

To the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, members of Congress, and the American public:

We are students, teachers, alumni, parents, and supporters of physics education who urge national support for the U.S. Physics Team and for the United States to help host the 57th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) in 2027.

We call for \$5 million in funding to support the hosting of the 2027 International Physics Olympiad in the United States.

This funding would cover the essential costs of hosting students and coaches from around the world, including items such as housing, food, transportation, facilities, and laboratory exam administration.

The University of California, Santa Barbara is prepared to serve as a host site. The primary remaining obstacle is the funding required to host the event at the level expected of the world's premier international physics competition.

I. The U.S. Physics Team and Its Record of Excellence

The [U.S. Physics Team](#) is currently organized by the American Association of Physics Teachers. Each year, thousands of students begin the selection process through the $F=ma$ exam and roughly twenty students are selected for the U.S. Physics Team training camp. After a number of examinations as well as theoretical and experimental preparation, five students are selected to represent the United States at the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO).

This program is one of the strongest high-school physics programs in the world. Since the United States first participated in the International Physics Olympiad in 1986, U.S. students have consistently ranked among the world's best. From 1986 to 2025, U.S. teams have earned 90 gold medals, building a long record of international excellence.

In 2025, the U.S. Physics Team achieved a historic result at the 55th International Physics Olympiad in Paris, where all five U.S. contestants won gold medals and placed first internationally. The team was later [recognized](#) in the White House by President Trump and Michael Kratsios, director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

II. The 57th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO 2027)

The International Physics Olympiad is one of the world's most prestigious gatherings of young scientific talent, bringing together the best high school physics students from around the world.

The 57th International Physics Olympiad is scheduled for 2027, with Hungary listed as the expected host. However, there have been reports that budget constraints may prevent the event from proceeding as planned.

We believe that it would be in America's best interest if the US could take the step forward.

III. Relevance to the United States

Physics is foundational to America's technological, economic, and political future. We've seen this through areas such as quantum computing, semiconductors, and energy. Hosting the 57th International Physics Olympiad would also help the US appear to be a global leader in science, education, and technological innovation. It would demonstrate that America not only celebrates scientific achievement, but also actively engages in it through investing in the students and institutions that make such achievement possible.

A \$5 million commitment would make a substantial impact. It would support hundreds of students from around the world, strengthen the U.S. Physics Team, inspire younger students, and demonstrate American leadership in global STEM education.

IV. Our Objectives

We respectfully call upon OSTP and members of Congress to:

1. Provide \$5 million in funding to support hosting the 57th International Physics Olympiad in the United States for 2027.
2. Support the U.S. Physics Team with regards to budget and funding.

We understand that the United States may ultimately be unable to provide the funding needed to host the 57th International Physics Olympiad. However, we wish to express our strong interest in this effort and our deep appreciation for the continued support shown to the U.S. Physics Team, physics education, and the next generation of American scientific talent.

Thank you,

U.S. Physics Team members, alumni, coaches, parents, and supporters of physics education