



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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## The United States Antarctic Program

Welcome to the U.S. Antarctic Program.

The *U.S. Antarctic Program Participant Guide* was revised and updated for 2016-18. I think you will find it useful to read the entire publication well in advance of your deployment date. The *Guide* provides practical information about the Program, which NSF manages; about preparing for deployment; about transporting people and cargo; and about living and working in Antarctica. The *Guide* also may be used as a reference since it contains answers to the many questions that may arise during deployment. It is available online at [www.usap.gov](http://www.usap.gov) at any time.

Ensuring the safety and health of all of its participants is a priority for the U.S. Antarctic Program. Harsh Antarctic conditions present numerous challenges to safety. Some are obvious, some not so obvious. Even routine tasks can be potentially hazardous. Medical care on "The Ice" is limited. Reducing the risk of injury and illness depends on a combination of systematic risk assessment, hazard elimination or control, appropriate use of personal protective equipment, and safe work practices. Please pay close attention during training on how to live and work safely in Antarctica. Report unsafe conditions promptly.

Your safety and the safety of those around you will depend on your conduct on the Ice. Intoxication of any kind in the harsh Antarctic environment can be particularly dangerous and will not be tolerated.

Note as well that you are responsible for full compliance with measures to protect the Antarctic environment. Failure to meet these obligations may result in penalties under U.S. law.

On behalf of the U.S. Antarctic Program leadership team, I wish you a productive and safe deployment.

Kelly K. Falkner, Director  
Division of Polar Programs  
National Science Foundation