

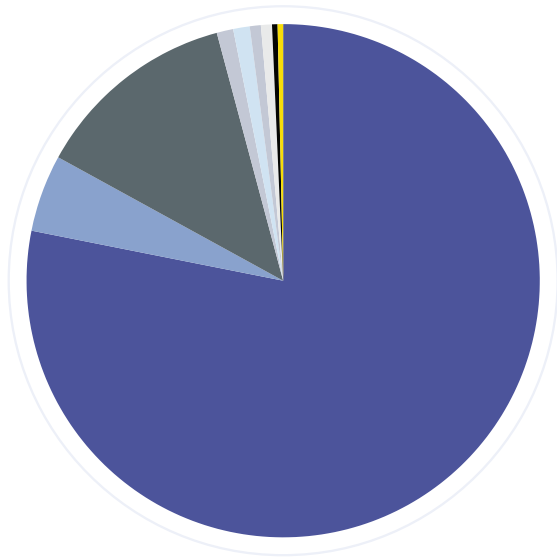
AAS 247

EXHIBITOR & SPONSOR PROSPECTUS
PHOENIX, ARIZONA **4-8 JANUARY 2026**



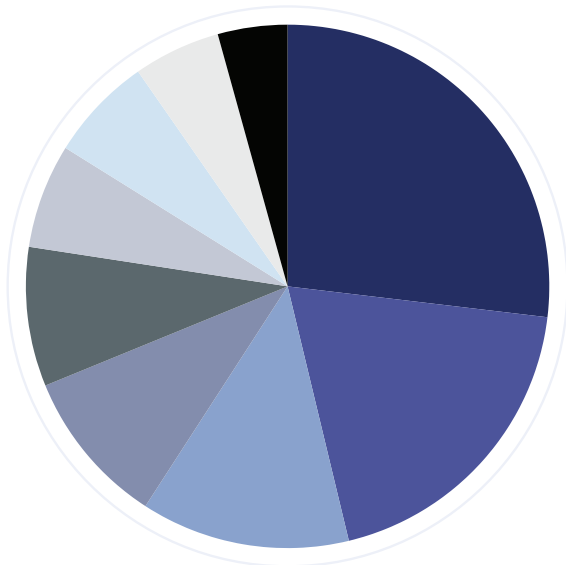
Who Attends AAS Meetings

Work Settings



- 52% ● Four-year teaching college or university
- 17% ● Federal lab, observatory, or research facility
- 9% ● Private/State observatory or research institute
- 7% ● Other government (HQ, etc)
- 4% ● Non-profit management organization
- 3% ● Industry
- 3% ● Self-employed
- 3% ● Two-year college
- 2% ● Planetarium or museum
- 2% ● High school

Areas of Interest



- 30% ● Galaxies & Cosmology
- 17% ● Stars & Stellar Physics
- 14% ● Planetary Systems, Exoplanets & Biology
- 11% ● High Energy Phenomena & Fundamental Physics
- 8% ● Instrumentation, Telescopes & Spacecraft
- 7% ● Other
- 5% ● Interstellar Matter & the Local Universe
- 5% ● Astronomy Education & Public Outreach
- 2% ● Historical Astronomy

Past Winter Meeting Attendance

3,684 245th AAS meeting, National Harbor, MD (Jan 2025)

3,468 243rd AAS meeting, New Orleans, LA (Jan 2024)



Help Us Make AAS 247 Our Best Show Yet!

The American Astronomical Society invites you to support its 247th winter meeting to be held jointly with the **Historical Astronomy Division**.

We are delighted to host the meeting in Phoenix — Arizona’s largest and most cosmopolitan city — framed by rugged terrain, including the red rocks of Papago Park and the signature spine of Camelback Mountain.

Exhibit space will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to AAS Corporate Members and Sponsors. Exhibit rates are classified by three different categories:

- Corporate Member/Publisher Affiliate
- Government/Nonprofit
- Nonmember

A comprehensive Exhibitor Service Kit — including details on electrical services, furnishings, shipping, and more — will be provided by our show contractor, Arata Expositions.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown. We encourage all attendees to book within the official AAS room block in order to receive the best rates.

For the most up-to-date event details, including hotel and travel information, visit the AAS meeting website: aas.org/meetings/aas247.

We look forward to seeing you in Phoenix, Arizona!

Booth Purchase Early Deadline
15 September 2025

Booth Purchase Regular Deadline
27 October 2025

Booth Purchase Final Deadline
8 December 2025

Exhibit Booth Rates

10'x10' Exhibit Booth	Early by 15 September	Regular by 27 October	Late by 8 December	Extra 10'x10' Booth
AAS Corporate Member/ Publisher Affiliate	\$3,023	\$3,299	\$4,153	\$1,698
Government/ Nonprofit	\$3,445	\$3,883	\$4,737	\$1,990
Nonmember	\$5,202	\$5,927	\$7,019	\$2,963

Exhibitor Table-Tops - \$1,575

- **Staffed:** A representative from your organization will be present to manage the table-top. Table-top fee includes one (1) complimentary Exhibit Hall staff badge to allow your representative access to the Exhibit Hall, one (1) six foot table, and one (1) chair.
- **Unstaffed:** Your organization ships the materials in advance and AAS personnel will handle set up and dismantling on your behalf. Table-top fee includes one (1) six foot table. This is a convenient option for those unable to attend in person.

