

# Welcome...

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**  
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Welcome to the United States Antarctic Program. As a participant in this national effort to learn more about Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, you are one of some 3,000 people who deploy each year to ships, stations, and field camps to perform or support research projects.

In addition to helping you in your personal and professional objectives, this manual describes your responsibilities as a US Antarctic Program participant. These responsibilities include actions required of you to assure the nation's compliance with the Antarctic Treaty; in particular, provisions for protecting the environment, and to help you comply with US public law and program procedures. There may be substantial civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance.

Safety, environment, and health are of paramount importance. Continued vigilance and action in these areas are essential to maintain the strict standards of work in Antarctica.

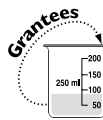
This **US Antarctic Program Participant Guide** is revised every two years. If you know of ways to improve it, please send suggestions to us using the evaluation card at the back of this book.

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This **Participant Guide** is the initial source of information for United States 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** for more detailed information and the particular requirements related to your objectives.

**Icons** are used throughout this handbook. The **Information** icon directs you toward other publications and sources of related information. The **Grantees** (scientist) and **RPSC Employees** icons indicate information that applies especially to these groups.



All US Antarctic Program participants—including grantees, RPSC 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.

