

Sounding Rocket Symposium Frequently Asked Questions

General

1. What is the goal of the Sounding Rocket Symposium?

The Sounding Rocket Symposium brings together scientists, engineers, and technologists both currently working on sounding rockets, as well as those eager to get involved, particularly students and early career professionals. Participants will:

- Be thrilled by presentations from scientists on the new science, observations, and capabilities that sounding rocket research platforms enable.
- Learn of the latest updates on new sub-systems (telemetry, pointing, vehicles, ground station, launch ranges, etc.) as well as science payload advancements (detectors, mirrors, techniques, booms, deployables, etc.)
- Actively collaborate in an in-person setting or participate virtually in oral presentation sessions to maximize the capabilities and science return from future collaborations.

This brief first symposium is particularly intended to highlight science-enabling technologies through the NASA Sounding Rockets Program. Building on the momentum from the inaugural event, future meetings are expected to be held with a longer format to allow for a broader content base.

2. How many attendees are registered to attend the Sounding Rocket Symposium?

As of early August there are over 140 people registered to attend the Sounding Rocket Symposium with a majority of participants registered to attend in-person. There is a mix of scientists, researchers, engineers, and industry representatives registered to attend. We look forward to an exciting inaugural Symposium!

3. Is there an option for in-person and virtual attendance at the Sounding Rocket Symposium?

Yes! There are options to attend in-person or virtually for the Sounding Rocket Symposium. Please see dedicated sections below for additional questions and responses for virtual and in-person attendance.

4. What COVID-19 restrictions are in place at Wallops for the Sounding Rocket Symposium?

The COVID restrictions at Wallops are based on the level of community transmission in Accomack County, Virginia where NASA Wallops Flight Facility is located and is based on the CDC COVID data tracker located here: [CDC COVID Data Tracker: County View](#)

Accomack County has recently had a YELLOW (medium) community transmission rate, but of course, this is subject to change and we do not know what status Wallops will be operating in until the day of the Sounding Rocket Symposium.

The Wallops Main Gate will have a sign out front indicating whether it is in a GREEN, YELLOW, or ORANGE status.

- If Wallops is in a GREEN status there are no COVID restrictions in place. There are no masking requirements on the facility and there will be no vaccination attestation process at the badging office.
- If Wallops is in a YELLOW status there are COVID restrictions in place. There are no masking requirements on the facility; however, visitors will have to attest to their vaccination status at the badging office. If visitors attest that they are vaccinated then no additional requirements are necessary. If visitors attest that they are not vaccinated then the visitor must present results of a negative COVID-19 test that was conducted within the past 72 hours.
- If Wallops is in an ORANGE status there are additional COVID restrictions in place. Masks are required by everyone across the facility and visitors will have to attest to their vaccination status at the badging office. If visitors attest that they are vaccinated then no additional requirements are necessary. If visitors attest that they are not vaccinated then the visitor must present results of a negative COVID-19 test that was conducted within the past 72 hours.

Please plan accordingly and bring a mask with you in case Wallops moves to an orange status prior to the start of or during the Sounding Rocket Symposium. If you are unvaccinated, please plan to provide documentation of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of the start of the Sounding Rocket Symposium upon arrival at the Wallops badging office. No exceptions to the Wallops COVID policy will be allowed.

Virtual Attendance

5. How will virtual participants join the Symposium?

The Sounding Rocket Symposium is offered both in-person and virtually. Virtual participation will take place by Microsoft Teams. A link to the Teams meeting will be emailed out to the virtual participants the day prior to the start of the Sounding Rocket Symposium.

6. I will be presenting virtually. Will I get a chance to test out my connection prior to my talk?

Yes! We will be doing practice runs in the Wallops auditorium on Monday, August 15th, time TBD. If you would like to do a practice of the connection over Microsoft Teams, please contact Cathy Hesh at catherine.l.hesh@nasa.gov to schedule a time on Monday, August 15th for this practice to occur.