To qualify for the **Government** rate, your exhibit must represent a US government agency. To qualify as a **Nonprofit**, you must show proof of your federal status. To qualify for the **Corporate Member/Publisher Affiliate** rate, your company must have a current AAS corporate membership and appear on the corporate member webpage. Individual memberships do not qualify for exhibit booth discounts. To learn more about AAS Corporate Membership, visit: <https://aas.org/join/corporate-members>. If you have any questions regarding corporate membership, please contact Diane Frendak at diane.frendak@aas.org.

Exhibit Fees for Your First 10'x10' Booth Include:

- Two (2) full complimentary individual meeting registrations (access to all sessions and public events)
- Three (3) Exhibit Hall-only staff badges
- Company listing on the AAS meeting website and mobile app
- Company logo displayed on show signage

For exhibitors with more than four (4) 10'x10' booths, refer to the Exhibitor Registration section (page 13) for details regarding the AAS badge policy.

Booth Selection Priority

Priority is given to Sponsors and Corporate Members for booth selection, and forms will be processed in the following order:

- Sponsors/Corporate Members and Publisher Affiliates
- Government Organizations/Nonprofits
- Nonmembers

Closing Reception Raffle Donations

Help us end the meeting on a high note! We invite exhibitors to donate items for the Closing Reception raffle — a fun and much-anticipated event that draws attendees together to celebrate the week's success. Popular raffle prizes in past years have included books, t-shirts, mugs, free memberships, and gift certificates, however, we welcome your creativity. For further information contact Conor Sherry, conor.sherry@aas.org.

