

Seton teacher selected for PolarTREC program

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Seton Middle School science teacher Dr. Anne Schoeffler has been selected as a PolarTREC teacher-researcher in Greenland this summer.

PolarTREC (Teachers and Researchers Exploring and Collaborating) is a program in which K-12 teachers spend three to six weeks participating in hands-on field research experiences in the polar regions.



According to a spokesperson, the goal of PolarTREC is to invigorate polar science education and understanding by bringing K-12 educators and polar researchers together.

The PolarTREC program is managed by the Arctic Research Consortium of the United States (ARCUS) and housed in Fairbanks, Alaska. ARCUS is a nonprofit member consortium of educational and scientific institutions that have a substantial commitment to arctic research.

Being selected is a highly competitive process. Schoeffler was selected from a field of 200 applicants. PolarTREC supports approximately 12 projects per year-- six in the Arctic and six in the Antarctic. The top 100 teacher applications are sent to the PolarTREC Selection Committee for review. The selection committee consists of researchers, educators, polar logistics providers and arctic residents. It narrows the applicant pool down to the top 30 to 40 applicants. Researchers select the top three applicants to interview, conduct phone interviews, and ultimately the research team selects which teacher will participate in their project. This is a four to five month process.

Schoeffler will camp for three to four weeks in Greenland over the summer. There she will participate in field study into the relationships of tundra plants and pollinators.

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