

Welcome...

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
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Congratulations. As a U.S. Antarctic Program participant you are among a select few thousand people in the world who deploy each year to stations and field camps or aboard ships and aircraft to conduct or facilitate the research supported by the National Science Foundation in Antarctica and in the Southern Ocean.

The privilege of participating in the program also comes with individual responsibility for environmental stewardship. Actions required of you as an individual help to ensure the Program's and the nation's compliance with the Antarctic Treaty and with U.S. public law and program procedures. Noncompliance can result in removal from Antarctica and in substantial civil or criminal penalties. This guide is designed to alert you to those responsibilities and to help you meet to them as you work toward achieving your professional objectives.

In Antarctica, you represent not only yourself, but your institution, or your employer, and your nation. It is therefore imperative that you also adhere to the Program's Code of Conduct.

Your safety and health and environmental stewardship are among the program's highest priorities. Continuous vigilance and appropriate action in these areas are essential to maintain a safe, healthy and productive work environment in Antarctica.

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(This U.S. Antarctic Program Participant Guide is revised every two years.)

This **Participant Guide** is the initial source of information for U.S. Antarctic Program participants. It covers McMurdo, Palmer and South Pole stations, field camps and the research vessels. The information will help you prepare for your Antarctic experience and point you toward other sources. Be sure to work closely with your **point of contact (POC)** for more detailed information and the particular requirements related to your objectives. The U.S. Antarctic Program website (www.usap.gov) will contain more current deployment information than this book. If you are reading this online, you can click on websites listed in this book and be taken to that site.

All U.S. Antarctic Program participants – including grantees, Antarctic Support Contract (ASC) employees, visitors and military – should use this handbook for general reference only. Authoritative guidance is provided in grant instruments, employment contracts or other legally binding documents.