Exhibit Floor Plan

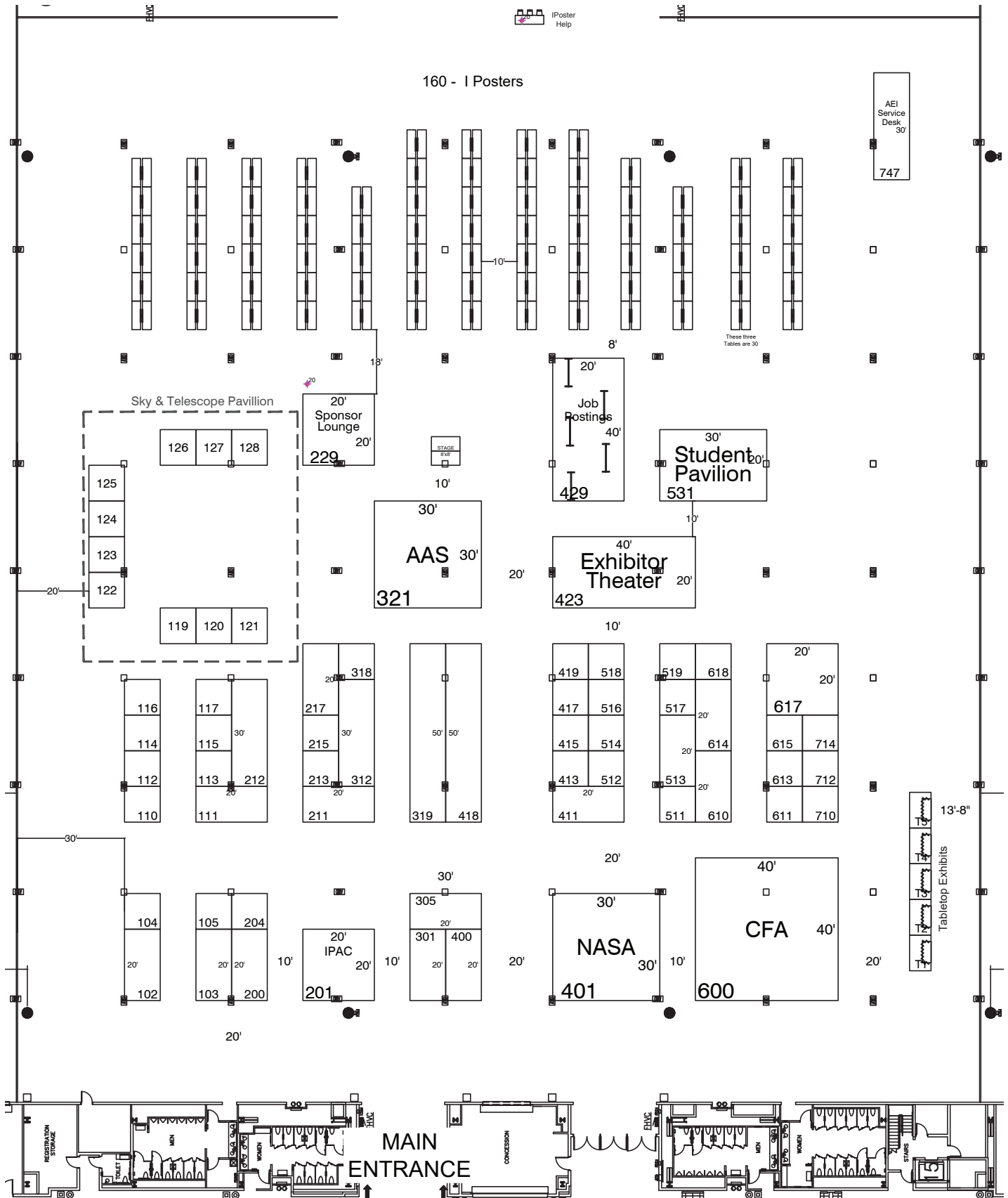


Exhibit Hall Features



Exhibitor Theater 30-Minute Slots - \$575/ea

Spotlight your organization's products and services to a captive audience while boosting your visibility! Exhibitors may sponsor a 30-minute presentation on a topic of their choosing, with full audio and video support. Your name and topic will be listed on the Exhibitor Theater schedule which is posted at the entrance to the Exhibitor Theater and in show materials. Exhibitor Theater slots are well suited to introduce new research, products, organizational updates, and other topics of interest. The Exhibitor Theater is a popular and well attended destination on the show floor.

iPosters

Traffic will increase each day during the morning and evening iPoster sessions, which are held concurrently with the morning and evening breaks.

Morning and Evening Breaks

These breaks occur in the Exhibit Hall each morning at 9:00 am (coffee) and evening at 5:30 pm (cash bar), generating high floor traffic and increased exposure for exhibitors.

Student Pavilion: Take advantage of mentoring sessions, learn how to navigate the event to get the most out of your experience at an AAS meeting.

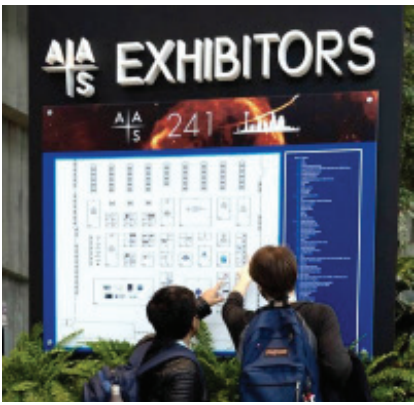
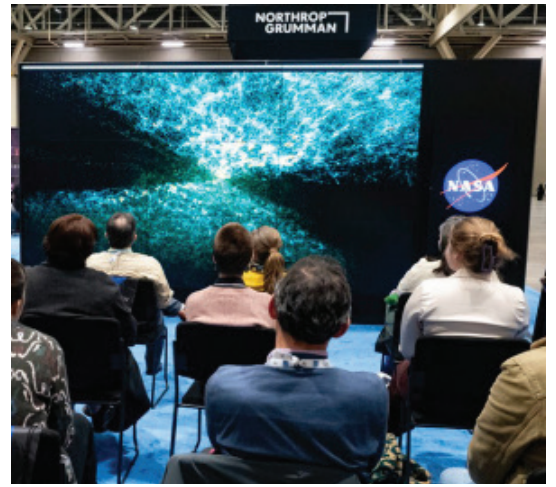
Exhibitor Check-In

Check-in Sunday, 4 January, beginning at 8:00 am. Badges will be available for pickup at this time. Please be sure to complete the Exhibitor Registration by **8 December** to ensure that your badges are available when you and your colleagues arrive.

Exhibit Hall Schedule (Tentative)

	Move-In/Move-Out	Exhibit Hall Hours	Coffee Breaks	Poster Sessions
Sunday 4 January	Setup 9:00 am – 4:30 pm	6:30 – 8:30 pm		
Monday 5 January		9:00 am – 6:30 pm	9:00 – 10:00 am 5:30 – 6:30 pm	9:00 – 10:00 am 5:30 – 6:30 pm
Tuesday 6 January		9:00 am – 6:30 pm	9:00 – 10:00 am 5:30 – 6:30 pm	9:00 – 10:00 am 5:30 – 6:30 pm
Wednesday 7 January		9:00 am – 6:30 pm	9:00 – 10:00 am 5:30 – 6:30 pm	9:00 – 10:00 am 5:30 – 6:30 pm
Thursday 8 January	Teardown 2:00 pm	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	9:00 – 10:00 am 1:00 – 2:00 pm	9:00 – 10:00 am 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Exhibits



Sponsorship Levels

Becoming an AAS Meeting Sponsor is a great way to increase exposure for your organization and to show your support for the work and mission of the American Astronomical Society. Sponsorship deadlines vary based on printing schedules. Sponsorship assets are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Sponsors from the previous meeting are provided priority for the same asset at this year's meeting.

