

Guidelines for Demonstration Shows at National AAPT Meetings

The Demonstration Show Producers, the Presider, and individual presenters are required to read and follow the guidelines set forth below.

The American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) seeks to improve and influence the teaching of physics at every level, and therefore it promotes and encourages all meaningful and educational activities involving physics demonstrators and their audiences. However, AAPT also requires that all demonstrations and presentations associated with any Demonstration Show performed at an AAPT national meeting be conducted in accordance with all health and safety standards and regulations, and follow appropriate ethical behavior practices. The intent of the following guidelines is to promote demonstration shows that meet these standards.

1. The Demonstration Show Producers must designate an individual contact person for the Demonstration Show who will also serve as the Presider for the Demonstration Show. The Presider has the responsibility for ending presentations if there are any problems or concerns, and for ensuring that adequate and appropriate safety protocols are being followed. The Presider may not also serve as a presenter.
2. The AAPT Program Chair must approve the format of a Demonstration Show before its performance at an AAPT National Meeting. Usually, this approval is done as part of the offerings considered by the Programs Committee. If it is appropriate for AAPT/PIRA to be involved, then the Presider must send the title and/or theme, along with an abstract of the Demonstration Show to the PIRA Representative to AAPT and the AAPT Program Chair at least sixty days prior to the presentation. (See <http://physicslearning2.colorado.edu/pira/> and <http://www.aapt.org/> for contact information.)
3. Two weeks prior to the Show, an outline with a list of demonstrations that are going to be performed, who will be performing the demonstration(s), and the approximate time-durations for the presentations should be provided to the Presider. Note: all those involved are required to follow the guidelines in this document, and therefore, the Presider and all presenters receive a copy of this document. The Presider has the responsibility of collecting the signed documents from the presenters.
4. The AAPT Programs and Conferences Department will attempt to provide space and resources if rehearsal time or special set-up time is requested, post this review, in advance by the Presider or requested by the presenter(s) through the Presider. It is strongly suggested that the presenters participate in at least one rehearsal. This is to assure continuity in the show and to assure that all those involved understand the time requirements and safety considerations.
5. The Presider and the presenters should attempt to be familiar with operation of the venues sound system and stage lighting. If needed, the Presider or presenters can request assistance and technical help by contacting the AAPT Director of Programs and Conferences.
6. Presenters must follow all precautions and safety guidelines specific to the demonstration equipment and to the show venues. This includes that all presenters know the location and operation of safety equipment including fire extinguishers and first aid kits. In addition, Presenters need to clearly alert the audience as soon as possible regarding the use of loud sounds, strobe lights, and the presence or production of possible allergenic materials. The Presider is expected to end a presentation if safety guidelines are violated.

7. The Demonstration Show Producers (and individual presenters) must abide by the time schedule set by the AAPT Program Chair and the Presider for the overall duration of the demo show and for each of the individual presentations. Presentations may be ended by the Presider if the allotted time is exceeded.
8. All presenters must not discriminate or harass the audience or volunteers from the audience on the bases of gender, race, sexual identity or orientation, religious beliefs or disability. While charismatic and enthusiastic performance is encouraged and appreciated, presenters must conduct themselves with professionalism while interacting with the audience. The Presider will halt inappropriate behavior.
9. If a presenter violates the guidelines in this document, the AAPT Executive Officer, in consultation with the Demonstration Show Producers and Presider, may forbid that presenter from participating in future AAPT national meeting demonstration shows.

PIRA offers its services, including expert advice on physics demonstrations, performance and safety standards, to all presenters.

Please address any questions or concerns about these guidelines to the AAPT Executive Officer.

By signing below, the Presider or presenter acknowledges that he or she has received, read and understood in full these guidelines and agrees to comply with all of the regulations stated in this document.

Full name (please print)

Signature

Date