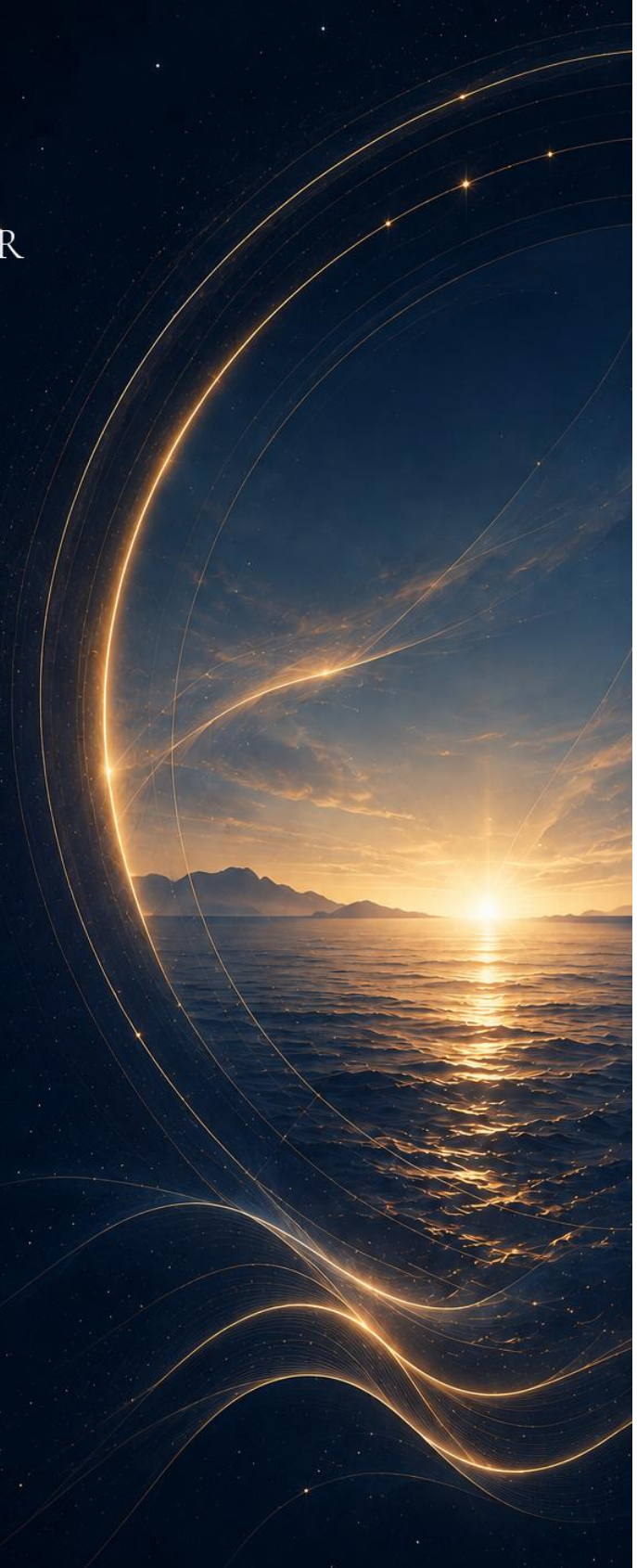




AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR
GRAVITATIONAL &
SPACE RESEARCH

—
SUMMER SOLSTICE
NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2026

—
THE LONGEST LIGHT.
NEW IDEAS.
NEW HORIZONS.



1. Message from Leadership

ASGSR is working closely with many of our peer organizations to understand the implications of OMB's proposed revisions to the Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance. ***These proposed revisions will impact YOU and ASGSR!*** Some of the proposed changes include giving political appointees final authority over peer-review decisions (§200.205/.202), allowing mid-award termination of active grants deemed "inconsistent with program goals or agency priorities" (§200.340), prohibiting collaborations with researchers in sanctioned "covered countries" (§200.220), requiring agency pre-approval to attend conferences or hold professional memberships using grant funds (§200.432), and disallowing the use of federal funds for journal publication and open-access costs (§200.461).

ASGSR is actively working and joining with other organizations to communicate the impacts to science, space research, exploration, and American leadership in areas such as the commercial development of space, human space exploration, and bringing the scientific, technological, and commercial benefits from space research and exploration back down to Earth to benefit America every day. Actions we have taken thus far include:

1. Joined 322 other organizations to request additional time to review and provide feedback on the proposed rule.
2. Joining with the International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers and other organizations on a letter to Congress on the importance of allowing publication fees to be covered by grants.
3. Developing a letter to OMB expressing the views of the ASGSR Leadership Team and External Affairs Committee.

To help you lend your voice in support of science, we are pleased to share that ASGSR members can use the American Physical Society's new on-line comment portal. You can access the portal [here](#).

If you would like to submit a letter on your own, here are some tips and tricks:

1. OMB's comment period ends on July 13, 2026. Submit your own unique comments about how the proposed OMB rules will personally affect you. Instructions on how to submit a comment are available [here](#).
2. Make sure you are responding in your individual capacity by omitting a reference to your employer or organizations you may be affiliated with. Each organization is entitled to submit one response, which will ensure that everyone's voices are heard.



3. Cite the relevant Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to which you are referring in your comment, followed by the section number and a clear statement of your proposed action. Without this information, your comment may not be counted.

To learn more about the proposed rule change, please visit the Planetary Society's [Federal Grant Rule Comparison dashboard](#) for a side-by-side comparison of how the proposed rule will change CFR Title 2.

