**2020-2021 PolarTREC Educator Application**

**Deadline: Monday, 7 October 2019 at 5:00 p.m.** [**Alaska Daylight Time**](https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/)

Thank you for your interest in participating in PolarTREC! The information you provide in your application will be used to select applicants and match them to PolarTREC expeditions during the 2020 (usually Arctic) or 2020-2021 (usually Antarctic) field seasons. Submitting an application does not guarantee placement in a PolarTREC Teacher Research Experience. Educators and researchers will be selected and matched to fill the approximately 12 openings available. We generally receive over 200 applications annually, so please recognize that the selection process is very competitive and it takes time to complete a competitive application.

**Before you start the application, please review the following PolarTREC program documentation:**

* About PolarTREC (<http://www.polartrec.com/about>)
* Goals and Objectives (<http://www.polartrec.com/about/goals-and-objectives)>
* Program Requirements (<http://www.polartrec.com/about/requirements>)
* Educator Frequently Asked Questions (<https://www.polartrec.com/educators/faq>)

**Informational Webinar:** An informational webinar is scheduled for **Wednesday, 11 September 2019 at 1:00 PM AKDT** (11AM HST, 2 PM PDT, 3 PM MDT, 4 PM CDT, 5 PM EDT)

If you were unable to attend, you can view the archive at: <http://www.polartrec.com/about/informational-webinar>.

**Application Tips:**

* Submit your online application **BEFORE** the deadline. The web form will close at the designated time. If you aren’t sure about the time zone, you can verify on through the World Clock website: <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/>
* Do not submit the application as a Word document! Use this to type your answers and cut and paste them into the online web form at: <https://www.polartrec.com/educators/application>
* ARCUS will keep applicants informed throughout the selection process via the email address you provide. Please take appropriate measures to ensure we have up to date contact information and that emails from [info@polartrec.com](mailto:info@polartrec.com), judy@arcus.org, and warburton@arcus.org are coming to your inbox, and not filtered to spam or trash.
* If you cannot access or have trouble with the online application, please contact [info@polartrec.com](mailto:info@polartrec.com) for further instructions.
* Additional information or documentation will not be accepted.
* Answer all the questions, check your grammar and spelling BEFORE submitting. We do check to see if you spelled PolarTREC and Arctic correctly. ☺
* Many of the questions below are longer essay questions. You may wish to download the questions contained in the Microsoft Word document below, fill out your responses and then copy and paste them into the web form.
* If you are applying to work exclusively with a researcher you already know, please read this additional information and jointly complete the Supplementary Questions for Preexisting Educator –Researcher Teams (<https://www.polartrec.com/educators/preexisting-relationship>).
* If you are an informal science educator applying to the program, address the questions as best you can, referring to the most appropriate and relevant audience you work with, and provide examples as needed.

If you would like an email reminder the week before the application period ends, and to be notified of other events and activities related to polar science education, please subscribe to the Polar Science Education E-Mail List (<https://www.arcus.org/education/educationlist/subscribe>).

**IMPORTANT PROGRAM UPDATES**

* For 2020-2021, we are accepting applications from both U.S. informal science educators as well as formal U.S. classroom teachers (teaching in grades 6-12). Informal educators should have the primary focus on outreach to middle and high school students and/or professional development for their teachers. Applications will be to participate in field research learning experiences during the 2020 (usually Arctic) or 2020-2021 (usually Antarctic) field seasons.
* We will not be accepting applications from PolarTREC teacher alumni. If you are working with a PolarTREC alumni and need support, please contact us directly.

**1. Contact Information**

\* Denotes required field.

Title:

First Name: \*

Last Name: \*

Email: \*

*Note: Professional/Institution l email addresses often have strict spam filters, which often block our emails. You may want to use a home or private e-mail address that you check frequently.*

**Home Address**

Street:

City:

State:

Zip:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

**Institution Address**

Institution Name:

Street:

City:

State:

Zip:

Institution Phone:

Classroom/Office Extension:

Institution Fax:

Institution Website:

Other relevant websites (e.g. classroom, program, personal):

Supervisor’s Name:

Supervisor’s Email Address:

**2. Demographic Information**

a. The following question is for the purpose of gathering information on applicants to the PolarTREC program and their primary education audience (i.e., students, docents, museum visitors) to measure our program’s impacts. Submission of this information is voluntary and is not a requirement for acceptance to the program. If you are an informal educator, please give all applicable descriptions about the audience(s) you work with.

Applicant Gender:

\_\_\_\_\_ Male

\_\_\_\_\_ Female

Applicant Race/Ethnicity:

\_\_\_\_\_ American Indian or Alaska Native

\_\_\_\_\_ Asian

\_\_\_\_\_ Black or African American

\_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic or Latino

\_\_\_\_\_ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

\_\_\_\_\_ White

\_\_\_\_\_ Multiracial

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not wish to respond

*Check all that apply.*

b. Applicant Citizenship:

c. Briefly describe your primary audience and surrounding community (e.g. K-12, public, rural/urban, technology access, economics):

d. Type of Audience (or students you work with):

\_\_\_\_\_ Public

\_\_\_\_\_ Private

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Explain Below)

Other Type of Audience :

e. What is the population of your annual audience or school (estimates are fine):

f. School or Audience Ethnicity. Please enter the approximate percentage (%) of your school or audience under each category. Please type only whole numbers and no % symbols; the sum of all percentages should equal 100%.

