



Where in the World is RTSC? Working and Living in Antarctica



Most jobs with Raytheon Polar Services Company require spending approximately five months in Antarctica during the austral summer season. While the vast majority of United States Antarctic Program participants travel to McMurdo Station for the busy summer season, a significant number work at South Pole Station or Palmer Station, in field camps, or on research vessels.

Living and working conditions in Antarctica are very challenging. Program participants work six or seven days a week and are subject to unpredictable weather conditions that often impede work, transportation, schedules and communications. Most participants are housed in dormitory-style rooms with roommates and shared bathroom facilities, and many spend significant time at remote field camps while others work on research vessels. Work environments vary depending on individual responsibilities.

Wherever they work and whatever they do on “The Ice,” all U.S. Antarctic Program participants will have the opportunity to share a unique experience. While surrounded by the pristine beauty of Antarctica, they are supporting valuable scientific research, and work with people from a variety of locations and backgrounds. The research stations function like small communities—with a variety of jobs and activities. Several off-hour options are available at each station; hiking and cross-country skiing routes, crafts, sports, exercise equipment, libraries, movies, educational classes, and science lectures are available. Each station also has a small “general” store that carries personal articles and souvenirs.

U.S. Antarctic Program participants are required to put safety and environmental protection first. Extra individual responsibility for personal behavior while living and working in Antarctica is also expected. These jobs require contact and close cooperation with academic researchers, military personnel, foreign nationals, and even Antarctic tourists.

A handbook titled United States Antarctic Program Participant Guide is mailed during the employment process. It provides more detailed information on Antarctic history, international cooperation, preparation, packing, waste management, training and planning.

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