Igniting Innovation

The 18th Annual von Braun Space Exploration Symposium

Student Poster Competition

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Schedule	
Call for Abstracts Announced	Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Abstract Due	Friday, September 26, 2025
Accepted Authors Notified	Wednesday, October 1, 2025
Poster Due	Monday, October 20, 2025
Poster Contest	Monday, October 27, 2025

The American Astronautical Society (AAS) is pleased to host **Igniting Innovation – The 18th Annual von Braun Space Exploration Symposium** (http://astronautical.org/vbs) October 27-29, at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH). The von Braun Space Exploration Symposium brings together high-ranking government officials, industry executives, academia, and others from the aerospace community. The event is organized by AAS in collaboration with UAH and NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. **(**This is an in-person event.)

We are releasing this Call for Abstracts for students (undergraduate and graduate) design and research projects for the Student Poster Competition, which will be a key component of this year's symposium. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to submit an abstract. Individual and group projects of ongoing or completed work are acceptable. ***Current undergraduate and graduate students from all institutions of higher learning are eligible to participate.*** The best posters will be selected in two categories (Engineering/Physical Sciences and Liberal Sciences) within two divisions (undergraduate and graduate).

AAS is offering the opportunity for one of the best poster winners to present their work in a project paper format at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Antalya, Turkey (October 5-9, 2026). For this, the first and second place winners for each category in both divisions will be invited to develop a revised abstract and submit it to the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) for inclusion in the 2026 IAC through the regular IAC submission process (expected due by the end of February 2026). Those applying and accepted by the IAF for a regular paper and presentation will subsequently develop and provide their presentation and paper to the AAS (in June 2026 – earlier than due to the IAC). AAS will review these and select one student to sponsor for the trip (student registration fee, economy class air travel, and hotel accommodation with arrangements to be approved by AAS) to present their work at the IAC. The student will also be asked to give a short talk on their experience at the 2026 von Braun Space Exploration Symposium. It is the students' responsibility to monitor the IAC submission schedule and notify AAS of their submissions to the IAC.

Abstracts for the AAS student poster competition should be a summary of the focus of the project (250 words maximum). They should show an explicit connection to aerospace systems. Areas of work could include atmospheric science, earth observation, space life sciences, space health, aerospace systems engineering and design, astrophysics, optics, economics, business, program management, space policy, sustainability, history, international relations, education, Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) outreach initiatives, or other aerospace related areas.

Posters should cover student work either currently in process, work completed in Summer 2025, or work completed during the 2024-2025 Academic Year. Similarly, the undergraduate category is for students performing the work as undergraduates and the graduate category is for students performing the work as graduate students (independent of the students' current status).

The primary author must submit the abstract. A student may submit only one abstract as the primary author (but may be a contributing author on other posters). A different author may be the presenter but also cannot present more than one poster in the competition (i.e., they can be a non-presenting team member on other projects). By submitting an abstract, you are committing to creating and presenting a poster if selected.

Primary authors of submitted posters will receive one free admission to the full symposium to share among their poster team.

International submissions will be accepted.

Abstracts are due no later than Friday, September 26, 2025, at 11:59pm Eastern Time. No more than 30 abstracts will be accepted for presentation.

Abstracts should be submitted via the online form here:
https://www.xcdsystem.com/aas/abstract/index.cfm?ID=yRbh09y

Lead authors will be notified of acceptance by Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

The number of abstracts selected for presentation in the Symposium is limited to 30. AAS will collect all abstracts and make final determinations of the abstracts selected. Abstracts will be evaluated on:

- Content and coherence
- Mechanics
- Originality and creativity
- Relevance to advancing space initiatives or practical applications of space technologies

When posters are presented at the conference, they will be evaluated on the above plus:

- Visual Presentation
- Oral Presentation and Response to Questions

This contest is for student projects performed under the auspices of a university or college. The students must work with a faculty/researcher staff advisor. The advisor must be on staff with

their university or college (and have a university/college e-mail). The advisor should give guidance and advice; and is responsible for approving the accuracy and content of the abstract and poster. The student(s) should be listed as the primary (or first) author(s), and the advisor's name must appear as a co-author or in the Acknowledgments of the final poster. It is the student's responsibility to coordinate with the advisor.

A poster template will be provided and must be used. Further instructions will be provided to successful abstract selectees. Students must present the poster at the Symposium.

Student(s) must present the poster at the Poster Competition. AAS and UAH will print, mount, and transport the poster to the exhibition at no charge to the submitter.

Electronic copies (.pdf only) of posters for the proceedings and sessions must be submitted by 5 PM US Central Time Monday, October 20, 2025) , through the online submission process. This date will not be extended because we are printing and mounting the posters for you.

By submission of an abstract or poster, the author agrees to the inclusion of such in the program and/or Symposium proceedings. The abstracts and posters may be made available to all Symposium attendees or the public electronically.

Remember, due no later than Friday, September 26, 2025, at 11:59pm Eastern time. Submit at **https://www.xcdsystem.com/aas/abstract/index.cfm?ID=yRbh09y**

If you have any questions, contact AAS at aas@astronautical.org.