

# Arctic Outreach & Engagement

## Researcher Orientations and Liaison Resources

The NSF's Principles for Conducting Research and the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee's (IARPC) [Principles for Conducting Research in the Arctic](#) directs scientists to be accountable to Arctic communities, to establish communication, to respect traditional knowledge, to build and sustain relationships, and to pursue responsible stewardship in the Arctic. The Battelle ARO O&E Team will provide a variety of resources to educate and orient research teams about the basics of properly engaging with Arctic communities to achieve these principles.

### Note about the Co-production of Knowledge (CPK)

Proper co-production of knowledge between Arctic scientists and Arctic residents begins at the very earliest of project phases: during the formation of research questions. Battelle ARO O&E initiatives are meant to offer scientists tools and resources to foster positive relations with Indigenous and local communities in the Arctic and to support co-production of knowledge and other O&E efforts within projects.

### Locally Relevant Team Orientations

Battelle ARO recognizes that each research project requires specific outreach and engagement (O&E) solutions tailored to the needs of the project and the communities in which they hope to interact; and that the capacity to carry out O&E initiatives can vary from project to project, requiring different levels of support from the Battelle ARO Team. The Battelle ARO O&E Team can set up and host virtual orientation sessions to prepare research teams prior to their deployment to the field. Orientations will be tailored to cover geographical and topical areas relevant to each project. Examples of topics available: (1) Introduction to Coastal Communities in the Arctic, (2) Alaska Native Organizations 101, (3) North Slope Whaling History and current Season Updates, and (4) Overview of the MMPA of 1972.

### Tips for a Successful Engagement

- **Be Honest:** Realize that we are all human, and honesty and sincerity are what folks in the Arctic really appreciate. If your project is not directly relevant to locals' lives, that is okay. Work with your Battelle ARO local liaison or PM to find areas of your project that might be relevant to locals.
- **Listen and Respect:** Although being in the field can be extremely stressful and time is very limited, it is important that when engaging with locals to take a slow and respectful pace. Locals want to hear from you, but they also want to be heard.
- **Have Fun:** Enjoy your time in the Arctic and take opportunities to learn about the local cultures. Making friends in the Arctic is one of the most valuable aspects of working in and near Indigenous communities.

- **Do Your Homework:** When traveling into and around Arctic communities, it is good to get an idea of the local history and some of the “101s” of working in Arctic communities. It is extremely important to understand the local context in which you are stepping into when visiting the field. And remember, the field is someone’s backyard!
- **Utilize Available Resources:** Remember, Battelle ARO staff are here to help you in all challenges you face in producing and implementing outreach and engagement plans. From answering simple questions about local Arctic life to setting up large community meetings, do not forget that we are here for you.

## Community Meetings- Sharing Ideas, Time, and Space

Community meetings are the oldest form of outreach utilized by Arctic researchers to engage with Arctic residents. Nearly 100 years ago, while travelling through Utqiagvik in 1924 during his famous scientific expedition across the Arctic, Greenlandic scientist and explorer Knud Rasmussen recalled being “invited to give a lecture at the local school house” to engage with community members. To this day, meeting with local community members in the Arctic remains as one of the most effective forms of engagement between Arctic scientists and Arctic residents.

### Small Community Meetings

The format of small community meetings is flexible and may include short seminars, roundtable meetings, or town hall discussions. As a gesture of respect and custom among local cultures in the Arctic, sharing food and/or refreshments during community gatherings can greatly increase local engagement. The Battelle ARO O&E Team can assist in planning, advertising, organizing, and hosting the event, so that science teams can focus on engaging with community members.

### Large Community Meetings and Community Barbeques

Large community meetings are typically organized to coordinate O&E efforts for multiple projects working in the same region or community, or to kickoff large long-term projects. Food and/or refreshments can be served as a gesture of respect and door prizes are customarily organized to instill local interest and engagement.

### Taking Part in Local Meetings and Events

The O&E Team pays close attention to local event calendars for opportunities to provide project information and updates at community meetings, community events, and other local gatherings (not organized by the Battelle ARO O&E Team).

### Virtual Meetings

Virtual platforms have become increasingly important for people to meet and communicate. The O&E Team can set up and host virtual meetings between scientists, researchers, local stakeholders, and/or the public. These meetings will be organized in real-time to allow engagement with participants, and recorded for later distribution to the public on the [Battelle Arctic Gateway](#) web portal.