Benefits	Platinum \$17,000	Gold \$12,000	Silver \$7,000	Bronze \$4,000	Supporter \$2,500
Complimentary full registrations	4	3	2		
Exhibit Hall only badges	3	3	3		
Complimentary exhibit booth(s)	3	2	1		
Exhibit booth location	Priority	Premium	Standard		
Logo inclusion on meeting webpages	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Rotating banner ad in meeting mobile app	Yes	Yes	Yes		
VIP meet & greet with AAS leadership at 40+E Reception	4 persons	2 persons	1 person		
Complimentary sponsorship asset	Select any sponsorship asset \$10,000 or less	Select any sponsorship asset \$7,500 or less	Select any sponsorship asset \$2,500 or less		
Access to Sponsor Lounge (all days)	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Inclusion of name and/or logo on high-visibility meeting signage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sponsor ribbon on badges	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Sponsorship Opportunities

Opening Reception (co-sponsored with AAS) - \$15,000

One (1) opportunity available. This widely attended reception kicks off the meeting. Be one of the first to welcome attendees. Your organization's name and logo will be listed in meeting materials and prominent signage at the reception. You will have the option to provide custom printed cups, napkins, etc.

Closing Reception (co-sponsored with AAS) - \$15,000

One (1) opportunity available. This widely attended event brings the meeting to a close. You will have one more opportunity to leave a lasting impression. Your organization's name and/or logo will be listed in meeting materials and prominent signage at the breakfast. Plus, you will have the option to provide custom logo coasters, drinking cups, napkins, etc.

Relaxation Station - \$10,000

One (1) opportunity available. This is a great opportunity to boost your company's visibility. Professional massage chairs will give attendees a break during the meeting. Your organization's name and logo will be listed in meeting materials and on prominent signage. Sponsoring company may provide a gift or takeaway* to attendees at their own expense. *Giveaways subject to approval from AAS Show Management.

Directional Signs - \$10,000

One (1) opportunity available. Your organization's logo will be proudly displayed on high impact wayfinding signage at the entrance of each aisle, providing great brand exposure and creating an indelible association with the meeting.

Sponsorship Opportunities

[Click here to reserve your space](#)

Attendee Tote Bags - \$10,000

One (1) opportunity available. Each attendee will receive a tote bag made from recycled materials at registration proudly featuring your name and/or logo alongside the AAS 247 meeting logo.

Exhibitor Theater - \$7,500

One (1) opportunity available. The Exhibitor Theater is prominently positioned in the Exhibit Hall and attracts crowds throughout the day. As the sponsor, your logo will be displayed on the scrolling slides and in all marketing material.

Meeting LCD Display - \$2,500

Multiple opportunities available. Digital signage placement will spotlight your organization's name, logo, or short promotional video** featured on a 30-second rotating loop. LCD Displays are located throughout high traffic areas including outside of the Exhibit Hall, session rooms, and entrances. ***Please note: digital signage does not have audio capability.*

40+E Reception (co-sponsored with AAS) - \$2,500

One (1) opportunity available. Sponsor this exclusive gathering of 40-year plus and emeritus members. You will have an opportunity to network face-to-face with AAS leadership and distinguished members. Your organization's logo will appear on signage and marketing material.

AAS Press Office - \$5,000

One (1) opportunity available. Numerous press conferences are held throughout the meeting. Your organization's logo will be printed on signage at the entrance of the press office, on the speaker's podium, and in media advisories and marketing material.

Daily Coffee Breaks - \$2,500 each

Four (4) opportunities available. Coffee and other refreshments are provided for all attendees each day in the Exhibit Hall; your name and/or logo will be displayed at the event and listed in all marketing material, and as a sponsor, you have the option to provide logo branded cups and napkins and to showcase collateral material.

Plenary Talks - \$2,500

Four (4) sessions are available. You have the unique opportunity to sponsor a widely attended plenary session. Your name and/or logo will be shown on signage outside the session, and prominently showcased on the video monitors inside the plenary room with the option to run a 30-second video, played five minutes prior to the session. In addition, you have the option to display collateral material at an unmanned table outside the session.

Information/Message Center - \$2,500

One (1) opportunity available. Increase your organization's visibility by displaying your logo on the information/message board centrally located in the highly trafficked registration area.

Student Pavilion - \$2,500

One (1) opportunity available. The Student Lounge is a dedicated space on the Exhibit Hall floor designed for student networking and meetings with mentors. If you are looking to reach students for internships, research projects, or jobs this is where you want to be. Show your support for AAS and reach this target audience by sponsoring the Student Lounge. Your organization's name and/or logo will be prominently displayed in the lounge and listed in meeting materials. In addition, you may provide collateral material to be displayed on an unmanned table in the lounge.

