



Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh



Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh

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TO: HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND SCIENCE DEPARTMENT HEADS

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 provided at a minimal cost or no cost at all. The teacher workshops offer Pennsylvania teachers Act 48 in-service credit through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. The SSP and SACP have been conducting these types of science outreach activities 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. Registration/Application Forms are NOT to be mailed to schools unless specifically requested (except for the Faraday Lectures).

SACP HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY CONTESTS

Students in grades 7 - 9 and 10 - 12 are invited to submit essays on a specific topic in science and compete for 13 cash prizes valued from \$100 to \$500 for high school students and \$50 to \$250 for middle school students. This is an excellent opportunity for students to practice their writing skills in preparation for state assessment tests. Each school may submit two essays in each category. Entry forms are available on the SACP website.

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 COMPUTER WORKSHOP FOR CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS TEACHERS

This full-day teacher workshop is scheduled on Thursday, Apr. 6, 2017 at the National Energy Technology Center in South Park, PA. At the workshop, teachers explore a variety of computer software programs and internet websites for the teaching of important concepts in chemistry and physics. All the concepts and activities correlate well with the new Pennsylvania science goals. Teachers take home all of the computer programs used at the workshop, receive a free one year subscription to the Journal of Chemical Education and 5 hours of Act 48 credit through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. In addition one teacher wins a Vernier Lab Quest 2 Starter Kit. The registration form is available on the SACP website, www.sacp.org, or you can email Hub MacDonald at macdonald@pittcon.org, for further information.

SSP HIGH SCHOOL EQUIPMENT GRANTS

This program provides high school science teachers with equipment of value upwards of \$2,500 that utilizes or teaches principles of spectroscopy and related topics. An application form is available on the SSP website.

SSP KEVIN BURNS OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER AWARD

This award consists of a plaque and an honorarium for outstanding science teaching at the secondary 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 is 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 science 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 will be 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 by the two societies. The websites of the two societies will have information about these additional programs. Please pass on this letter 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, and intended 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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