2. Conference Planning

Art Competition: ASGSR is pleased to announce the call for submissions for the annual Art Competition, held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. This competition highlights the intersection of art and scientific discovery, inviting artists to share original works inspired by gravitational and space-related research. The contest is open to all artists attending the 2026 Annual Meeting, and ASGSR membership is not required.

This year's theme is *From Atoms to Astronauts: Transformative Science for a New Era of Exploration*. Submissions may reflect the conference theme or explore broader topics in space and gravitational science. Both 2D and 3D artwork are welcome; however, all submissions must be original works, and AI-generated artwork is not permitted. Artists are also asked to include a brief statement describing their work and its connection to the theme. Selected pieces will be displayed at the Annual Meeting, with opportunities for recognition including the GSR Journal Cover Award, Audience Choice Awards, and Special Jury Awards. The submission deadline is October 23, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST. Additional information, including full guidelines and submission instructions, is available on the ASGSR website [here](#).



Abstract Submissions: The deadline for abstract submissions has now closed and notification of abstract acceptance and travel award decisions will be sent no earlier than August 1, 2026. Missed the deadline? Be on the lookout for the call for late-breaking abstracts later this summer. The call for Middle and High School abstracts will also open on July 1, 2026. Complete submission guidelines, formatting instructions, and additional details are available on the ASGSR website [here](#).

Preliminary Agenda: The preliminary agenda for the 2026 ASGSR Annual Meeting is now available. Attendees can review the tentative schedule of scientific sessions, networking events, committee meetings, and conference activities to begin planning their meeting experience. The agenda is subject to change as additional details are finalized. View the preliminary agenda [here](#).

Call for Sponsors and Exhibitors: We are actively seeking organizations to sponsor or exhibit at the Annual Meeting. Our prospectus has been updated to reflect several new opportunities this year, including additional sponsorship tiers and naming rights, time on the conference program, dedicated meeting space, and the opportunity to participate in the student and early career opportunity fair. Many of these opportunities are offered on a first come first serve basis, so visit the meeting sponsorship page [here](#), or reach out to Ellen Gertsen, ASGSR Executive Director, as soon as possible to secure your spot. The deadline to register as a sponsor or exhibitor is September 30, 2026.

**ASGSR 2026
CALL FOR SPONSORS
AND EXHIBITORS**

**DECEMBER 2-5, 2026
CRYSTAL CITY, VIRGINIA**

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

★	PREMIER SPONSOR	\$20,000
◆	DIAMOND SPONSOR	\$15,000
★	PLATINUM SPONSOR	\$10,000
★	GOLD SPONSOR	\$5,000
★	SILVER SPONSOR	\$3,500
★	BRONZE SPONSOR	\$2,000
●	EXHIBITOR	\$750

BENEFITS INCLUDE

- Recognition on the conference website and meeting materials
- Visibility among researchers and decision-makers in the space and life sciences community
- Formal and informal opportunities to connect with conference attendees
- Demonstrated support for scientific research and education



3. News and Special Announcements

ASGSR Membership Renewal: Don't forget to renew your existing membership or purchase a new membership before July 1, 2026, to lock in last year's rates. As a reminder, all memberships expire annually on June 30 and may be renewed up to 90 days in advance. Click [here](#) to renew.

Final Call to Participate in the AIP 2026 Career, Work, and Current Issues Survey:

ASGSR is collaborating with peer organizations across the physical sciences through AIP to better understand the experiences, needs, and professional pathways of our broader community. We invite you to share your perspective by completing the survey [here](#). It should take no more than 10–15 minutes and closes on June 30, 2026.

4. Upcoming Events and Calls to Action

NASA RFI: NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) has released a new Request for Information (RFI) entitled, Private Sector Activities in Astrobiology, Planetary Protection, and Space Biology, seeking expressions of interest from U.S. private sector, academic, nonprofit, and government organizations interested in potential partnerships in astrobiology, planetary protection, and space biology.

This RFI is intended to help NASA identify potential collaborators who can contribute to advancing research, technology development, and applications that support our broader efforts to understand the origins, evolution, and distribution of life in the universe.

Please note that the RFI is not a solicitation. NASA does not intend to award contracts, grants, cooperative agreements or Space Act Agreements. This RFI is voluntary and strictly for planning purposes. Please visit <https://go.nasa.gov/PSPRFI> to download a copy of the full RFI.

All responses must be submitted through the NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES) by August 10, 2026, to be considered.

5. Student Corner

Keep an eye out for ASGSR Student awards opening next month in the following categories:

1. ASGSR Inspiration Scholarship: For high school juniors and seniors, now open to both biological **and physical** sciences students for the first time! Four winners of \$1000 each (2 per category)
2. ASGSR Student Design Award: Create the artwork that will be featured on the ASGSR conference T-shirt (1 winner of \$250 and free T-shirt)



3. ASGSR Student Creative Challenge Award: Create a story / video / art piece about space exploration (3 winners of \$250 each, 1 per category)
4. ASGSR Student Impact Award: Host a space-themed event in your community (4 winners of \$250 each)

Applications will open July 1st and close mid-to-late September. Follow us on Instagram and LinkedIn @ASGSRstudents to stay in the loop!



6. Community News & Updates

Have news to share with the ASGSR community? We welcome member achievements, awards, publications, outreach activities, lab updates, and other professional news for consideration in future newsletters. Please send submissions to marketing@asgsr.org.

