

Physics Day at Lagoon 2001

The twelfth annual Utah State University Physics Day at Lagoon was held on May 19. This year marked the third year of the cooperation by organizers from Idaho National Engineering and Energy Lab (INEEL) and the USU Physics Department in running the event. There were approximately 4,500 students and 125 teachers from 70 schools in four states [Utah, Idaho, Nevada and Wyoming] who attended. Total attendance has been level at 4500-5000 students for the last several years. As in the past, there are significant discrepancies between the pre-registration figures and those who registered at the main gate; this is in large part due to many schools not checking in at the main gate on Physics Day. Participation in most organized activities decreased somewhat this year.

Event	High Schools	Middle Schools/ Junior High Schools
Physics Bowl	16 Teams, 48 Students	---
G-forces Contest	30 Students	74 Students
Demonstration Design Contest	12 Entries, 18 Students	16 Entries, 45 Students
Ride Design Contest	11 Entries, 30 Students	83 Entries, 118 Students
Logo Design Contest	42 Entries, 50 Students	80 Entries, 82 Students
Student Workbooks	11 Schools, 159 Students	15 Schools, 344 Students
Total Contest Participation	335 (~31%) Participants	663 (~25%) Participants
Totals Registered (Pre-registration totals were 97 schools with 4867 students and teachers)	27 Schools 50 Teachers ~1094 Students	32 Schools 65 Teachers ~2621 Students

About sixty faculty, staff, and students from the USU Physics Department, about a eight INEEL staff, and about twenty-five additional helpers other sponsoring agencies were on hand to assist with registration, organization and contest judging. There were an estimated \$37,000 in prizes awarded this year. Sponsors included Boeing, Hansen Planetarium, Lagoon, Thiokol, US Navy, USU College of Science, USU High School Relations, Idaho NASA Space Grant Consortium, and Rocky Mountain NASA Space Grant Consortium.

Media coverage included Ch 4 and Ch 2 from Salt Lake City plus Ch 6 from Idaho Falls. Approximately four papers sent reporters to cover the event including the Salt Lake Tribune and the Ogden Standard Examiner.

