

SPS KICKOFF IDEAS ... an advice column for advisors

this is just a start...try exploring SPS in a FLASH for more ideas and suggestions!

<p><i>Dear SPS Advisor Advisor, I'm a new advisor with very little experience with SPS chapter activities. What should I do to help ensure that our chapter draws in more majors and physics students? Signed, Seeking Purpose</i></p>	<p><i>Dear SPS Advisor Advisor, I've been the advisor for many years but I need something to start us out differently than in previous years. What are some proven ways to ensure participation? Sincerely, Engagement needed,</i></p>	<p><i>Dear SPS Advisor Advisor, I'm the advisor for a very active group. The students really carry our chapter, but I'd like to surprise them with a new suggestion this year. Any ideas? Awaiting your reply, Wanting broader horizons.</i></p>
<p>Think community building. Setup the first meeting with food and committee sign-ups, rather than elections or guest speakers. Give every student a PURPOSE! Put the students in small committee groups, each with a job to do for upcoming gatherings. Some ideas for committees are Guest Speakers, Outreach, Field Trips, Social, Tutoring, or even Proposal Writing. A committee could be just 2 or 3 people. Then, get excited about writing for fundingApplications for SPS Outreach (up to \$300) and Research (up to \$2000) proposals are due Nov. 15. Examples of successful proposals are online at spsnational.org ... <i>And USE your SPS in a Flash for some ideas about presentations, games and more!</i></p>	<p>Think about doing an outreach event at a local school. Get your students ENGAGED... <i>Teach your SPS members how to build and present some science demos or hands on workshops!</i> It's a win-win...Go to a high school, and you get credit for recruiting efforts, while high school students get to see interesting science and enthusiastic, budding scientists in action. Or, go to a middle or elementary school and you get credit for public engagement and service while your students get to practice owning their physics knowledge. One easy start is with the SPS Outreach Catalyst Kits (SOCKs) . This is available to requesting chapters as long as supplies last...the 2012 SOCK has lessons on INVISIBLE FIELDS...including SPANDEX gravity lessons!</p>	<p>Think about getting out more. At your first gathering, suggest to student leaders that you need to get away. Help them figure out creative ways to travel as a chapter to an SPS zone meeting, SPS sessions at AAPT, APS, AAS, AGU, or some other professional meeting. You can find deadlines on the SPS poster calendar (in your packet). Also, get them thinking about getting funded and getting away for the summer – it's not too soon! See www.the-nucleus.org for summer job info, scholarship clearinghouse, physics discussion thread, outreach clearinghouse, physics contests and discussions, etc. And get them connected...for links to all the SPS social networking sites, including YouTube, Photobucket, LinkIn, Facebook, SPSJobs, just go to http://bit.ly/edBkG7</p>

Submit your questions sps@aip.org with subject line Dear SPS Advisor Advisor