

Marsh White Report 06-07

Description:

The California State University, Chico, chapter of the Society of Physics Students has consistently made physics outreach a priority when choosing our activities and projects. We believe that outreach activities for K-12 students are an important part of promoting both physics and general science. We hope that our chapter's positive and encouraging interactions with young students will inspire them to consider a science related field of study or employment.

Our activities are primarily directed at the K-12 students in or around the Chico community. We feel that it is never too early to help children gain a sense of wonder for the world around us and to dispel the notion that science is 'uncool.' By engaging in these outreach activities annually we provide students with repeated exposure to our positive message and also contribute to a sense of tradition and pride within our chapter. Here we report on our outreach activity at the Boys and Girls Club of Chico funded by a Marsh White Award.

The volunteer coordinator of the Boys and Girls Club of Chico contacted us and displayed enthusiasm for volunteers knowledgeable in mathematics and science. K-12 students from the community gather at the Boys and Girls Club after school until their parents are able to pick them up after work. We felt that this would be a perfect opportunity to share with young students the wonders of physics.

Our chapter responded by presenting a physics show focused on low temperature physics. Our chapter displayed a variety of hands-on activities to demonstrate principles related to the temperature scales, phase changes, and kinetic theory. The grand finale for the event was to make Liquid Nitrogen ice cream enjoyed by all.

We firmly believe that our chapter's outreach efforts are highly beneficial to our local K-12 student community. By engaging in multiple events on an annual basis, we can interact with a large number of young students and also involve our own physics majors in positive chapter activities. Both young and older students gain valuable experience from these events and we look forward to many more years of science outreach activities.

In addition to this presentation several of our members became regular science and math tutors at the Boys and Girls Club.

Expenditures:

The table below represents the expenditures to date. However, several students have yet to be reimbursed for the supplies that they purchased.

Date	Item(s)	Amount
4/26/07	presentation consumables	\$19.28
4/26/07	presentation consumables	\$9.85
2/15/07	advertising	\$20.00
3/1/07	liquid nitrogen	\$125.00

Photos:

