



# American Association of Physics Teachers

April 27, 2026

Xinyue Wang  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Xinyue,

**CONGRATULATIONS!** It is our pleasure to invite you to become one of the members of the 2026 United States Physics Team.

Prior to the Training & Development Camp (TDP Camp), we will conduct a five hour USAPhO Plus exam on May 10, 2026. Once team members have accepted their invitations, we will determine where they will take this exam, and who their proctor will be. The purpose of the USAPhO Plus exam will be to determine the five students who will travel (traveling team) to the EuPhO, and one alternate traveling team member.

We will then hold an intensive Training & Development Camp (TDP Camp) at the University of Maryland from May 30 – June 9, 2026 with the first day reserved for travel to College Park, MD. During the TDP Camp, you will have the opportunity to improve your laboratory and problem-solving skills, hear special lectures by prominent physicists, and interact with other exceptional physics students from all over the United States. Many previous team members have considered this training camp to be the high point of their academic lives.

At the completion of the TDP Camp, on June 9th, the traveling team will head to Copenhagen, Denmark for a two day acclimation period. On June 12th they will head to Gothenburg, Sweden for the EuPhO, June 12-16, 2026.

**In order to accept this offer, you must:**

- Participate in the USAPhO Plus exam on May 10, 2026.
- Understand that selection of the five traveling team members (and alternates) will be based on the results of USAPhO Plus exam.
- Be willing to attend the Training & Development Camp (May 30 – June 9, 2026), which this year will focus on preparing the traveling team for EuPhO, as well as supporting the continued development of future team members.
- If you are selected for the traveling team (or as an alternate), commit to completing preparation activities prior to the camp and to participating in the EuPhO (June 10 – June 16, 2026), including not participating in other camps or extracurricular programs during this period.
- **If you are a non-senior, confirm your interest in attending the Training & Development Camp regardless of the USAPhO Plus outcome, as part of preparation for future competitions.**
- **If you are a senior, understand that participation in the Training & Development Camp is contingent on selection to the traveling team this year, and plan accordingly.**
- Pay a fee of \$750 to partially cover expenses for the ten-day training camp.
- Make your own travel arrangements; we will reimburse your travel expenses up to \$400. This includes airfare, baggage fees, and ground transportation (this reimbursement cannot be deducted from the training camp fee).
- If selected for the traveling team (or alternate) be able to provide a photocopy of your valid U.S. passport showing that the expiration date is after February 2, 2027.

We kindly request that you confirm your participation status by **Wednesday, April 29th**.

We ask that you respond to [programs@aapt.org](mailto:programs@aapt.org) right away if you have any questions about your eligibility, or you think that you need an extension for your decision, and why.

*You understand that you are not at this time being offered a position on the traveling team to Sweden. You might not be selected; the traveling team will be selected after the USAPhO Plus exam on May 10th.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be a Closing Ceremony for the TDP Camp on June 8th on the UMD campus. It is expected that all students will attend this event. Please do not plan on departing College Park before this ceremony is over on June 8th. Parents and teachers are welcome to attend this event.

If you cannot agree to these conditions, we must offer your position on the team to a student on our alternate list. If you have questions, please email the Programs and Conferences department via [programs@aapt.org](mailto:programs@aapt.org) or 301-209-3340.

It is important that you contact the AAPT Programs Department (**see below**) to respond to this invitation **ON OR BEFORE April 29th.**

Included with this letter are a Parent/Guardian Release Form, Physics Team Eligibility Form, and a Health Center Form. Please complete these forms and **return them to the AAPT office by May 1st.**

Please contact the AAPT Programs Department by email at [programs@aapt.org](mailto:programs@aapt.org) to respond to this invitation, or if you have any questions.

#### **Housing Information:**

During the U.S. Physics Team Training & Development Camp, students will be lodging on campus, at the University of Maryland, College Park, for the duration of the training camp. It is very important that all team members arrive between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm on May 30th, so that they can attend dinner and orientation starting at 5:30 pm. **Students should fly into BWI airport ONLY, or if traveling by train, New Carrollton Train Station.**

Once again, congratulations on this great honor!!

Sincerely,



Tengiz Bibilashvili  
**Academic Director**, U.S. Physics Team  
UC Santa Barbara



Beth A. Cunningham  
**Chief Executive Officer**, AAPT