



RSPS XLIV
ROCHESTER SYMPOSIUM FOR
PHYSICS (ASTRONOMY & OPTICS) STUDENTS

SPS Zone 2 Regional Meeting

RSPS Local Committee:

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Dear Colleague:

Enclosed is a poster publicizing the 44th Annual Rochester Symposium for Physics, Astronomy, and Optics Students (RSPS). The Symposium will be held on **Saturday, April 18th, 2026**, at the Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester. We are pleased to announce that RSPS will serve as the Zone 2 Regional Meeting of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) for New York, Ontario, and Quebec. We would appreciate it if you could post this poster and inform others in your department of the event, particularly undergraduate students in the physical sciences who might be interested in submitting abstracts.

The Symposium is a one-day meeting at which undergraduate students give fifteen-minute presentations on research projects in physics, astronomy, optics, and related fields. Usually there is sufficient interest to include a poster session. The subject matter is quite broad, covering such areas as condensed matter, astronomy, nuclear physics, laser and optical physics, instrumentation, quantum optics and computing, acoustics, environmental physics, atomic physics, medical and biological physics, and particle physics. The format of the Symposium sessions is similar to that of APS meetings, except somewhat less formal. The Keynote speaker is Regina Barber, Short Wave Host (NPR's science podcast), "A Physicist's Path to NPR: Learning how to share science better", and the Career Talk Presenter is Prof Matthew Wright, Adelphi University & SPS Zone 2 Counselor.

To register for the symposium, visit the RSPS 2026 homepage at:

<http://www.pas.rochester.edu/news-events/rsps/2026/>

and click on the "Registration" link. Registration is a required step for all faculty, presenters, and non-presenters. Undergraduate students planning to attend and present at the symposium also need to take another step and click on the "Submit Abstract" link on the RSPS 2026 homepage to submit their abstract. The deadline for registration and abstract submission is **March 27, 2026**.

For delegates who plan to arrive Friday evening before the Symposium, the following hotels have reasonable rates in the area: Staybridge Suites (585-527-9110), Red Roof Inn (585-359-1100), Days Inn (585-444-3184), La Quinta Inn (585-272-7800), Microtel (585-334-3400), or Econo Lodge (585-334-7000).

The following fees are due at the time of arrival at the Symposium: \$25 per abstract, \$20 for each faculty, \$15 for each student who is not giving a paper or poster, plus \$15 for lunch. Faculty and students are more than welcome to send in registration fees ahead of time to: Undergraduate Program Coordinator, RSPS, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, NY 14627-0171. Make checks payable to the University of Rochester.

We hope students and faculty at your institution will participate. Abstracts must be received by **March 27, 2026**.

Sincerely,

Kelly A. Douglass, RSPS Chair

Due at time of Registration: Presenter total (w/lunch) \$40 each, Faculty total (w/lunch) \$35 each, Non-presenter total (w/lunch) \$30 each