



Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh



Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh

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TO: ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, SCIENCE DEPARTMENT HEADS, AND HEAD TEACHERS

The Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (SSP) and the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) offer a wide variety of science outreach programs for students and teachers at all grade levels. Most of these programs are offered at minimal cost or no cost at all. The teacher workshops offer Pennsylvania Act 48 in-service credit for participants through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. The SSP and SACP have been providing these science outreach opportunities for more than 65 years.

Additional information and registration/application forms for these programs are available on the websites of the SACP and SSP. Please encourage your teachers to check these sites periodically for up-to-date information. Registration/ Application Forms are NOT be mailed to schools unless specifically requested (except for the Faraday Lectures).

SACP ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL EQUIPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM

This program gives elementary and middle school teachers an opportunity to submit proposals for the purchase of up to \$600 worth of science equipment and supplies. The application form is not difficult or time consuming to complete. The SACP typically funds 75 to 80 percent of the proposals received. The forms are available on the SACP website. Equipment is purchased by the SACP and shipped directly to your school.

SACP MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

Students in grades 7 - 9 are invited to submit essays on a specific topic in science and compete for 13 cash prizes valued from \$50 to \$250. This is an excellent opportunity for students to practice their writing skills in preparation for the state assessment tests. Each school is eligible to submit two essays. The entry form is available on the SACP website.

SSP ELEMENTARY SCIENCE OLYMPIAD SUPPORT

The SSP will provide funding for elementary schools wishing to begin a Science Olympiad Program for students. Funds for individual schools may range from \$500 up to \$3,000 per school for equipment and materials related to the Olympiad. The actual amount will depend on the number of students who may participate, the types of equipment and materials needed, and the number of days devoted to Olympiad activities. All funds must be used for equipment and/or materials associated with the Olympiad. More information and application forms are available on the SSP website.

SSP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCIENCE EDUCATION AWARD

This award consists of a plaque and an honorarium for outstanding science teaching at the elementary school level. It requires a nomination from a Principal or Science Dept. Head. Application forms are available on the SSP website.

SSP COMPUTER SOFTWARE SERVICES LIBRARY

The SSP offers schools a one-year subscription to Journal of Chemical Education Web-Based Software, as well as selected software published by Victor Bendall of Eastern Kentucky University. The software is all offered free of charge and the Bendall software includes a site license. Schools only need to supply or pay for the blank media used to duplicate the Bendall programs. Instructions for obtaining this software are available on the SSP website.

SSP “LIGHT, COLOR & SPECTROSCOPY FOR KIDS” TEACHER WORKSHOP

This full-day teacher workshop for Middle and Elementary School teachers is scheduled for Thursday, March 30, 2017 at the National Energy Technology Center in South Park, PA. At the workshop, teachers will explore a wide variety of activities to assist their students in understanding important concepts about light and color. All these activities correlate well with the new Common Core standards. Teachers attending will receive most of the materials needed to perform these activities in their own classrooms plus 5 hours of Act 48 credit through the Allegheny IU. A registration form is available on the SSP website or you can email John Varine at <varine@pittcon.org> to register.

2016 PSTA CONVENTION

If you plan on attending the PSTA Convention in 2016 at the Penn Stater, Nov.30-Dec. 2, visit the SSP & SACP booth and look for our abbreviated versions of the SSP “Light, Color and Spectroscopy for Kids” Workshop and the SACP “Computer Software Workshop for Chemistry/Physics Teachers”.

ANNUAL FARADAY SCIENCE LECTURE

Each year, the SSP and SACP sponsor a series of science lecture-demonstrations at Soldiers and Sailors Hall in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh. Three lecture-demonstrations are held – an evening one for the general public and two for middle and high school students. The 2016 lectures will be held Nov. 15 & 16 for middle and high school students. Additional information & tickets can be obtained here: <http://www.sacp.org/faraday/> The evening lecture, free and open to the public, will be Nov. 15. The 2016 lecturer will be Lee Marek.

PITTCON SCIENCE WEEK IN PITTSBURGH

“Science Week” will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center October 22-28, 2016. Science Week provides meaningful professional development for all science teachers and hands-on workshops for elementary and middle school students. All student activities are free of charge for local schools in the greater Pittsburgh area. Check <www.science-week.org> for information and registration forms.

There are many additional programs offered throughout the school year. The websites of the two societies will periodically have information about these additional programs. Please pass on this mailing to the appropriate science teachers. Also encourage your teachers to check the websites of the two societies from time to time.

Funding for all these programs comes from Pittcon, the yearly conference and exposition owned and operated by volunteer members of the SSP and SACP, for individuals who work in the broad field of laboratory science and companies that market to that field. Pittcon provides over a million dollars per year to the societies to support a wide variety of science outreach activities at all levels from kindergarten through the professional career level. Membership in the SSP and SACP is open to all who work in a science related field.

Karen Johnson, Chair
Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh

Melinda Stevens, Chair
Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh

Greg Meisner, Pittcon 2017 President



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