

K-12 Lounge

RELAX REFLECT CONNECT

THE K-12 LOUNGE OFFERS A WELCOMING SPACE FOR K-12 EDUCATORS TO UNWIND, REFLECT ON THEIR EXPERIENCES, AND ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS AND COLLABORATION WITH COLLEAGUES.

Monday, August 4th

7:45–8:45	Community on Physics in Pre-high school and High School Meeting	Join the K-12 Physics Teaching Community meeting to connect with educators, share insights, and learn how you can help shape the future of pre-high school and high school physics education. Whether you're experienced or just starting out, come be part of the conversation driving change in K-12 physics teaching.
9:00–10:00	Open Mic: 3-Minute Classroom Wins (or Fails!)	Share a quick story about something that worked—or totally flopped—in your classroom. Laughter and learning guaranteed.
10:00–11:00	Meet the PhysTEC Teacher of the Year 2025!	Engage in a dynamic conversation with Lynn Jorgensen the 2025 recipient of the PhysTEC Teacher of the Year award! The award recipient will present their innovative teaching methods and impactful contributions to physics education. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in a lively Q&A session. Additionally, the session will include interactive demonstrations showcasing effective teaching strategies and engaging classroom activities
11:00–11:30	Open Lounge	Come relax, get things done, and socialize with your K-12 colleagues in the K-12 Open Lounge.
12:30–2:00	Lunch in the Lounge	Join us for a casual Bring Your Own Lunch Social in the K-12 Lounge, where you can enjoy a relaxed break and connect with fellow attendees. It's the perfect opportunity to network, share insights, and engage in friendly conversations over lunch.
3:00–4:00	Science for All Ages: Experiencing Science Through our Senses	This project aims to explore tools and lessons for children in early childhood and elementary school that teach basic principles in physics using their senses. They might not yet understand how to solve an equation or why the sky is blue, but they can use their touch, taste, sight, smell and sound to make connections to subjects like color, waves, gravity, weight and more.
4:00–5:00	Topical Discussion: What Keeps You Teaching Physics? Sharing Joy & Challenges	Connect with fellow physics educators to share what inspires you to keep teaching, celebrate meaningful moments, and discuss common challenges. Gain support, insight, and motivation from a community that understands.
5:00–5:30	Open Lounge	Come relax, get things done, and socialize with your K-12 colleagues in the K-12 Open Lounge.

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Tuesday, August 5th

9:00–10:00	PTRA Presents Low-Cost, High-Impact: Kitchen, Garage, and Garbage Can Physics Labs	Discover low-cost, hands-on physics labs using everyday materials! Led by PTRA bootcamp participants, this session highlights creative ways to teach core concepts with items from kitchens, garages, and more. Walk away with ready-to-use activities, materials lists, and inspiration to make physics engaging and accessible—no big budget required.
10:00–11:00	Idea Incubator	Join us for a casual session where K-12 teachers and others who are interested can collaborate on new ideas and brainstorm solutions to classroom challenges with fellow educators. This interactive session offers a supportive space to share ideas, troubleshoot problems, and gain fresh perspectives from colleagues across various regions, grade levels and experiences.
11:00–11:30	Open Lounge	Come relax, get things done, and socialize with your K-12 colleagues in the K-12 Open Lounge.
12:30–2:00	Lunch in the Lounge	Join us for a casual Bring Your Own Lunch Social in the K-12 Lounge, where you can enjoy a relaxed break and connect with fellow attendees. It's the perfect opportunity to network, share insights, and engage in friendly conversations over lunch.
2:00–3:00	Inspiring Teaching: A Conversation with the Zitzewitz Awardee	Join a dynamic session with the 2025 Paul W. Zitzewitz Award winner! Hear from Bree Barnett-Dreyfuss as she shares innovative teaching methods and impactful contributions to K-12 physics. Enjoy interactive demos, explore effective strategies, and take part in an engaging Q&A with this outstanding educator.
3:00–4:00	PhET Playground	Explore, play, and connect in the PhET Playground! Try out interactive simulations, share teaching ideas, and discover adaptable lesson strategies. Whether you're new to PhET or a seasoned user, come get inspired and collaborate with fellow educators.