

Marsh White Foundation: Outreach Report

Texas State University at San Marcos

Our proposal originally stated that we wished to use the awarded funds to purchase additional equipment to complete our selection of demonstration materials used to conduct physics demonstrations for local schools and university students. However, upon careful examination of the materials already possessed by our department, we determined that there were really no materials necessary to purchase in order to complete our demonstration catalog.

Because of this, we decided to organize a three day physics camp for middle school aged students in the greater San Marcos area. The camp is designed to give extensive demonstrations in conjunction with short lectures that introduce and explain basic physics concepts. The camp will cover subjects such as gravity, Newton's laws, projectiles, wave properties, and electricity and magnetism, as well as a number of other physics concepts. The camp is designed to give the enrolled children a chance to experience physics in a hands-on environment, as well as to conduct experiments and observe demonstrations.

Item	Vendor	Amount
Breakfast	H.E.B. Groceries	\$25.00
Lunch	H.E.B. Groceries	\$75.00
Cars & Catapults	Hobby Lobby	\$100.00
Experiments	Hobby Lobby	\$100.00
Total:		\$300.00

The camp will run from June 10th through June 12th, from 8am until 5pm, and there are currently 18 children enrolled. A portion of the funds awarded from the Marsh White Foundation will be spent on breakfast and lunch for the campers and the volunteers administering the demonstrations and lectures. The remainder of the funds will be spent on materials that will be used by the campers to build mouse-trap powered cars and small model catapults, as well as any materials necessary to conduct experiments that the children will decide upon on the first day of camp.

The budget allotted for the food items is between 75 and 100 dollars, and is dependent on the amount of food that will be donated by different restaurants in San Marcos. In addition, campers are encouraged to bring their own lunches, which is likely to further decrease the need for a large food budget. Purchases will be made from a local grocery store and prepared by camp administrators to further cost effectiveness.

The majority of the funds will be spent on purchasing dowel rods, wheels, mouse traps, and other items necessary to build cars and catapults, as well as various materials necessary to conduct experiments designed by the campers themselves, and is therefore currently undetermined. The Texas State University at San Marcos Physics Department has offered the use of any of its raw materials (scrap wood, machine shop, etc.), as well as any of the items used in any of the laboratory activities conducted by formal classes.

All these factors, in conjunction with any donations from parents or local restaurants should be well within the limits of the awarded funds, but our Society of Physics Students chapter will cover any expenses over this amount. It is our intention that this short day camp of experimentation and demonstrations will be conducted every summer by members of our S.P.S. chapter in the years to come, and perhaps the habit will spread to other chapters throughout the state and the nation.