Learning Forum Agenda
Sunday, March 3, 2024

Confluence Theater, 1st Floor, CSU Spur, 4777 National Western Dr, Denver, CO 80216

The Forum Track will showcase engaging presentations on Ethereum Staking, Rocket Pool integrations, and in-depth discussions on future protocol enhancements. The speakers will be a diverse group comprising members of the development team, Rocket Scientists, and other prominent community members.

Time	Topic
8:00 am	**Registration, Coffee, Pastries, and Networking (Main Lobby)**

8:25 am   **Welcome to the Denver Lift Off**

Pat | Weekly Orbit
Pat McNichol is the co-host of The Weekly Orbit, a weekly show summarizing and discussing the latest Rocket Pool news. Pat's background is in economics and offers a valuable perspective rooted in a non-technical background.

8:30 am   **DVT & Rocketpool Integration** (via Zoom)
A brief overview of how SSV and Rocketpool working together to introduce Distributed Validator Technology (DVT) that will improve security and provide a better service for the user base.

Massimo Luraschi, Head of DevRel | SSV Core Team
Former Software Engineer who luckily discovered Developer Relations before it was too late. Passionate about technology and, most importantly, new technologies and how they can shape humanity's future. Blockchain is one of them.

8:50 am   **Understanding the Houston Upgrade**
What is in the Houston upgrade? How will pDAO voting work? What is this new RPL withdrawal address? How can another address stake ETH on behalf of my node? What new opportunities does Houston offer Rocket Pool?

Langers, General Manager | Rocket Pool
Darren Langley is the General Manager of the Rocket Pool core team. With Rocket Pool being the second largest liquid staking provider, Darren brings valuable insights into the rapidly evolving landscape of Ethereum staking. He is excited to be on the frontier of Ethereum staking and decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs).

Time	Topic

9:10 am — KEYNOTE: **Megapools — What they are and how they will help Rocket Pool grow.**

Megapools are a proposed feature for the upcoming Saturn release of Rocket Pool. They will significantly improve efficiency and help Rocket Pool scale into the future. This talk will introduce what they are and how they will work to achieve these goals.

Kane Wallmann, Senior Solidity Engineer | Rocket Pool
Kane has headed up smart contract development for the Rocket Pool protocol for the past 2 years and counting. He has been a crypto native since 2016 and has worked on several pet projects, from on-chain games to NFTs. Before his pivot to crypto, he worked on web and application development for over a decade.

9:50 am — **On The Horizon — Exploring how rocket pool can accelerate to maturity.**

There has recently been a lot more energy towards getting RP to the best version of itself. The community did a tactical brainstorming initiative and is now working on a coherent overall vision. We will discuss two critical components, capital-efficient bond curves & RPL value capture, alongside a small cast of supporting components that could move RP forward significantly.

Valdorff, RP Enthusiast (via Zoom)
Val is a relative newcomer to crypto (early 2022) who got hooked by RP. Rocket Scientist, IMC treasurer, RPIP editor, embarrassingly active on the forums/discord. Val is an engineer in real life; he's always looking for the next highest value item to work on and reducing friction towards progress.

Samus, Community Member
Samus was orange-pilled by Rocket Pool, becoming a Node Operator in 2022. After lurking in the discord, Samus has enjoyed becoming more active recently - especially with the exciting potential protocol changes and tokenomics changes. During the day, Samus, the Electrical Engineer, helps harvest precious silicon from the Earth by testing the chips that power our world.

10:30 am — **Morning Coffee Break (Main Lobby)**

10:50 am — **Understanding the IMC**

This talk will cover the history of incentives on Rocket Pool, how the IMC was created, major projects the IMC is involved with, and the goals of the IMC.

Jaspreet Kalsi (jasperthefriendlyghost), Rocket Pool Community Advocate
Jasper the Friendly Ghost serves on the IMC as an original member and hosts the Rocket Pool community biweekly Twitter Spaces. Jasper shares a slice of oDAO inflation with the Rocket Scientists. Lastly, he was the first pDAO treasurer and received a retroactive grant for his business development and education work.

11:05 am — **Understanding GMC Grants and Bounties**

The talk will cover the evolution of Rocket Pool Protocol DAO (pDAO) Grants Management Committee (GMC) processes, what makes a good application, and how to get involved.

Shfyrn, GMC Administrator | Rocket Pool pDAO
ShfRyn has been a Rocket Pool node operator since 2022. He is an east-coast native with a web development, graphic design, and marketing background.

