

Sponsorship Packet

2026-2027 Season



@auburnrocketry



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Who We Are

The Auburn University Rocketry Association, also known as AURA, is Auburn's student-led, student-run rocketry team, dedicated to the design, development, and launch of high-power rockets. AURA is open to undergraduate students of any major.

Members gain hands-on experience in propulsion, structures, payload development, recovery systems, and project management while building flight hardware.

Each year, AURA competes at NASA's University Student Launch Initiative (USLI) at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL, the Argonia Cup Championship in Argonia, Kansas, and the International Rocket Engineering Competition (IREC) in Midland, Texas.

60+

Student members

13

Years of building rockets

3

National competitions

Team

AURA is composed of 3 different subteams: Payload, Recovery, and Structures.

Payload

Payload designs, builds, and tests the experiment or device inside the rocket, working with electronics, sensors, and mechanical design.

Recovery

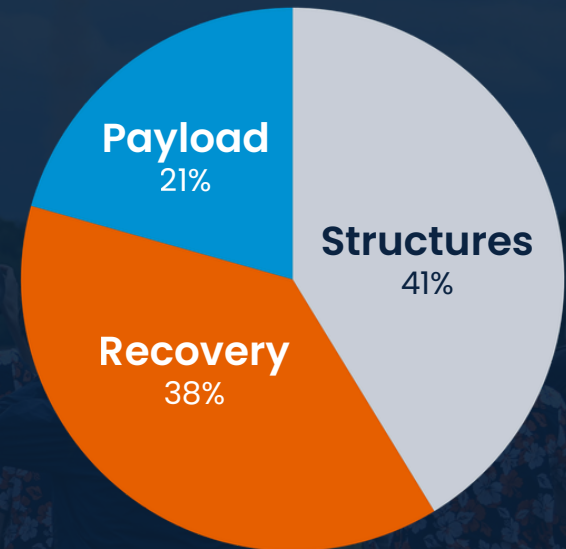
Recovery designs and builds the systems that bring the rocket safely back to the ground, working with parachutes, avionics, and pyrotechnic separation.

Structures

Structures builds the airframe, fins, and internal supports, working with composite materials, machining, and load analysis.

AURA has members from over 10 different majors, including aerospace, mechanical, electrical, computer science, and business. 27% of AURA members are women, above the roughly 20% of women U.S. engineering graduates (World Economic Forum, 2024).

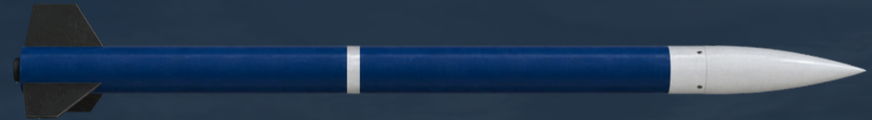
Recent AURA members have interned or gone on to work at SpaceX, NASA, Lockheed Martin, Amentum, Airbus, and Estes Industries.



2025-2026 Highlights

Project Bedrock

Bedrock was AURA's entry into NASA USLI, and the team's largest-diameter rocket to date at 8 inches wide. It carried an autonomous soil sampling lab, WORM, for NASA's payload challenge.



8th of 33

At NASA USLI

9 ft 7 in

Height

8 in

Diameter

3,891 ft

Apogee

Aerotech L2200

Motor

Project Aether

Aether flew in IREC's 10k COTS category, placing 25th of 144 teams from around the world. The vehicle carried a VLF radio propagation payload built by Auburn's electrical engineering department.



25th of 144

At IREC

11 ft 0 in

Height

6 in

Diameter

10,404 ft

Apogee

Aerotech M2500T

Motor

Looking Forward



Expanding In-house Manufacturing

This season, AURA is bringing vacuum bagging in-house for the first time, starting with wet layup nose cones and composite fins, including a honeycomb-core fin design the team may field at NASA. Following this, AURA plans to extend the process to structural airframe tubes, the largest components we build.

The team is also incorporating shrink tubing to our airframe manufacturing process to provide consistent thickness and a smoother surface finish. Alongside these changes, AURA is expanding compression testing to cover both individual components and full vehicle assemblies, validating the structures we build before flight.

Exploring Liquid Propulsion

AURA is in an early discovery phase on liquid propulsion. Members are studying what it would take to build Auburn's first student liquid bipropellant rocket. The reference design is Half Cat Rocketry's open-source Mojave Sphinx, which burns nitrous oxide and isopropyl alcohol and reaches roughly 5,000 ft on a student-built engine.

The team is scoping infrastructure, safety requirements, and feasibility for a Fall 2027 hotfire and a Summer 2028 IREC liquids entry.

Sponsorship



AURA relies on support from corporate sponsors and individual donors to launch rockets. Reach out to **aura@eng.auburn.edu** to sponsor the team. Donations are processed through the Auburn University Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization.

	Ignition \$100+	Booster \$1,000+	Apogee \$2,500+	War Eagle \$7,500+
Featured on website homepage	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social media features	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mentioned in team reports	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quarterly progress update		✓	✓	✓
Logo on competition vehicles	Fin/nose cone	Body	Body (medium)	Body (large)

*Other opportunities include recruitment events, resume access, and lab tours

*Tier placement for non-monetary support is evaluated on a case-by-case basis

Thank you to our Sponsors

You make what we do possible.



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However you'd like to support AURA, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to us at **aura@eng.auburn.edu**.



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