\_\_\_\_\_ % American Indian or Alaska Native

\_\_\_\_\_ % Asian

\_\_\_\_\_ % Black or African American

\_\_\_\_\_ % Hispanic or Latino

\_\_\_\_\_ % Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

\_\_\_\_\_ % White

\_\_\_\_\_ % Multiracial

If your institution uses other categories to describe race/ethnicity, please describe:

g. If applicable, percentage of students who receive free or reduced lunch: \_\_\_\_\_ %

h. Average class or audience size:

i. Total number of students/audiences you teach in a year:

j. If known, what are the approximate start and end dates of your school year or primary programs, etc. ? Include major professional vacation periods. i.e. Christmas break, summer break, etc.

**3. Applicant Experience and Education**

a. What type of university degree or other academic experience or qualifications do you have?

Bachelor's Degree (Major):

Bachelor's Degree (Minor):

Masters Degree (Discipline):

PhD Degree (Discipline):

Other Degree:

b. How many years of education experience do you have?

c. How many years have you been working at your current institution?

d. List up to 10 relevant professional licenses, certifications, registrations, awards or honors that you have received in your profession:

**4. Professional Assignment**

a. What is your primary education assignment (Select all that apply):

\_\_\_\_\_ Pre K-K

\_\_\_\_\_ Primary (Grades 1-5)

\_\_\_\_\_ Middle School (Grades 6-8)

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary (Grades 9-12)

\_\_\_\_\_ Informal Education (Science or Nature Center, Museum, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Community, Vocational, or Technical College

\_\_\_\_\_ Four-Year College or Institution

\_\_\_\_\_ Pre-Service Teacher Training

\_\_\_\_\_ Gifted

\_\_\_\_\_ Special Education

\_\_\_\_\_ Counselor

\_\_\_\_\_ Librarian

\_\_\_\_\_ Administration

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Describe Below)

Other Primary Assignment:

b. What subjects do you teach? Check all that apply:

\_\_\_\_\_ Elementary Education

\_\_\_\_\_ Middle School English/Language Arts

\_\_\_\_\_ Middle School Math

\_\_\_\_\_ Middle School Science

\_\_\_\_\_ Middle School Social Studies

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Art

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Biology

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Chemistry

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Earth Science

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Economics

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary English

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary French

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary World and U.S. History

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary General Science

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Geography

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary German

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Gov/Political Science

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Math

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Music

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Physical Science

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Physics

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Social Studies

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Spanish

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Speech Communication

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Theatre

Other Subjects:

**5. Motivation for Participation**

a. a. What motivates you to apply to PolarTREC and professionally, what do you hope to gain from the experience? (200 words maximum):

b. Aside from journaling/blogging, online photos, and webinars which all part of our program requirements, describe your ideas on how you will share this experience in your classroom or with the audiences you work with (200 words maximum):

c. Describe how you envision sharing your experience with other educators, your personal and professional communities, and the general public (200 words maximum):

d. Describe how you currently engage your audience and facilitate learning when educating on new and complex topics, concepts, or issues (200 words maximum):

e. Describe the particular strengths you would bring to the PolarTREC program and to a field research team (200 words maximum):

f. Using examples from your own experience including your role and the contributions you made to a team effort, describe how you work as a member of a team (200 words maximum):

**6. Communicating the Experience and Science**

a. A large component of the PolarTREC experience involves communicating daily events from the field via an online journal (aka blogging) and the researchers rely on the educator to convey their science. Please submit a sample journal describing the most important or interesting day you had last week. Write your journal entry for the general/lay audience (200 words maximum):

**7. Scientific Interests and Research Area Preference**

a. Where would you prefer to go on an expedition? Check all that apply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Arctic

\_\_\_\_\_ Antarctic

\_\_\_\_\_ Either

Please explain your preference:

***Important:*** *The Arctic field season is usually, but not always, between April and August and the Antarctic field season is usually between September and February. Please make sure to select "either" if you would like to be considered for BOTH the Arctic and Antarctic expeditions.* ***Your selection DOES MATTER and will be used to determine research expedition matches****.*

*Most PolarTREC expeditions are at* ***least three weeks and usually no more than six weeks long****. For teachers, substitute reimbursement is provided while you are away from the classroom. Please discuss your participation in the program and time away from the classroom (or work) with your administration. If you are an informal educator, discuss participation and time away with your supervisor. We are unable to offer stipends or reimburse salaries.*

b. How long would you prefer to participate in an expedition? (Most expeditions are AT LEAST three weeks.) List any dates or periods of time when you are NOT able to participate in a field expedition:

c. Briefly describe your scientific interests. Which scientific topics interest you the most and why? Please note that climate change has become part of nearly all expeditions so you may choose to be more specific about this topic, if applicable. (200 words maximum)

d. Rank your interest (personally and academically) in participating in the research areas listed below.