Hydration Station - \$2,500

Multiple opportunities available. To assist with our move towards becoming a sustainable, carbon-neutral meeting, we are providing attendees with access to water coolers strategically placed on the exhibit floor. Your organization's name and/or logo will be prominently displayed at each water cooler and listed in meeting materials. In addition, you have the option to provide custom logo drinking cups at an additional cost.

Questions & Custom Packages

AAS 247 is going to be a great meeting and the conference schedule will be packed with outstanding scientific content. Let us design a custom package for you today as exhibitor space and sponsorship opportunities fill up quickly. Contact Rod Nenner, rod.nenner@as.org, for more details or to customize a package.

Grad School & Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Fair



The Grad Student/REU Fair will be held on Sunday, 4 January 2026, 5:30 – 7:00 pm.

As a sponsor, you will receive:

- 6' skirted table to display brochures and handouts
- 8' poster board to hang banners or posters

The cost for sponsorship is \$555.

Participating in these student-focused programs is a great way to increase your exposure at the meeting. As a sponsor, you have the unique opportunity to highlight your graduate-school or REU program and recruit new students.

We encourage institutions to bring giveaways to hand out to students. Some popular items in the past have included school t-shirts, fanny packs, mugs, etc.

Grad Student/REU sponsorship deadline: 8 December 2025

[Click here to reserve your space](#)

