

Welcome to the 2026 Sagan Summer Workshop



Caltech



The logo for the SAGAN Summer Workshop. It features the word "SAGAN" in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, the words "SUMMER WORKSHOP" are written in smaller, white capital letters. A stylized white swoosh or orbital line curves around the text, and a small blue sphere with a white grid pattern is positioned near the bottom left of the swoosh.

- 
- The logo for the SAGAN Summer Workshop. It features the word "SAGAN" in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, the words "SUMMER WORKSHOP" are written in smaller, white capital letters. A stylized white swoosh or orbital line curves around the text, and a small blue sphere with a white grid pattern is positioned near the bottom left of the swoosh.

EPRV (NEID/NN-Explore)



2026 Sagan Summer Workshop

- The Sagan Program is part of NASA's Exoplanet Exploration Program (ExEP), one of three science themed programs at NASA (incl. Cosmic Origins & Physics of the Cosmos)
 - The primary goal of ExEP missions is to discover and characterize planetary systems and ultimately to identify biosignatures on Earth-like planets orbiting nearby stars
- The SSW continues the tradition of the past 25 Michelson/Sagan Summer Workshops

Science Organizing Committee

- ❖ Jessie Christiansen, Co-Chair (Caltech/IPAC-NExSci)
- ❖ Scott Gaudi, Co-Chair (Ohio State University)
- ❖ Chas Beichman (Caltech/IPAC-NExSci)
- ❖ Sam Grunblatt (University of Alabama)
- ❖ Dan Huber (University of Hawaii/IfA)
- ❖ Eamonn Kerins (University of Manchester)
- ❖ Michelle Kunimoto (University of British Columbia)
- ❖ Jessica Lu (UC Berkeley)
- ❖ Ruth Murray-Clay (UC Santa Cruz)
- ❖ Keivan Stassun (Vanderbilt University)
- ❖ Rachel Street (Las Cumbres Observatory)
- ❖ Robby Wilson (University of Maryland/NASA/GSFC)

Local Organizing Committee

- ❖ Frank Aragon
- ❖ Tracy Chen
- ❖ Catherine Clark
- ❖ Megan Crane
- ❖ Elise Furlan
- ❖ Sean Kindt
- ❖ Melanie Swain

A yellow starburst graphic with a black outline, containing the text "Thank you!" in a stylized font.

Thank
you!

SSW Code of Conduct

- ▶ The organizers are committed to making this meeting a productive, inclusive, and welcoming environment for everyone—regardless of gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, nationality, or religion.
- ▶ Please follow these guidelines:
 - ▶ Conduct yourself professionally.
 - ▶ Use respectful and appropriate language for a professional audience.
 - ▶ Be kind and respectful. Critique ideas, not individuals.
 - ▶ If you wish to share photos or content from talks/slides on social media, please obtain permission from the speaker or subject first.
- ▶ If you experience or witness any form of harassment, please report it by:
 - ▶ Emailing nexsci_sa@ipac.caltech.edu, or
 - ▶ Speaking with a workshop organizer (look for blue lanyards)

We will not tolerate harassment of participants in any form.

- Participants are expected to immediately comply if asked to stop any inappropriate behavior. Attendees who violate these rules may be asked to leave the event at the sole discretion of the organizers.

Presentations

- ▶ PDFs of all submitted presentations — including pop talks — will be posted on the SSW website and updated throughout the week.
- ▶ Recordings will be available on the Sagan Workshop YouTube channel by the end of next week (most are typically uploaded within 24 hours).
- ▶ Talks (look for iPad timer at the front of the room)
 - ▶ 45 min talks: 35 min (5 min, 2 min) + 10 min for Q&A
 - ▶ 30 min talks: 25 min (5 min, 2 min) + 5 min for Q&A
- ▶ All in-person talks must be presented from the designated presentation laptop.
- ▶ Please upload and test your presentation no later than the break before your talk.

Thank you, speakers!

Interactive Features

- In-person Lunch with Speakers
 - Join an informal lunch with a speaker and up to 10 attendees
 - Sign-up link in the workshop emails and on the “Workshop Logistics” canvas in the #general Slack channel
- Posters
 - All posters are available on the workshop website
 - In-person poster sessions: Monday & Wednesday
 - Remote attendees are encouraged to use the #posters-and-pops Slack channel for poster Q&As
- Slack workspace
 - Invitation sent via workshop emails
 - Designated channels for talks, posters, hands-on sessions and more (e.g., #careers, #pets, ...)
 - We encourage speakers to address any questions in Slack after their talk.