*Note: PolarTREC expeditions will focus on a variety of research areas. Different researchers apply each year, so we will not know the types of research projects until we are well into the matching process. Due to the nature of polar science, many research projects are often complex and cover numerous scientific disciplines.*

*Your selections are used in part of the matching process, so please limit your top choice (“I would really enjoy an expedition in this subject area”) to 3 scientific discipline interest areas.*

1. I would really enjoy an expedition in this subject area

2. I am somewhat interested in this subject area

3. I am indifferent about this subject area

4. I do not want to be considered for an expedition in this subject area

\_\_\_\_\_ Atmospheric Systems

*For example, atmospheric sciences, gas interchanges, aerosols, weather, climate, etc.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Cryospheric Systems

*For example, glaciers, sea ice, ice sheets, hydrology, permafrost, etc.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Human and Social Systems

*For example, archaeology, anthropology, human adaptation, cultures, etc.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Marine Systems

*For example, physical and biological oceanography, bathymetry, ocean currents, sediments, and marine wildlife, etc.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Terrestrial Systems

*For example, tundra and plant ecology, trees and shrubs, terrestrial wildlife, permafrost, and hydrology, etc.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Ecology and Biotic Systems

*For example, animal and plant interactions and baseline research*

\_\_\_\_\_ Adaptations to Life in Extreme Cold and Prolonged Darkness

\_\_\_\_\_ Understanding Environmental Change in the Polar Regions

\_\_\_\_\_ Physics or Space Sciences

*For example, auroras, astrobiology, cosmology, etc.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Engineering and Technology

*For example, engineering, development, remote sensing, etc.*

Other (please specify):

e. Are you applying to work exclusively with a specific researcher? If yes, please list their full name, institution, and email address:

*Note: Naming a specific researcher is not required. Researchers and educators interested in working exclusively with one another will be asked to complete a set of supplementary questions and will both be subject to the full PolarTREC Selection Process.*

**8. Background Information and Skills**

a. Briefly describe your outdoor skills or experiences:

*For example, camping, hiking, boating, wilderness first aid, and firearms training, etc.*

b. Provide a basic statement of your general health and physical condition:

*Finalists will be asked more detailed questions about their health and ability to participate on a specific expedition by the researchers during interviews. All expeditions to Antarctica require passing an extensive medical and dental exam to be deemed "Physically Qualified" before you are allowed to travel. In some instances, this may also be required for participants on Arctic expeditions. Medical services may be limited in remote field sites.*

c. Briefly describe the computer type and operating system (Mac/PC) with which you are most familiar and your skill level.

d. Briefly describe technological devices and software you use on a regular basis and how you utilize these tools personally and professionally. *For example: laptop computers, digital cameras, Internet browsers, Excel, PowerPoint, photo or movie software, etc.*

e. List any additional skills or information that you wish to be considered: *For example: languages, proficiency with specific tools, etc.*

**9. Previous Applications & Participation**

a. Have you previously participated in a teacher research experience (e.g. NOAA Teacher at Sea, Earth Watch)? We do not accept applications from PolarTREC alumni.

If yes, please list the year, location, and program name below.

If yes, did you complete all program requirements:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_\_\_ In Progress

If yes, how do you see the PolarTREC professional development opportunity continuing to develop your professional skills, or how will it build on your previous research experiences:

**10. Orientation Availability**

*Note: Applicants accepted to the PolarTREC program are required to participate in a one- week training orientation tentatively scheduled for March 15-20, 2020. Substitute costs, per diem, travel, and lodging will be provided for successful applicants. We cannot provide stipends or salary compensation.*

Are you available to attend the Orientation during this time period?

If no, please explain:

**11. How did you hear about PolarTREC?**

Please tell us how you heard about the PolarTREC program. Fill in any that apply:

\_\_\_\_Email list serve. Please provide the name and/or URL:

\_\_\_\_Friend or colleague. Provide a name if you wish:

\_\_\_\_Former PolarTREC teacher. Please provide their name:

\_\_\_\_From a website. Please list the URL:

\_\_\_\_Conference or presentation. Please list the venue and/or presentation title:

\_\_\_\_Other (please explain):

**12. References**

Please provide the names, titles, email addresses, and phone numbers of three professional references. Do not send letters of recommendation. The selection committee will contact references as needed.

1. Name:

Title and affiliation:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Is this a home or work number?

2. Name:

Title and affiliation:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Is this a home or work number?

3. Name:

Title and affiliation:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Is this a home or work number?

**13. Acknowledgement**

The information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have read the PolarTREC Program Requirements, and if I am selected to participate I will be responsible for these requirements to the best of my ability.

Name: \*