the associated prestige may be enticing. Finally, as aforementioned there has been little Sigma Pi Sigma involvement in recent years and many of our current SPS members don't even know about it, so successfully hosting this event will lead to many more people becoming aware of Sigma Pi Sigma.

Plan for Carrying Out Proposed Project

The event will be planned and managed by the current presidents of the school's SPS branch, Alexander Fix and Eleanor Gentry, with aid from their faculty liaison, Dr. Keith Ulmer, and some of the other senior members. Progress monitoring shall be relatively simple, merely involving identification of necessary items (acquiring food, reserving a space, etc.) and ensuring those are completed well in advance based on the project timeline. SPS meetings already occur weekly during the semester, so this event will be advertised at those for several weeks in advance, as well as on other communication channels already in use such as emails. All members of the SPS branch will be invited, so even taking into account some having other plans or lacking interest there should be around 50 students in attendance.

Project Timeline

End of March, 2023: Hold the induction ceremony.

Earlier March, 2023: Order food and decorations.

February, 2023: Enter names for accepted memberships into the Sigma Pi Sigma database.

January, 2023: Determine final date for ceremony based on semester exam schedules. Reserve a space within the Physics building to host the ceremony.

December, 2022: Identify SPS members who qualify for Sigma Pi Sigma based on new SPS bylaws. Send invitations to these members.

Project Evaluation Plan

The success of the project will primarily be measured in terms of attendance. We already have systems in place for recording attendance at normal weekly meetings and will do the same at this event. As the goal is to bring together all the students of SPS to celebrate, our level of success will be directly proportional to what fraction are able and willing to attend. In the weeks following the ceremony we will also survey students on their opinions and level of satisfaction. This will provide another metric for us to gauge success, and any critical feedback can be used to improve inductions in future years.

Budget Justification

The primary cost associated with this event is the \$54 per person induction fee, which will be slightly over \$2000 with the anticipated new members but is also required to have an induction ceremony in the first place. As this event is a celebration, food, space, and decorations are also necessary to make it a success. Fortunately, we will be able to reserve a space in the physics building on campus so no additional cost will be incurred there. All of the other supplies listed in the budget request will serve to increase the gravitas of the ceremony and generally lead students to enjoy the event more. As listed in our budget proposal, we estimate the cost of decoration to be ~\$50. Moreover, we anticipate the induction of around 40 students plus some attendance from other students and faculty members. To provide ample food for this many people we estimate \$7.50 in food costs per person, so assuming 10 each of faculty members and other students this would be food for 60 - around \$450. We recognize that collectively these costs are well over the maximum \$500 grant, but the Boulder Physics department will be able to cover most of the associated costs. However, due to the scope of the event (especially the large number of inductees), some grant funding is likely necessary for us to induct everyone in a proper fashion.