Hands-On Activities - Schedule

- Tuesday: I. Microlensing Fits of Single and Binary Lenses
- Wednesday: II. Placing Transit or Microlensing Events in a Galactic Context
- Thursday: Group Projects
 - Each hands-on session offers a few group project options — choose one to work on collaboratively
 - Group sign-up sheet available
- Friday: Group Project Presentations
 - Informal presentations: 5-10 minutes per group

The hands-on sessions would not have been possible without the dedicated support of:

Thank you!

- ❖ Casey Lam (Carnegie Obs.), Arjun Murlidhar (OSU), Himanshu Verma (LSU), Katarzyna Kruszyńska (LCO)
- ❖ Macy Huston (UC Berkeley), Jessica Lu (UC Berkeley), Matthew Penny (LSU)
- ❖ Melanie Swain (Caltech/NExSci)
- ❖ All the hands-on session helpers (look for **orange** lanyards)

Venues: Baxter Lecture Hall

- All presentations will be held here
- *No food or drink allowed* (water is okay)
- Room is unlocked during the day — do not leave valuables unattended; locked after 6 pm
- Power outlets and strips are available on the floor in select rows
- Please enter and exit through the back of the room
- Restrooms are located one level down via the stairs at the back of the hall
- If you require elevator access, please contact the organizers.

Workshop Wi-Fi

EDUROAM: Log in with your home institution credentials
Caltech Visitor Network: Registration using a cell phone is required