7. Will I be able to participate in the question-and-answer sessions virtually?

Yes! We ask that during the presentations and talks that virtual participants keep their microphones muted to not cause any distractions to the speaker during the presentation. After each talk or presentation there will be time allotted for questions and answers. Please use the “raise hand” feature in Microsoft Teams and the session moderator will call on the virtual participants with their hand raised and invite those individuals to unmute their microphone to

ask their question to the speaker. Please note that the time allocated for questions and answers is limited and there might not be sufficient time to get to all questions.

8. Will I be able to participate in the poster sessions virtually?

Unfortunately, no. The poster sessions will be held in the atrium of the auditorium and there is no IT infrastructure to allow virtual participation. Virtual participants will only be able to view the presentations that occur in the Wallops auditorium.

In-Person Only: Badging, Lodging, Food, and Logistics

9. I plan to come in-person to the Sounding Rocket Symposium. Where is the Symposium going to be held?

The Sounding Rocket Symposium will be held at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, located on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. A map of the facility is provided on the Sounding Rocket Symposium webpage on the "Venue & Accommodation" tab. All of the sessions and presentations will be held in the building E-100 auditorium. The poster sessions will be held in the atrium outside of the E-100 auditorium. There are three additional break-out rooms that have been reserved in building E-104 rooms 214, 310, and the Assateague Room for smaller group discussions.

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11. I have a NASA issued PIV badge. Can I use that to access Wallops Flight Facility if I normally work at a different Center?

Yes, your NASA issued PIV badge can be used for accessing Wallops Flight Facility; however, you will need to submit a NAMS request for Wallops Flight Facility Physical Access for the badge to work in the badge scanner at the Wallops main gate. If you have Wallops Flight Facility Physical Access no other badge will be required.

12. I am a visitor and a US citizen or green card holder and do not have a NASA issued PIV badge. What is the badging process at Wallops Flight Facility?

If you submitted a registration form the team at Wallops has submitted a badge request for you. You will need to stop by the Wallops badging office on the morning of August 17, 2022 to present identification and receive your badge. You will need to provide a valid form of identification (driver's license, passport, etc.) to the badging officers. The badging office is open Monday to Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM. If you are arriving the morning of August 17, 2022 at the start of the Symposium please understand that there may be delays at the badging office as there is limited staff available and there may be long lines. Please plan accordingly and arrive early so you do not miss the start of the Symposium, which is scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM on August 17, 2022.

13. I am a foreign national (not a US citizen or a green card holder). Am I approved to come to the Wallops Flight Facility? What should I do when I arrive?

Foreign national badges have been submitted to Wallops Flight Facility Protective Services and are still being processed. When the foreign national badge approval is received, you will be contacted by Cathy Hesh and/or Sarah Ross confirming that you are able to come onsite at Wallops Flight Facility. When you arrive at the badging office you will need to provide a valid passport to identify yourself. Because Wallops is a US Government facility and subject to additional security requirements you will be assigned a foreign national escort (who will be a badged and trained Wallops employee) and you will be required to stay with the escort during the entirety of your visit to the Sounding Rocket Symposium from the moment you enter the main gate until the moment you leave the main gate. One foreign national escort may be assigned to multiple foreign nationals, so please have patience with your escort and stay with the group that you are assigned to. Foreign National badges are only allowed to be onsite

between the hours of 6 AM to 6 PM, so unfortunately, foreign nationals will not be allowed onsite to the Rocket Club for the mixer event on the night of 8/17 because it occurs after 6:00 PM.

The Wallops badging office is open Monday to Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM. If you are arriving the morning of August 17, 2022 at the start of the Symposium please understand that there may be delays at the badging office as there is limited staff available and there may be long lines due to the large number of personnel that have registered for in-person attendance at the Symposium. Please plan accordingly and arrive early so you do not miss the start of the Symposium, which is scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM on August 17, 2022.

14. If I am a foreign national, am I able to stay at the Wallops Lodge?

Unfortunately, foreign nationals will not be permitted to stay at the Wallops Lodge located on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility as all foreign nationals are required to have an escort with them at all times while on the facility, and are only permitted on the facility during working hours which are defined as 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Foreign nationals will need to make arrangements for lodging at an offsite hotel.