Time	Topic

11:20 am **Fun, Thrills, and Excitement Monitoring MEV Relay Data**
A short exploration of the world of Maximum Extractable Value (MEV) relays - the data they publish (or don't) and what that means for the future of Rocket Pool.

Yokem, Irrational Armchair Rocket Technician | pDAO IMC Member
Yokem is a long-time Linux and data networking geek. He's been involved in Rocket Pool since participating in the Pyrmont Beta in April of '21, engaged in #trading shenanigans ever since, operated a mainnet node since March of '22, and been an active IMC member since April of '23. He toils for fiat at a small B2B networking services company in Oregon, where he lives with his kids.

11:40 pm **Verifereum**
Ramana is working on a long-term project building tools and infrastructure for formal verification of functional correctness of Ethereum applications (i.e., protocols made out of smart contracts). In this talk, we'll look in more detail at what that means, the plan, and how it's going. The hope is to use a large portion of the time for discussion and Q&A so the audience can follow their interest.

Ramana | Community Member
Ramana is a node operator who spends a fair amount of time in #trading and sometimes signs transactions for the IMC. They have contributed some tools back to the community, such as RocketArb for capturing rETH premium with minipool deposits, an LSD-price bot for checking what that premium is, a website tracking rETH and RPL price slippage, and the work-in-progress RocketPerf for viewing aggregated validator performance down to the slot. Before staking, Ramana used to work in computer science research and has lived in Australia and England. You can find out more by watching their interview on Launch Pad.

12:00 pm **Lunch Provided and Networking (Main Lobby and 2nd Floor Dining Tables)**

12:55 pm **Welcome Back Gathering**

Waq | Rocket Fuel
Waq is the host of Rocket Fuel - a daily news show and interview series dedicated to the happenings in the Rocket Pool community and broader staking landscape. He is also a member of the Grants Management Committee.

Time	Topic

1:00 pm

Rocket School — An end-to-end, how-to series for all knowledge levels on how to stake Ethereum on Rocket Pool.

Rocket School is a grant-funded open-source learning platform that teaches users the basics of Ethereum, staking, node running, and the Rocket Pool protocol. The Rocket School team will cover how the project started, the bumps we encountered along the way, and the launch of our learning platform. The team will discuss our step-by-step videos. Rocket School is an educational course platform and video series designed to hand-hold new Rocket Pool node operators through setting up their node. Rocket School's goal in onboarding new Rocket Pool node operators is to further support the decentralization of the Ethereum network. Rocket School was created by the members of the EVMavericks DAO with grant funds from r/EthStaker and the Rocket Pool DAO.

DoubtStars | Rocket School Project Manager & Tokenomics Explained Co-founder
DoubtStars is a learning and development professional and instructional designer who has worked with many large tech companies in the past and has a long history of involvement in the web3 community, project managing Rocket School and planning HodlerCon, the EthFinance community's biannual meetup. She is the Co-Founder of TokenomicsExplained.com with her husband LogristheBard.

JT Nichol, Content Producer
JT is a founding member of Ethfinance on Reddit, and a Content Producer for Gridplus, Greenpill with Kevin Owocki, and EY. He also is the host of the EVMavericks DAO Podcast.

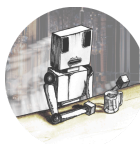**Juxtanotherposition,** VM OG | Rocket School Screen Capturer & Script Editor
Juxta is a Co-founder & CEO in Web2; DAO member, educator, builder, and public speaker in Web3. Starting in tech support during the dial-up internet era and going on to found multiple Web2 companies, Juxta was passionate about bringing the world online. That same passion fuels him to now help bring the world on-chain.

Auston Sterling | Aestus Relay
Auston is a long-time member of the Ethereum community and frequently contributes to the EthFinance and EthStaker communities. He is part of the Aestus Relay team, operates solo and Rocket Pool validators, and really likes the phrase "credible neutrality."

1:25 pm

Rescue Node, History, and Deep-Dive
A deep dive into the history of the Rocket Rescue Node (https://rescuenode.com/), the staking challenges that prompted its creation, the technical problems it solves, and the evolution from Rocket Pool resource to generally available to all solo stakers.

Patches, Unemployed Rocket Scientist, Proud Brooklynite
Patches is a Rocket Scientist whom you may know from #support, Rescue Node, or inebriated rants in #trading.

