

Earthwatch Facts in Brief

Earthwatch's mission is to engage people worldwide in scientific field research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment.

In 2005, Earthwatch Institute will sponsor over 125 projects in 49 countries and 15 U.S. states, making estimated volunteer field grants of \$4 million. Since its founding in 1971, this international nonprofit volunteer organization has mobilized over 2,900 projects in 118 countries and 36 states. More than 65,000 volunteers have contributed over \$53 million and 10 million hours to essential fieldwork. Earthwatch Institute is a public charity under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code for its educational, charitable, and scientific activities (federal nonprofit ID #23-7168440)

The Research Program

Earthwatch-sponsored research covers a broad range of disciplines from archaeology to zoology, from biodiversity to international health. The research division receives roughly 400 proposals each year from scholars with labor-intensive research in need of funds and volunteer assistance. Projects for support are chosen by independent peer review. Results of projects are published in hundreds of scholarly journals worldwide. Find past grant recipients, application guidelines at www.earthwatch.org/research.

Sound science must underlie effective conservation. The Conservation Program at Earthwatch sponsors multi-disciplinary research projects in some of the world's critical regions of biodiversity, establishing strategic international partnerships. www.earthwatch.org/conservation

The Education Program

Through participation in field science, teachers learn the scientific process by doing science. Every year, over 350 of teachers and students receive career training and inspiration on expeditions. Earthwatch Fellowships, funded by individuals, foundations and corporations, range from teaching "live" from the field, through the latest communications technology, to a program supported by the National Geographic Education Foundation to improve the quality of geography education. The African Fellowship Program has enabled over 600 scientists, teachers and conservation leaders to gain professional development on projects. More info, and applications found at www.earthwatch.org/education.

The Volunteer Program

In 2004, almost 4,000 volunteers hailed from 49 U.S. states and 83 countries. Volunteer teams are intergenerational. 16% of volunteers are under 23 (minimum age is 16); 50% are 23-49; 34% are over 50 years old. They include professional, students, educators, managers/administrators, scientists, engineers, computer workers, artists, writers and retirees. One third of Earthwatch Institute volunteers each year are returning volunteers, and several have worked on over 50 projects.

Earthwatch team members share the costs of research expeditions and cover food and lodging expenses with a pro-rated contribution. 2004 expedition costs range from \$800 to over \$3,500, averaging \$1,850 for 1-3 week team duration. No prior skills are required (except scuba certification for diving projects); however, many volunteers do bring professional or vocational skills to aid the fieldwork.

www.earthwatch.org

The Earthwatch Institute web site encompasses over 3,000 pages of in-depth project descriptions, Expedition Briefings, photos, news releases, and educational resources.

Public Outreach

The organization is aided by a network of over 169 Field Representatives in 43 US states and Canada. These veteran Earthwatch volunteers organize events and educational outreach, working toward the institute's goal of building an engaged citizenry. Field Reps are listed at <http://www.earthwatch.org/aboutew/fieldreps.html>

Membership

Earthwatch's 14,300 members hail from all 50 U.S. states. Members receive the bi-annual Earthwatch Institute Expedition Guide describing expeditions, and three issues of the Earthwatch Journal, as well as an E-Newsletter, with news, events and expedition announcements.

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