15. I am a US citizen or green card holder and I signed up to stay at the Wallops Lodge in the block of rooms for the Sounding Rocket Symposium. What do I need to do?

If you signed up on the registration form to stay at the Wallops Lodge you will need to contact Debbie Toth Monday-Friday between 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM at 757-824-1697 or at Deborah.J.Toth@nasa.gov by 8/5/2022 to provide your payment information and secure your reservation. Please contact Debbie Toth as soon as possible as the block of rooms will only be held through early August and may fill up quickly. Additional information on the Wallops Lodge can be found at <https://sites.wff.nasa.gov/wemamac/lodging.html>

16. I am staying at the Wallops Lodge and I plan to arrive the night before the Symposium starts (the night of August 16th) and after the Wallops Badging office closes at 3:00. How do I get my badge and key for the Wallops lodge?

If you plan on arrive after hours (after the WFF Badging Office closes at 3:00 PM), please coordinate with Debbie Toth (Deborah.J.Toth@nasa.gov) so she can make arrangements to have your WFF Lodge key available at the main entrance guard house. The keys will be placed in envelopes addressed to each person arriving after close of business.

The Wallops Lodge is located in buildings F-4 and F-5 on the map located on the Symposium webpage [here](#).

Please also coordinate with Sarah Ross (sarah.c.ross@nasa.gov) so that we can also have the badge pre-printed and available for pick-up at the main entrance guard house.

17. I plan on driving to Wallops Flight Facility for the Sounding Rocket Symposium. Where should I park? Is there a place to charge my electric vehicle on the facility or nearby?

There is plenty of parking on both sides of the E-100 auditorium. Please refer to the map located on the Symposium webpage [here](#) for directions from the main gate to the E-100 auditorium.

Unfortunately there are no EV charging stations at Wallops Flight Facility and no commercial EV chargers in the area around Wallops. Please research EV charging stations on the Eastern Shore and plan accordingly.

18. What food options are available at Wallops during the Symposium?

There is a cafeteria on the Wallops Flight Facility in building E-2. The cafeteria is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

The cafeteria is within walking distance from the E-100 auditorium where the Sounding Rocket Symposium will occur, just across the parking lot.

The website for the Wallops cafeteria is <https://www.nasawffcafe.com> Some orders for lunch items can be placed online for pickup.

There will be coffee and limited snacks at the Sounding Rocket Symposium in the auditorium atrium during designated breaks.

Boxed lunches can be reserved ahead of time via the registration form or by contacting Cathy Hesh at catherine.l.hesh@nasa.gov or Sarah Ross at sarah.c.ross@nasa.gov by August 7th, 2022. If you signed up for a boxed lunch please read the response to the next question.

We have reserved the Chesapeake Room in the E-2 cafeteria building for Sounding Rocket Symposium attendees to have extra space to eat lunches. If you reserved a boxed lunch you will pick them up in this room. The Chesapeake Room is on your right as you enter through the main entrance into the E-2 cafeteria.

19. I signed up for boxed lunches on the registration form. How will I make my selection for lunch and pay for the boxed lunches?

Boxed lunches are available on Wednesday, August 17th and Thursday, August 18th. Boxed lunches will not be available on Friday, August 19th; however, the Wallops cafeteria will be open if lunch is needed on Friday, August 19th.

The boxed lunches on August 17-18 will be catered by the Wallops Employee Morale Association (WEMA) who is the same organization that runs the Wallops cafeteria. The cost for each boxed lunch is \$12.00 per day.

A lunch selection form will be emailed out the week of 8/7/2022. Please return the form with your boxed lunch selection to sarah.c.ross@nasa.gov. All lunch selection forms must be received by 8/12/2022.

When you arrive at the Symposium on August 17th at the E-100 Auditorium, a representative from WEMA will be present for you to pay for the boxed lunches.

20. Is there internet available at Wallops Flight Facility that I can connect to with my phone or my computer?

Yes, a guest network is available and you will be able to connect to the network while on the facility. Additional instructions on how to join the guest network will be provided at the Symposium. Please note that electrical outlets are limited in the E-100 auditorium and atrium so there will be limited options for charging devices during the Symposium.