Networking



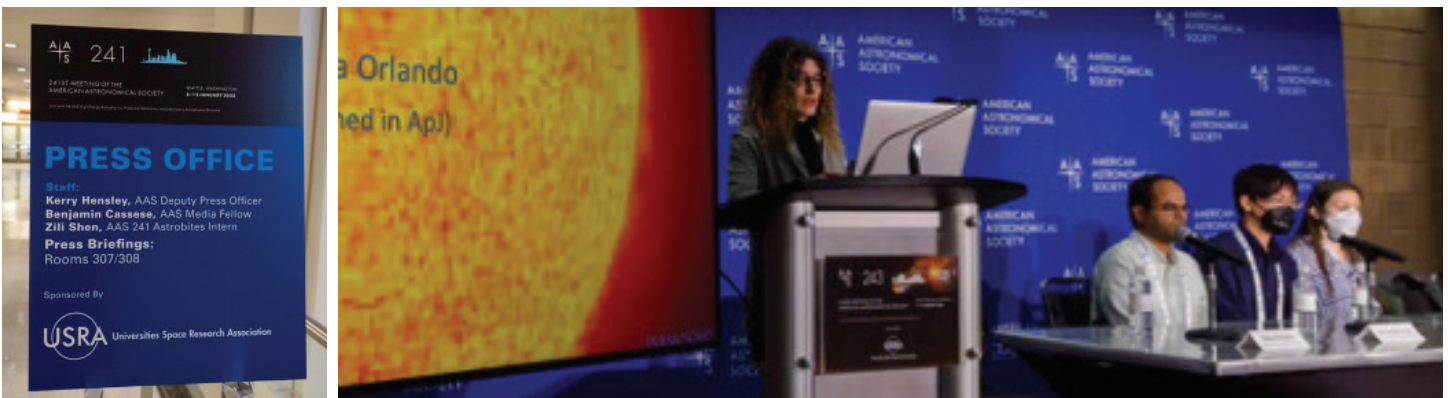
Plenary Sessions



iPosters



Press Office



Join the List of Previous AAS Meeting Exhibitors

AAS Publishing
Adasi Publishing
Allied Powers, LLC
ALPAO
Andor Technology
American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO)
American Institute of Physics
American Institute of Physics, *Physics Today*
American PaperWear
ANDOR
Applied Surface Technologies
Apogee Imaging Systems, Inc.
ARC - Sloan Digital Sky Survey
Arecibo Observatory
Asahi Spectra Co., Ltd
Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA)
Astrobites and AstroBetter
Astro Haven Enterprises
Astrometric Instruments
AstroVenture
ASTRON
Astronomical Consultants and Equipment
Astronomical Society of the Pacific
AUI
Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation
Big Kid Science
Bowen Technovation/AstroFX
Caltech/IPAC
Cambridge University Press
Canon
Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope
Capital One Bank
CARMA
CCAT Observatory
Center for Astronomy and Physics Education Research (CAPER)
Cengage
Chandra X-ray Center
Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA)
CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science
Curtin Institute of Radio Astronomy
DFM Engineering, Inc.
Diffraction Limited - SBIG Imaging
Digitalis Education Solutions, Inc.
e2v Aerospace and Defense
Elsevier B.V.
Eureka Scientific, Inc.
European Southern Observatory
Field Tested Systems
Finger Lakes Instrumentation, LLC
Frontiers in Astronomy and Space Sciences
Galaxy Evolution Explorer
Gemini Observatory
Genesis Engineering Solutions
GMTO Corporation - Giant Magellan Telescope
Gravitational Wave Astronomy
Green Bank Observatory
Hadrastaur Press
Hands On Optics
Harris Corporation
Harvard University Press
Herschel Space Observatory
Historical Astronomy Division
High Energy Astrophysics Division
Horizon Globe
Hypatia Catalog Database
Indiana University Pervasive Technology Institute
Institut de Recherche en Astrophysique et Planetologie
Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias
International Association of Astronomical Artists
International Astronomical Union
International X-Ray Observatory - NASA GSFC
IXO InterTronic Solutions
IOP Publishing
James Webb Space Telescope
Kiwistar Optics
Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute
Large Binocular Telescope Observatory
Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST)
Las Cumbres Observatory
Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory
Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company
Lowell Observatory
Lynx X-ray Observatory - Future of Chandra
Magdalena Ridge Observatory - New Mexico
Tech Magna-Tech Electronic Co., Konica
Minolta Planetarium Systems
Mauna Kea Spectroscopic Explorer
McDonald Observatory
MESATech
Microsoft Research Millennium Space Systems
MIT Press
MMT Observatory
Mt. Cuba Astronomical Foundation
NANOGrav
NASA Astrophysics Data System (ADS)
NASA Cosmic Origins
NASA Exoplanet Science Institute, Kepler/K2 Project
NASA Exoplanet Exploration Program
NASA Extragalactic Database (NED)
NASA Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope
NASA Herschel Science Center
NASA IPAC Infrared Science Archive
NASA Lunar Science Institute
NASA NuStar
NASA Physics of the Cosmos
NASA Science Mission Directorate
NASA SOFIA
NASA SWIFT Gamma-ray Burst Mission
NASA TESS Mission
National Astronomical Observatory of Japan
National Geographic Society
National Optical Astronomy Observatory
National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO)
National Science Foundation (NSF)
National Solar Observatory (NSO)
Nature Astronomy
NIST Atomic Databases and Tools
Northrop Grumman
Officina Stellare
Olympus America, Inc.
Omni Globe
OPT Telescopes
Orbital Sciences
Oxford University Press Pearson
Physics Today
Piazza
PLANCK
PlaneWave Instruments
Princeton Instruments
Princeton University Press
QHYCCD
Rayleigh Optical Corporation
Royal Society Publishing
Rubin Observatories
SAAO / SALT
Sapling Learning
Schott North America, Inc.
Science on a Sphere
SciServer
SETI Institute
Sierra Remote Observatories
Smithsonian/SIMBAD
Software Bisque Inc.
Southern African Large Telescope
Southwest Research Institute
SpaceFab US, Inc.
Space Science Institute
Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI)
Spectral Instruments, Inc.
SPIE, The Intl Society for Optics & Photonics
Spitzer Science Center
Springer Nature
Square Kilometre Array Telescope
SRON Netherlands Institute for Space Research
Starlight Xpress
STARtorialist
Submillimeter Array
Sunpower Cryotel Cryocoolers
Teledyne Imaging
Teledyne
The Elumenati
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine
Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT)
Universities Space Research Association (USRA)
University of Arizona Press
University of Chicago Press
University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy- Pan-STARRS
University of North Texas
University Science Books
US Extremely Large Telescope
Virtual Astronomical Observatory
W.H. Freeman & Company
Wiki Education Foundation
Woodland Hill Telescopes
WorldWide Telescope Ambassadors
W.W. Norton, Inc
WFIRST
Wiley - Blackwell
WISE Mission

Exhibitor Meeting Registration, Travel & Housing

Exhibitor Registration

As booth size increases, exhibitors are offered additional no cost “exhibit hall-only” badges, plus the opportunity to purchase additional “full registrations” and/or “exhibit hall-only” registrations at discounted rates.

Booths under 20x20 (4 booths) receive:

- 2 full complimentary registrations and 3 complimentary exhibit hall-only badges

Booths over 20x20 (4 booths) receive:

- 2 full complimentary registrations and 4 complimentary exhibit hall-only badges
- Ability to purchase up to 3 additional full registrations at \$350 each
- Ability to purchase up to 2 additional exhibit hall-only badges at \$150 each

Booths 40x40 (16 booths) and over receive:

- 2 full complimentary registrations and 6 complimentary exhibit hall-only badges
- Ability to purchase up to 5 additional full registrations at \$350 each
- Ability to purchase up to 4 additional exhibit hall-only badges at \$150 each

Travel and Housing/Hotel

Exhibitors are responsible for making their own travel and housing arrangements. Rooms have been reserved at the Phoenix Sheraton Downtown. Reservations should be made by visiting the travel and lodging page on the AAS meeting website: <https://aas.org/meetings/aas247>.

