

THE BLAKE LILLY PRIZE

Recognizing positive feedback from SPS chapters' physics outreach efforts to grades K–12 and the public.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

All SPS members. They can enter either as individuals or as groups representing chapters.

ABOUT THE PRIZE

Whenever you or your SPS chapter “take physics on the road,” you are already eligible for the Blake Lilly Prize. Many chapters perform “Physics Circuses,” classroom demonstrations, offer tutoring services for grades K-12, or assist with school science fairs. What results have you seen? What positive feedback has your audience given you? What encouragement can you offer to the rest of us? The Blake Lilly Prize is an opportunity for you and your chapter to be publicly recognized for your physics outreach efforts.

The effort on your part to enter the Blake Lilly Prize competition is minimal, as you will see. Here is what we are looking for: Sometimes the pupils who see your presentation write thank-you notes that are amusing and thought-provoking. Sometimes they will ask you profound questions, the very questions that drive science. Sometimes they will show their curiosity about the natural world in amazing and beautiful ways. As you gather feedback from the recipients of your outreach efforts, what questions did they ask you? What anecdotal evidence exists that their interest in science was improved by your visit? What positive synergies developed between your physics department and the K-12 teachers that may lead to fruitful collaborative efforts in the future?

Please provide us with this kind of information—anecdotes or letters or observations that will uplift, encourage, and inspire other SPS chapters to interact helpfully with local K–12 grades and the general public.

HOW TO RESPOND

Merely submit a brief report (not more than two pages) describing your audience and your interaction with them. We encourage you to attach items such as photos, programs, or newspaper articles to your report.

An awards committee will review the entries. Many responses will be shared with the SPS membership through the SPS Observer and the SPS web site www.spsnational.org. At least two chapters whose feedback from their audiences is especially interesting will receive the “Blake Lilly Prize” consisting of a certificate for display, and a set of the three-volume Feynman Lectures on Physics to be used as the chapter sees fit (e.g., for the chapter library, or as an award to recognize an outstanding student in your department).

WHY THE FEYNMAN LECTURES?

Richard Feynman’s celebrated Lectures were a source of great inspiration to Blake. Among Blake’s possessions were the three-volume set of the Feynman Lectures on Physics. Blake’s family said the following:

“Feynman’s real gift may have been that he made physics accessible to students like Blake, who have a compelling interest and commitment, but whose talent lay in diligence and hard, consistent study rather than in super intelligence. Feynman spoke to the ordinary student in Blake about the extraordinary beauty of physics.”

CONTEST ENTRY DETAILS

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15. The entry, its accompanying letter, and attachments are to be sent to: Society of Physics Students, Blake Lilly Prize Committee, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740-3843

If there are any questions, please contact us at: Tel: (301) 209-3007; Fax: (301) 209-0839; E-mail: sps@aip.org.
Winners will be announced in an upcoming issue of the SPS Observer and on the SPS web site www.spsnational.org.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Because the SPS may wish to use all or portions of entries in SPS publications, all entries become the property of the Society of Physics Students. When used in SPS publications, authorship of the entries will be cited.



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