

Dear Applicant:

Welcome and thank you for your interest in applying for SOFIA's Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors (AAA) Program. With an opportunity to work alongside research scientists during the SOFIA Cycle 1 science flights, your team could be one of the early members of this elite group of educators!

SOFIA is the world's premier airborne astronomical observatory. SOFIA consists of a Boeing 747SP aircraft modified to carry a reflecting telescope with an effective diameter of 2.5 meters. Cruising at altitudes up to 45,000 feet (14 km), SOFIA flies above 99% of the water vapor in Earth's atmosphere that blocks reception of most infrared radiation from celestial sources. A central component of the SOFIA mission will be the Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors (AAA) program, partnering educator teams with astronomers for research flights.

For more information go to:

SOFIA Education & Public Outreach (EPO) Web page <http://www.seti.org/epo/sofia>

SOFIA Science Center Web site: <http://www.sofia.usra.edu>

SOFIA Education & Public Outreach (EPO) Web site: <http://www.sofia.usra.edu/Edu/edu.html>

Facebook: SOFIATelescope, Twitter: SOFIA Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors

The Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors (AAA) is an education program brought to you by NASA, the SOFIA Mission's EPO program, Universities Space Research Association (USRA), the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP), and the SETI Institute.

Once SOFIA is fully operational in 2014, more than 50 educators will be selected each year to participate in research flights. Training will prepare educators to work with scientists conducting astronomical research, and provide hands-on, inquiry-based classroom activities that educators can take back to their schools and communities. The AAA Program described in this document will allow a specially selected group of two-person educator teams to fly during SOFIA's first full observing season, during a formative stage of the program.

SOFIA's Airborne Astronomy Ambassador (AAA) Program educators will be selected based on:

- Application information (including experience and essay details) indicating strong applicant qualities, including: teaching experience (formal or informal), professional activities (professional memberships, leadership positions, publications, in-service and other professional presentations, research interests), and related activities (community activities, outreach programs, interests).
- Qualifying criteria for teams include teaching assignments, classroom implementation plan, outreach implementation plan and letters of recommendation.

Please note: ... Flight dates will be assigned. Due to SOFIA's research schedule, there will be little or no flexibility in flight dates.

We truly appreciate your interest and look forward to your team's application!

Sincerely,

Dr. Dana Backman, SOFIA Outreach Manager
Coral Clark, SOFIA Education Programs Manager
Pamela Harman, SETI Institute Education and Outreach Manager

FAQs are available on our website at: <http://www.sofia.usra.edu/Edu/programs/ambassadors/faq.html>

For further information or questions, please contact:

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