Exhibit Rules & Regulations

Definition

The words “Exhibit Management” as used herein refer to the American Astronomical Society (AAS).

Arrangement of Exhibits

All exhibits must be arranged without obstructing the general view or hiding other exhibits. Backgrounds (including signs) must be no more than eight feet in height. Material extending into the exhibit area by more than three feet from the back wall cannot exceed three feet in height. No partitions other than the side rails will be allowed, unless specifically approved by Exhibit Management. Exposed unfinished sides of exhibit backgrounds must be draped to present an attractive appearance. Exhibit Management may (at the exhibitor’s expense) direct revisions of any exhibit that does not comply with the above guidelines. Exhibit booths may only be used in a straight line as it appears on the floor plan. Exhibitors wishing to exceed the height limit may do so in an island configuration.

Location/Layout of Exhibits

At all times, Exhibit Management reserves the right to alter the location and/or layout of the exhibits in the best interests of the overall exhibition and meeting.

Installation/Dismantling

Exhibits must be completely installed by 4:30 pm on Sunday, 4 January 2025. Exhibit Management reserves the right to reassign any space not installed at that time. No packing or dismantling of exhibits will be permitted prior to the official closing of the exhibition, and there will be a \$500 fine for any exhibitor dismantling prior to the closing of the show.

Official Service Contractor

Arata Expositions, Inc. is the official service contractor. The contact is Megan Stainback, 301-921-0800 or mstainback@arataexpo.com. Please contact her for pricing information. Exhibit Kits and other important information will be sent to the primary exhibit contact listed on the AAS Exhibit Booth reservation form.

Occupancy of Booths

All booths should be staffed during the advertised show hours.

General Conduct of Exhibitors

All materials and activities must be confined to the limits of the exhibit booth(s) and may not impede traffic or interfere with other exhibits. Furthermore, all of the following practices are expressly prohibited: the promotion of products or services other than the exhibitor's, excessive noise that would interfere with other exhibitors, the storage or use of flammable or explosive materials (or any substance prohibited by local laws or insurance carriers), the operation of x-ray equipment, the soliciting of participation in surveys or any other harassment of attendees, the use of live animals, the solicitation of business by anyone other than the representatives of exhibiting organizations, and the publicizing or conducting of any activities that would attract attendees away from the exhibition during exhibit hours.

Rejection & Penalties

Exhibit Management reserves the right to refuse any applicant for exhibit space, as well as the right to restrict or evict any exhibit that, in the opinion of Exhibit Management, detracts from the general character of the exhibition. This reservation applies to displays, printed matter, promotional materials, noise, personal conduct, and method of operation. In the event of such restrictions or eviction, Exhibit Management will not be liable for any refunds or other exhibit expenses.

Insurance

Exhibitors are urged to take out a portal-to-portal rider on their own insurance policy, usually available at a nominal cost, to protect against loss through theft, fire, damage, etc. Exhibitors are responsible for their equipment and property. The exhibit area will be monitored and secured, but AAS does not guarantee nor protect the exhibitor against loss of any kind. Each party agrees to be responsible for its own property through insurance or self-insurance; exhibitors shall hold harmless AAS for any and all damage caused by theft and those perils normally covered by fire and extended coverage policy.

Liability

The exhibitor agrees to assume all responsibilities for any damage to the exhibit booth area. The exhibitor also expressly indemnifies and holds harmless AAS, the show's official service contractor, and any other agents of Exhibit Management from any and all liability that may ensue from accidents, injuries, damage by fire, loss or theft of property, or any other cause the exhibit booth area. Security guards will be provided; however, the exhibitor retains sole responsibility for his/her own exhibit materials. In the event that the exhibition is canceled, the liability of Exhibit Management shall be limited to the monies paid by the exhibitor as exhibit booth rental, less a proportionate share of all expenses incurred by Exhibit Management for the exhibition.

Subletting of Space

No exhibitor shall assign, sublet, or apportion the whole or any part of the space allotted without the knowledge and written consent of Exhibit Management.

Payment Terms

Checks, ACH, and credit cards are accepted. Exhibit fees should be made payable to the American Astronomical Society, 1667 K Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20006.

Questions regarding exhibits and/or rates should be directed to Rod Nenner, AAS Director of Strategic Partnerships, 202-328-2010 x148 or rod.nenner@aaas.org

Cancellations

After a signed contract has been received, cancellations on or prior to 15 September 2025 will be liable for a penalty of \$700 per booth and, or sponsorship asset(s) reserved. Any cancellation on or after 27 October 2025 will be liable for the total fees for booth space and any sponsorship asset(s) contracted. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to Conor Sherry at conor.sherry@aaas.org.

