

Welcome...

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

Congratulations on joining the U.S. Antarctic Program. As a participant in this national effort, you are one of only 3,000 people who deploy each year to ships, stations and field camps to conduct or support research projects in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

Along with the honor of participating in this program, comes responsibility and stewardship. This guide is designed to assist you in meeting those responsibilities while achieving your personal and professional objectives as a U.S. Antarctic Program participant. These responsibilities include actions required of you to assure the nation's compliance with the Antarctic Treaty and to help you comply with U.S. public law and program procedures. Noncompliance can result in substantial civil or criminal penalties.

Safety, environmental protection and your health are of paramount importance. Continued vigilance and action in these areas are essential to maintain a safe and productive environment for work in Antarctica.

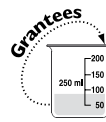
This **U.S. Antarctic Program Participant Guide** is revised every two years. If you have recommendations on how to improve it, please submit your suggestions using the evaluation card found at the back of this book.

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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** 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** (scientists) and **RPSC Employees** icons indicate information that applies especially to these groups.



All U.S. 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.