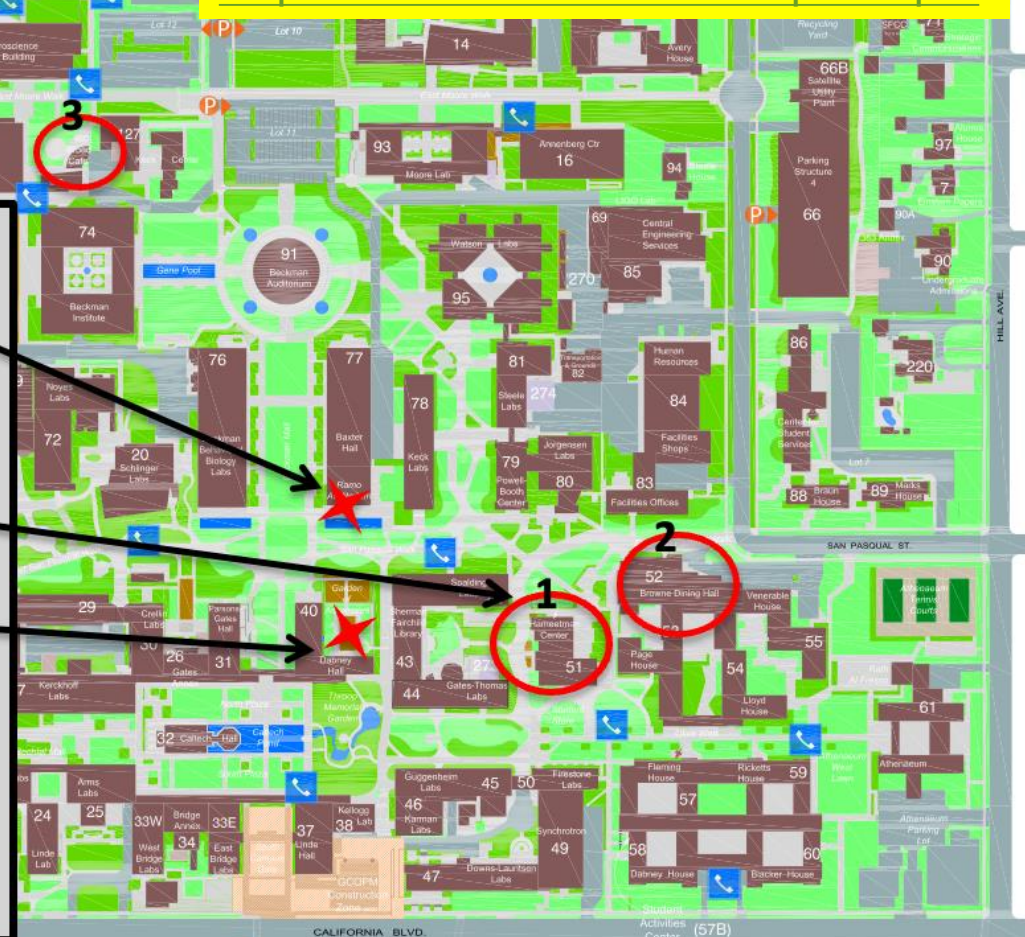
Other Campus Venues

- Outside Tent on Beckman Mall
 - Coffee, tea, and snacks provided during breaks — courtesy of the
 - Posters on display all week; dedicated sessions on Monday & Wednesday
 - Please remove posters by Friday 3 pm if you'd like to keep them
 - Box lunches available for pickup here (check the back of your name badge for your order)
- Hameetman Center (2nd Floor Multipurpose Room)
 - Join the speakers for lunch!
 - If you pre-purchased lunch, pick it up in the tent before heading over
- Dabney Garden
 - Workshop dinner on Tuesday
 - Dinner must be pre-purchased (see back of name badge for confirmation)

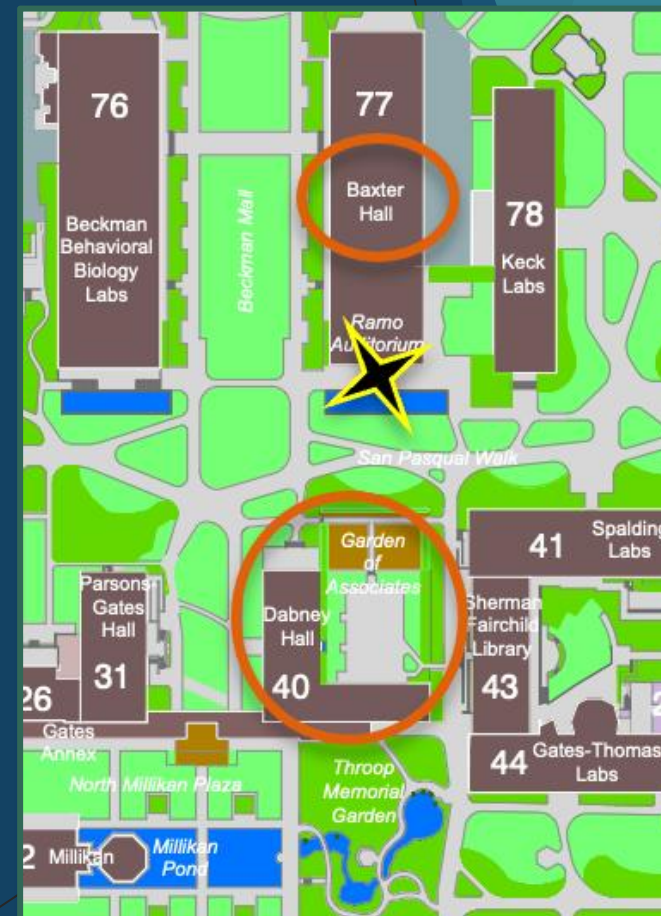


Campus Map

More food options along Lake Ave., a short 10 min walk to the west.



- Campus Building
- Building Name
- Building Number
- Athletic Track or Court Area
- Crosswalk
- Paved Walkway or Pedestrian Area



Participation Guidelines

- For In-Person Attendees:
 - Please silence your cell phones and laptops
- For Remote Attendees:
 - You will join as a Zoom Webinar Attendee unless you are speaking or chairing
 - Your video and microphone will be disabled
 - Speakers cannot see or hear attendees
- Zoom Q&A is disabled
 - Please use the daily talk channels in Slack (#talks-01-monday, #talks-01-tuesday, ...) to ask questions
 - Speakers are encouraged to check the Slack channel after their talk and respond to any unanswered questions

General Courtesy

- Please do not attend in person if you're feeling unwell
- Masks are available at the registration desk if needed

Final Steps: Photo, Letters, and Survey

- Group photo - Thursday at noon (for in-person attendees)
- Submit a headshot for our class picture (for our remote attendees)
 - Upload via the web form (link on our website)
 - Deadline: August 16
 - Final class photo will be posted in September



- Letter of Attendance
 - Request via the web form (link on our website)
 - Deadline: August 16
 - Letters will be sent by mid-September
- Workshop Survey
 - Complete via the form on our website
 - Please submit by August 16

Thank you, and

Let's Begin!