NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

OFFICE OF POLAR PROGRAMS

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE UNITED STATES ANTARCTIC PROGRAM

Participants in the United States Antarctic Program are expected to present themselves in such a manner that their activities and demeanor reflect credit on themselves and their sponsoring organizations. The special circumstances and conditions prevailing in Antarctica require some high standards of conduct.

The potential for mishap in Antarctica is a constant threat. Your ability to deal effectively with a mishap is reduced if you are under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. The National Science Foundation will not condone abuse of alcohol or controlled substances in Antarctica. Unauthorized use or use in excess of such substances will not be tolerated.

The laws of the United States prohibit the possession, shipping or mailing of illegal drugs. In addition, governments in New Zealand and South American countries have strict laws forbidding the possession or transportation through their country of firearms, knives, pornographic materials, marijuana or nonprescription dangerous drugs. These laws are strictly enforced and penalties for violation are severe. For example, in New Zealand the importation of illegal drugs, including marijuana, is punishable by up to fourteen years imprisonment. Letter mail, parcels, and cargo being sent to Antarctica are subject to examination and opening by United States and foreign authorities. For example, all incoming and outgoing mail for McMurdo station transits New Zealand and is subject to interdiction by New Zealand Customs Service through the use of narcotics detection dogs and other direct inspection procedures. Like any traveler, you must abide by local foreign law. If you are found in violation thereof, you are subject to prosecution in the courts of that country. Association with the United States Antarctic Program affords neither preferential treatment nor immunity from prosecution. The New Zealand and Chilean Governments have expressly stated their intention to vigorously prosecute violators.

Conviction for any criminal action under the laws of the United States, or foreign countries may result in your removal from the United States Antarctic Program.

I have read and understand this information sheet.

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Print Name Signature and Date