Time	Topic

1:50 pm — **Introduction to Rocket Sweep**
The presentation will discuss why Rocket Sweep was built and describe the two primary use cases (monitoring rewards and claiming them). The presenter will invite feedback on the roadmap and wishlist of new features.

Daniel McCartney, Software Engineer
Daniel McCartney is a software engineer with decades of experience with internet startups. Since selling his last company, he's spent the last few years advising and contributing to projects in crypto and beyond.

2:10 pm — **Working in Web 3.0 — What's it like to be a new dev for Rocket Pool?**
In this talk, Fornax will share personal experiences from his transition into working on crypto full-time and a little behind the scenes at Rocket Pool. Hopefully, someone willing to follow this path will find some useful tips.

Fornax, Software Engineer | Rocket Pool
Fornax is a senior Dev at Rocket Pool, working on both the Smart Contracts and the Smartnode. He was part of the team that launched the Gravita Protocol, one of the first CDP protocols to support rETH. He has orange-pilled many node operators, literally and metaphorically.

2:25 pm — **Rocketpool Ecosystems Integrations**
This presentation will summarize Rocket Pool's ecosystem and what to expect post-Houston and as we approach Saturn.

Grant Hepburn, Rocket Pool Ecosystem Lead | Rocket Pool
Grant is one of the team's newer members and has worked on Rocket Pool's Ecosystem since June 2023. Grant is relatively new to crypto as a career but has been involved personally since 2014.

2:40 pm — **Afternoon Refreshment and Snacks (Main Lobby)**

3:00 pm — **BloxRoute**
This presentation will discuss some exciting new products from bloXroute focusing on validator earnings across MEV block rewards and improved consensus layer rewards.

Benjamin Hunter, Lead MEV Developer | bloXroute Labs
Benjamin has been involved in the MEV landscape since before the merge, building block builders, relays, and validator tools along with a suite of products for searchers and dApps to empower their use of MEV.

3:15 pm — **Rocket Pool's Endgame — Making rETH global DeFi money.**
This talk will focus on imagining Rocket Pool in its finalized form and will consider the most ideal qualities for the asset. This is inspired by Hasu's "LSTs are money" and JonC's recent paper on "modular money."

Jaspreet Kalsi (jasperthefriendlyghost), Rocket Pool Community Advocate
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3:35 pm   **KEYNOTE:** **You Could've Invented EigenLayer**

In this talk, you will come in knowing nothing about EigenLayer and leave knowing how to design EigenLayer yourself. We go from the first problem statement that EigenLayer aims to address to reinvent the entire EigenLayer smart contract architecture.

Kydo, Protocol Researcher | Eigen Labs

Kydo is a protocol researcher at Eigen Labs, focusing on protocol designs. Previously, he spent time with Uniswap, Gitcoin, Aave, and numerous other protocols on protocol design and governance. He graduated from Stanford with a Master of Science under Professor Dan Boneh.

4:15 pm   **Constellation — Taking Rocket Pool to the Next Level.**

Today, rETH demand outpaces the node operator supply by several orders of magnitude. Operators must be empowered to run minipools to scale Rocket Pool further without providing their own capital. We'll discuss how Constellation, a new protocol coming soon from NodeSet, will safely and non-custodially distribute assets to unlock Rocket Pool's full potential.

Mike Leach (Wander), Co-founder & CTO | NodeSet

With a business and computer science background, Mike is passionate about emerging technology – from mobile apps to AR/VR to web3. He founded a mobile gaming firm in 2013, then went on to lead tech teams at Google and Magic Leap. In 2021, he became an early contributor to Rocket Pool and co-founded NodeSet in 2023.

Nick Steinhilber, Co-founder & CEO | NodeSet

Nick's career began in executive recruiting for global technology businesses, eventually leading to product leadership roles in software. Nick's deep interest in everything related to infrastructure led to an increasing exploration of web3. At NodeSet, Nick is thrilled to work on rethinking how decentralized communities compete in the marketplace.

4:55 pm   **Concluding Remarks**

David Rugendyke (@Darcius), Founder **|** Rocket Pool

5:00 pm   **Join the Gang from #trading for a bevvi, a frostie, a coldie, and a couple of cold ones.**

World Famous Denver Stockyard Saloon - The Yard Bar

Featuring a down-to-earth vibe, this gathering place serves drinks & hearty pub fare. The Saloon is a one-minute walk directly across the street from the Learning Forum.

8:00 pm   **Bar Closing**