Agenda and Presentations

20. When will the final agenda be posted on the Symposium website?

The final agenda with names for each of the speakers, presenters, and session chairs will be posted on the Sounding Rocket Symposium website [here](#) in early August.

21. I submitted an abstract. How will I be notified if my abstract was accepted and if I will be able to present at one of the oral sessions or poster sessions?

Oral/poster assignments were sent out August 1st. If you did not receive an abstract assignment and submitted prior to the deadline contact Sabrina Savage at sabrina.savage@nasa.gov

22. I am presenting at one of the oral sessions at the Sounding Rocket Symposium. What is the time limit for my presentation? What is the deadline for sending in my slides and who is the POC that I need to send them to?

Oral assignments with presentation length were sent out August 1st. Contributed talks will allow for 10-minute presentations and 2 minutes for questions.

Please be mindful of your allocated time and finish promptly so that others will have their full allocated time. The session chair will assist with keeping the presentations on schedule.

Presenters must upload their slides by **Monday, August 15th** to a Google Drive link provided via email in order to have sufficient time for testing on the auditorium system.

23. I am presenting a poster. Where will the poster sessions be held and how will the poster be displayed?

The poster sessions will be held in the building E-100 atrium, right outside the auditorium where the Sounding Rocket Symposium presentations will be held. Easels will be available to hold the posters for viewing.

24. I see there is a mixer planned on the evening of Wednesday, August 17th. Can you provide more details?

The mixer is planned to occur between 7:00 and 9:00 PM at the Rocket Club which is located near the Wallops Lodge in building F-3 on the Wallops Flight Facility. The Rocket Club is run by the Wallops Employee Morale Association (WEMA). Drinks will be available for purchase.

Limited food or snacks may be available for purchase. If you have a badge that allows for you to be unescorted you should be able to attend the mixer.

For reference, the Rocket Club is open to all Wallops Employees, and their guests on Wednesday and Thursday nights beginning at 5:00 PM.

Due to foreign escort restrictions on the facility after 6:00 PM, the Ropewalk Restaurant in Chincoteague, Virginia is a suggested off-site location for meeting with foreign national attendees.

25. I see there is an excursion planned. Can you provide more detail?

The excursion is planned to occur on the afternoon of Thursday, August 18th between 2:00 and 5:00 PM. The excursion will include a tour of Wallops main base and Wallops Island facilities. Wallops Island facilities are located a few miles from the Wallops main base and it is approximately a 20-minute drive between the two facilities.

In-person attendees who wish to go on the excursion will be split into two groups. One group will tour Wallops Island Facilities while the second group will tour main base Wallops facilities. The groups will then switch and tour the other location. There will be a 20-passenger bus available to take tour participants to the Wallops Island facilities. On the Wallops Island tour participants will see a sounding rocket launcher and a blockhouse used for Wallops sounding rocket launches. On the main base tour participants will tour the Range Control Center in building E-106 and the Sounding Rocket manufacturing and test facility in building F-10.

26. I see there is an Agenda item called PI Development Forum. What will be covered and who is encouraged to attend?

The Principal Investigator (PI) Development Forum will be held on Friday at 12:00 PM just prior to the end of the Sounding Rocket Symposium. The forum is intended to benefit students and scientists who want to become new Principal Investigators. The forum will go through the basics about sounding rockets and cover some of the material found in the Sounding Rocket Handbook located [here](#). The PI Development Forum will also feature a segment on best practices for sub-systems and have a Q&A session with experienced sounding rocket principal investigators.

27. I have additional questions that you haven't answered yet. Who do I contact for more information?

If you have questions about badging or lodging, please contact Sarah Ross at sarah.c.ross@nasa.gov

If you have questions about Wallops or other Symposium logistics related questions, please contact Cathy Hesh at catherine.l.hesh@nasa.gov

If you have questions about abstracts or oral presentations, please contact Sabrina Savage at sabrina.savage@nasa.gov