

Government of Greenland Sub-Permits

All science teams conducting research at Summit Station and in the Summit Station vicinity are required by the Government of Greenland to meet annual expedition permitting requirements. Depending on the distance that the team will travel from Summit Station, science teams may need to receive a full expedition permit or may instead 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](#)

[Expedition Permitting website](#)

Science teams are independently responsible for understanding and complying with permitting requirements and laws. Note that 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” for a listing; and consult the named contacts if you are uncertain whether additional permitting requirements apply.

Details

- **Expedition permits:** Science teams that conduct travel outside of the Summit Station area allotment boundary (7 km radius; see details in Area Allotment section below) are not covered by the Summit Station expedition permit and sub-permit process, and must secure an independent expedition permit application from the Government of Greenland. The expedition permit also requires science teams to carry a firearm for protection from polar bears. Science teams are responsible for provision of firearms, ammunition, training and firearms permitting. 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.
- **Science projects requiring sub-permits:** All science projects with a research presence at Summit Station, but not travelling outside of area allotment, are required to submit an annual sub-permit application. This is a Government of Greenland requirement to support their awareness and tracking of research activities at the station. This sub-permit requirement also applies to 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”.
- **Firearm permits:** Teams bringing a firearm to Summit Station are required to obtain a firearm permit per Government of Greenland requirements. Please consult the Government of Greenland expedition permitting website for additional information.
- **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

2024 Summit Station Sub-Permit Guidance

personal locator beacons. To support this requirement, Battelle ARO provides research teams with a copy of the Government of Greenland Government of Greenland permit for the radio models and frequencies that are available for issue from the NSF inventory.

- **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 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 Science Support Manager Sam Dorsi (sam@polarfield.com). General permitting questions should be directed to the Government of Greenland.