2025/26 Polar STEAM Researcher Application

*Please use this document to prepare answers if desired, but you must submit answers through Polar STEAM’s online portal. The link is on our website at https://polarsteam.info/application/*

What is Polar STEAM for Researchers?

Polar STEAM, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math, is not just a national program, but a journey for all of us to get closer to what is so physically distant, and to understand the Polar regions, their people, and the unique science conducted there. We commit to share what we learn with the world so others can also let their curiosity thrive.

We aim to inspire transdisciplinary collaboration about the polar regions, integrating arts, education, and science-based methods to promote critical thinking, engagement, and accessible and inclusive opportunities for learners of all ages. The program works with NSF-funded researchers across all disciplines, including the social sciences. This includes researchers in the field and those conducting polar research remotely.

Applications are open for NSF-funded Polar Researchers seeking collaborations with Educators (Arctic, Antarctic, or Virtual) or Artists & Writers (Antarctic only) to support their broader impacts work for the following seasons:

* Arctic field research, boreal summer 2025
* Antarctic field research, austral summer 2025/26
* Virtual collaborations, Arctic and Antarctic, 2025/26

**If you are pre-planning for collaborations in future years, please email polarsteam@oregonstate.edu**

Researchers are strongly encouraged to attend the informational webinar or view the recording to learn more about Polar STEAM field and virtual collaborations.

**Before applying, please read the** [**FAQs on the Polar STEAM website**](https://polarsteam.info/faq/)**.**

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

# General Information

* First Name
* Last Name
* Project Title
* Email
* Phone Number
* Institution or organization name
* Your role in the project (e.g., PI, co-PI, Researcher, Grad Student)
* Name(s) and project role(s) of additional researchers on the project
* NSF Award or Reference Number (or option to check pending award)
* Name and email of the science planner for your award, if assigned
* Name/Location of field site(s) or remote work
* Planned virtual or field dates (estimates okay)

How did you hear about this opportunity? Check all that apply:

* From friend or colleague
* Social media
* Polar STEAM website
* Professional society/educator group
* Internet search
* News outlet (e.g., radio, newspaper, online publication)
* National Science Foundation (indicate source in other below)
* Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in collaborating with Polar STEAM? (100 word max)
2. Have you previously collaborated with professionals beyond your own research team and other scientists? If so, please describe the nature of the collaboration, shared learning, and any co-created resources. If you haven’t had the opportunity to collaborate, describe your ideal outcomes by working with an educator, artist, or writer. (150 word max)
3. How would the broader community you reach benefit from your participation in the Polar STEAM Program? (100 word max)
4. What types of broader impacts do you generally achieve as part of your NSF work? (Check all that apply)
   1. K-12 outreach
   2. College level teaching, mentoring, research training
   3. Informal events (science pubs, TED Talks, etc.)
   4. Popular media (articles, interviews, podcasts, etc.)
   5. Web-based dissemination activities (blog, social media, etc.)
   6. Conference presentations
   7. Other (please specify)
5. Which collaboration partner are you interested in working with?:
   1. Educator
   2. Artist and/or writer (currently only available in the Antarctic)
   3. Both
6. Which collaboration type(s) are you interested in?:
   1. Virtual
   2. Field
   3. Both
7. What knowledge, skills, or interests does the educator/artist need to be successful on your team? (e.g., knowledge of a specific science discipline) (75 word max)
8. If your work is field-based, describe the field conditions and physical requirements (ship or land based, sleeping arrangements, hiking on uneven terrain, food considerations, transportation, etc...)

Demographic information

1. What is your gender? (Note: demographic and identity information will be used to understand the reach and inclusivity of Polar STEAM recruitment)

Prefer not to answer

Agender

Female

Genderqueer

Male

Non-binary including gender fluid and gender nonconforming

Transgender

Questioning or not sure

I prefer to self-identify: \_\_\_\_

1. Which of the following racial or ethnic groups do you identify with? (Select all that apply)

Prefer not to answer

African American or Black

Asian or Asian American

American Indian or Alaska Native

Caucasian or White

Hispanic, Latino/a/x or Chicano/a/x

Middle Eastern or Arab

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

I identify as: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Are there any accommodations we can make to support you in the program? Please describe.

**Upload #1:** Please upload your one-page project summary from your NSF proposal that includes your broader impacts statement.

**Upload #2:** Please attach a biographical sketch that includes synergistic activities related to this type of collaborative work.