# Education

Sharing information with local communities and local classrooms in the Arctic about project information, findings, and updates is an extremely important component of all Arctic research projects. The O&E Team provides several options for researchers to share their observations and data with both the community and K-12 classrooms. Community education options include:

## K-12 Classroom Visits (In-person)

K-12 classrooms across the Arctic are welcoming to scientists who want to personally visit classrooms and share their science with K-12 students. The O&E Team maintains updated contact lists of local educators to set up these events, and correlates subject matter of the visit with local teaching schedules. We strive to complement and reinforce the school's curriculum when possible, making sure the event is mutually beneficial to both scientists and students.

## Field Schools

Field schools take school visits a step further and bring the students into the field to conduct science experiments and activities. This takes more planning for all parties involved, including the educators, the scientists, and the O&E Team.

## Long-term K-12 Engagement Options

Longer-term, K-12 engagement plans include ongoing communication and meetings over a series of weeks, months or years. For example, if a project is conducting science near a small village for multiple years, it may develop a long-term O&E plan with the local educators and community leaders. This may entail meeting with a particular class every few weeks over a semester, setting up an annual field school, or working with a small group of students on a science fair project. It is important to be flexible with planning and remain responsive to local curriculum, classroom schedules, and previously established activities.

## Virtual Educational Labs and Workshops

Virtual educational labs engage scientists with local schools in the Arctic through guided activities over video conferencing. These labs can include either a single event or multiple sessions. Lab activities may or may not require sending materials to the classrooms to utilize for participation.

# Online Options

## Social Media Representation

Social media has become an important tool to communicate in the Arctic. The O&E Team can introduce your project and provide updates to locals in the Arctic through social media platforms. Researchers can simply fill out the O&E Request Form and the team will begin the process of providing local representation of your project through social media platforms utilizing recognizable templates for project introductions, project updates, community event notifications, and more.

## Interview / Podcast

Podcast interviews focus on questions that help listeners learn about researchers, their work, and how findings relate to everyday life in the Arctic. They are delivered to communities through local radio stations and made available on the Battelle Arctic Gateway web portal. In-person interviews will be recorded using the UIC Science recording studio in Utqiagvik.

## Utqiagvik, Alaska Options

### BARC Science Fair – (typically held last weekend of July)

The Battelle ARO O&E Team hosts an annual 3-day BARC Science Fair in Utqiagvik during the summer for visiting scientists to take part in activities with students and the community. Each day includes afternoon youth activities, a community “BARC-B’que”, and evening science presentations. Local, national, and international research institutions engage with hundreds of local students and residents. The purpose of the BARC Science Fair is to provide a positive space for Arctic researchers and Arctic residents to meet, eat with each other, spend time, and share ideas; and to inspire the youth of the Arctic by providing fun and educational activities that are based in science and traditional knowledge.

### Tribal College Engagement

Battelle ARO Utqiagvik operator, UIC Science, is a longtime neighbor to Iñisaġvik College, the only Tribal College in Alaska. The O&E Team can assist researchers in engaging with local college classes at Iñisaġvik College either through a single event, or through longer-term engagements.

For more information on how to plan AK Outreach and Engagement, contact [Battelle ARO's Indigenous Liaison](#).

## Greenland Options

### Annual Running of the Moskus – Annually in August

The Running of the Moskus is a half marathon and 5km race following the Watson River flowing from the Greenland Icecap into the community of Kangerlussuaq. The purpose of the race is to unite the community in a fun event and to raise money for the Kangerlussuaq School. The first race was held in August of 2012 and has truly become a Kangerlussuaq community effort. Many local businesses and groups, from tour companies to local artists and craftsmen, to the Kangerlussuaq school’s young student body, help organize, and host the event. Though the event centers on the race itself, a post-race barbeque is a perfect venue to set up a booth to highlight your project and interact with a vast majority of the community.

### Connecting with the International Arctic Hub (IAH)

Battelle ARO staff have connections with the Government of Greenland IAH and can make connections for researchers. For more information about the IAH, visit [International Arctic Hub](#).

## Greenland Science Week- Annually in November

Battelle ARO staff have connections with the organizers of Greenland Science Week and can assist in opening communications so that you can plan a talk, enter a poster, have a booth, or participate in events ranging from science-themed photography exhibits to science themed short film festivals. For more information, visit [Greenland Science Week](#).

For more information on how to plan Greenland or other International Outreach and Engagement contact [O&E staff](#).