Anti-Harassment Policy for AAS & Division Meetings

Preface

The AAS Bylaws include an Article on non-discrimination in professional activities:

ARTICLE VI. NON-DISCRIMINATION IN PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Section 6.01 The Society is committed to the philosophy of equality of opportunity and treatment for all members, regardless of gender, gender identity, race, ethnic origin, religion, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities, or any other reason not related to scientific merit. The Board of Trustees shall provide for such policies as are appropriate to recognize and maintain this commitment.

Consistent with this non-discrimination Bylaw, the AAS Council (Board of Trustees as of August 2017) at its January 2008 meeting approved the following anti-harassment policy.

Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the American Astronomical Society (AAS) that all participants in Society activities will enjoy an environment free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. As a professional society, the AAS is committed to providing an atmosphere that encourages the free expression and exchange of scientific ideas. In pursuit of that ideal, the AAS is dedicated to the philosophy of equality of opportunity and treatment for all members, regardless of gender, gender identity or expression, race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion or religious belief, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities, veteran status, or any other reason not related to scientific merit. Harassment, sexual or otherwise, is a form of misconduct that undermines the integrity of Society meetings. Violators of this policy will be subject to discipline.

Definition of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment refers to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Behavior and language that are welcome/acceptable to one person may be unwelcome/offensive to another. Consequently, individuals must use discretion to ensure that their words and actions communicate respect for others. This is especially important for those in positions of authority since individuals with lower rank or status may be reluctant to express their objections or discomfort regarding unwelcome behavior.

Sexual harassment does not refer to occasional compliments of a socially acceptable nature. It refers to behavior that is not welcome, is personally offensive, debilitates morale, and therefore, interferes with work effectiveness. The following are examples of behavior that, when unwelcome, may constitute sexual harassment: sexual flirtations, advances, or propositions; verbal comments or physical actions of a sexual nature; sexually degrading words used to describe an individual; a display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures; sexually explicit jokes; unnecessary touching.

Definition of Other Harassment

Harassment on the basis of any other protected characteristic is also strictly prohibited. This conduct includes, but is not limited to the following: epithets, slurs, or negative stereotyping; threatening, intimidating, or hostile acts; denigrating jokes and display or circulation of written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group.

Definition of Discrimination

Discrimination refers to bias or prejudice resulting in denial of opportunity, or unfair treatment regarding selection, promotion, or transfer. Discrimination is practiced commonly on the grounds of age, disability, ethnicity, origin, political belief, race, religion, sex, etc. factors which are irrelevant to a person's competence or suitability.

Definition of Retaliation

Retaliation refers to taking some action to negatively impact another based on them reporting an act of discrimination or harassment.

Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all attendees at Society activities, including scientists, students, guests, staff, contractors, and exhibitors, participating in the scientific sessions, tours, and social events of any AAS or Division meeting or other activity.

Reporting an Incident

Advice for reporting sexual or other forms of harassment is available on the website of the Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy (CSWA). Here is a summary of the more detailed information available on the CSWA website: Write everything down (times, places, nature of the incident, and comments made). Save emails, notes, etc. Tell someone you trust. It is likely that you will have to write and sign an official letter of complaint, documenting the nature of the harassment and/or discrimination. Be as detailed as possible. Supporting documentation and statements from witnesses should be submitted with your letter.

Any individual covered by this policy who believes that he or she has been subjected to harassment should complete the online reporting form to submit the incident for review. All complaints will be treated seriously and be investigated promptly. Confidentiality will be honored to the extent permitted as long as the rights of others are not compromised.

The Investigation

Once a report is received, the Executive Officer or Secretary will inform the President. An external consultant will be retained to investigate the report. In most cases, the complainant will be interviewed first and the written complaint reviewed. If the complainant has not already filed a formal complaint, he or she should be asked to do so. The details of the complaint should be explained to the alleged offender by the investigator. The alleged offender should be given a reasonable chance to respond to the evidence of the complainant and to bring his or her own evidence. If the facts are in dispute, further investigatory steps may include interviewing those named as witnesses. If, for any reason, the investigator is in doubt about whether or how to continue, he or she will seek appropriate counsel. When the investigation is complete, the investigator will report the findings to the President, Executive Officer, and Secretary along with a recommendation for further action.

Retaliation is Prohibited

The AAS will not tolerate any form of retaliation against persons who file a complaint or assist in the investigation. Retaliation is a serious violation of this policy and, like harassment or discrimination itself, will be subject to disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Action

Individuals engaging in behavior prohibited by this policy as well as those making allegations of harassment in bad faith will be subject to disciplinary action. Such actions range from a verbal warning to ejection from the meeting or activity in question without refund of registration fees and the reporting of their behavior to their employer. Repeat offenders may be subject to further disciplinary action, such as being banned from participating in future Society or Division meetings or other activities. The Board of Trustees is granted the right in its Bylaws to terminate the membership of any member.

Appeal & Questions

In the event that the individual is dissatisfied with the results of the investigation, he or she may appeal to the President of the Society. Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to the AAS Executive Officer.



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