

# **ADOPT-A-PHYSICIST: SUGGESTED DISCUSSION TOPICS**

## **Education**

- Do you think that your education prepared you for your current job? If you could go back, what would you change?
- What classes should aspiring scientists / physicists take?
- Do you / how do you use what you learned in physics in your everyday life?
- What advice do you have for current high school students interested in a career in science?
- How is your approach to science different from when you were in high school?

## **Career / Field of Study**

- When you were 18, what did you want to do when you grew up? How has that changed?
- What skills or personality traits are important for someone working in your field?
- What do you think is the most significant or pressing problem in your field?
- What advice would you give to someone looking to enter your field?
- How easy is it to find a job in your field?
- Where do you find inspiration? How do you think of original ideas?

## **Current Job**

- What is your favorite aspect of your job? Least favorite?
- What is the most interesting or unusual project you have worked on?
- What are the logistics of your work? (pay, hours, vacation time, travel, time spend working with others versus working alone, balancing work and family, etc.)
- Where can I find out more about what you do?

## **For Women and Minorities**

- What is it like to be a woman or minority in your field?
- Have you encountered any obstacles as a result of your gender / ethnicity? If so, how did you overcome them?
- What resources are available for women / minorities in your career?
- Have attitudes toward women / minorities changed during your career?

## **For Students**

- How did you choose your school?
- Did you find any resources to help pay for your education?
- Why did you decide to go to graduate school?
- How hard is it to study physics in college / grad school?
- How is studying physics at your level different from studying physics in high school?

## **For Retired Scientists**

- Did you work in the same field for your entire career, or did you change fields?
- What are you doing now that you have retired?
- What changes in society or science have been most meaningful to you as a scientist?

## **Miscellaneous Topics**

- Science policy
- Movies / books / leisure activities
- Life in different geographical locations
- College / graduate school