

Government of Greenland Sub-Permits

All science teams conducting research in Greenland are required by the Government of Greenland to submit annual expedition permit applications. Projects that solely operate at Summit Station must submit a Summit Station sub-permit application. The sub-permit supplements the Battelle ARO-coordinated Summit Station expedition permit and area allotment, in lieu of each project submitting independent expedition permit and area allotment permit applications. This document outlines the science team permitting and reporting responsibilities where these responsibilities may interact with the Summit Station expedition permit prepared by the NSF or Battelle ARO.

Background

The Government of Greenland is the ultimate authority regarding permitting, insurance, and policies surrounding research in Greenland. Information on these topics, as well as contact information for permit inquiries and reporting, is available here:

[Cover Letter for Research Projects](#)

Science teams are independently responsible for understanding and complying with permitting requirements and laws.

Details

- **Science projects requiring sub-permits:** All science projects with a research presence at Summit Station are required to submit an annual sub-permit application. This includes projects that receive only remote instrument support and do not have field team travel in the current year. In these cases, the fields in the sub-permit application that pertain to science team travel can be marked as “not applicable – no science team travel”.

Some research activities, such as biological sampling, require additional separate permits that may have a longer lead time. Review the “Cover Letter for Research Projects” linked above for a listing; and consult the named contacts if you are uncertain whether additional permitting requirements apply.

- **Expedition permits:** Science teams that conduct overnight travel outside of the Summit Station area allotment boundary (defined by a circle of radius 7 km centered at the GISP-2 borehole) are not covered by the Summit Station expedition permit and must submit an independent expedition permit application to the Government of Greenland. The process for securing an expedition permit is described in the “Cover Letter for Research Projects”. This application should be submitted as far in advance as possible, with a recommended submission timeline of 12 weeks before the start of fieldwork.
- **Radio equipment notification:** The sub-permit form calls for submission of information on radio equipment assigned to the science team, including VHF radios, satellite phones, and personal locator beacons. Unless arranged otherwise with the Battelle ARO project manager, this radio equipment will be issued upon arrival at Summit Station. After receiving this equipment at Summit Station, science teams must send information on radio model and frequency to the specified Government of Greenland contacts to comply with this requirement.
- **Area allotment permits:** The boundary of the Summit Station area allotment is delineated by a circle of radius 7 km centered at the GISP-2 borehole (approximate location: 72.57598 degrees N, 38.46569 degrees W; WGS84). Any science installation or camp located outside of this boundary and lasting longer than 2 months requires a separate Government of Greenland area allotment permit, to be secured by the science team via the process described in the “Cover Letter for Research Projects”. It is recommended that this application be submitted as far in

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advance as possible, with a recommended submission timeline of 5 months before the start of fieldwork.

- **Spills, environmental releases, and abandoned equipment:** Projects must report directly to the Government of Greenland at completion of each field season (no later than December 31) regarding any spills (> 5 gallons), planned environmental releases, or abandonment of equipment in the ice sheet. Where impacts are planned (e.g., use of drilling fluid), projects must independently secure advance permission from the Government of Greenland and document the plan in their sub-permit application.
- **Application timing:** The sub-permit application is required to be submitted to the Ministry of Domestic Affairs, Nature and Environment no later than 12 weeks before field work begins. However, it is recommended to submit the application as early as practical. For ongoing multi-year projects, the application should be made by February 1. Notify the Battelle ARO project manager when the sub-permit application is submitted.
- **Reporting:** Annual reporting for the Summit Station expedition permit is performed by Battelle ARO / NSF and covers general low-impact science work, such as instrument support without science team travel. However, science teams for which the following circumstances apply are required to separately report on the following directly to the Government of Greenland.
 - Environmental releases or spills, including quantity, location, and date.
 - Equipment abandoned in the ice sheet, whether intentionally or unintentionally.
 - Any scientific publications based on the activities of the expedition must be sent to the Research Coordinator in the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Church at IKIIN@nanoq.gl.

Questions regarding the Summit Station expedition permit can be sent to Battelle ARO Project Manager Sam Dorsi (sam@polarfield.com). General permitting questions should be directed to the Government of Greenland.