



2024 Student Airborne Research Program (SARP) Mentor Responsibilities and Expectations

Locations, Dates, and Housing: SARP 2024 will consist of two programs, an East Coast and a West Coast Program. The dates of SARP 2024 are:

- SARP-East Coast (Wallops Island/Newport News, VA): June 16th through August 9th. Mentors will need to arrive on site on Friday, June 14 and can depart on the afternoon of Saturday, August 10th (mentor travel is paid for by SARP). After selection for the Program, Mentors will be expected to travel to NASA HQ for approximately 3 days for a SARP orientation with NASA HQ Personnel, dates are TBD.
- SARP-West Coast (Southern California): June 23rd through August 16th. Mentors will need to arrive on site on Friday, June 21 and can depart on the afternoon of Saturday, August 17th (mentor travel is paid for by SARP). After selection for the Program, Mentors will be expected to travel to NASA HQ for approximately 3 days for a SARP orientation with NASA HQ Personnel, dates are TBD.

Mentors will assist in logistics (transportation) throughout the program. The first part of the program (approximately 2 weeks) will take place in at or near a flight facility. Each mentor will have their own hotel room. The final six weeks of the program take place at a university, either at the University of California, Irvine (West Coast Program), or at Christopher Newport University (East Coast Program). Mentors will each have their own room and will live with the students in dormitory-style housing on the campus (paid for by SARP).

Salary and Expectations: There will be one science mentor for each of the four research groups (land remote sensing, ocean remote sensing, whole air sampling, and aerosols). Each group is led by a faculty member, or in some cases, two faculty members. Each group will have six students (24 students total). Along with their faculty member, mentors will help their students analyze and interpret the data collected onboard the aircraft/in the field and will help each student develop their own individual research project. In addition to the four science mentors, we also have a 5th mentor who is designated as the coding mentor. This mentor will give introductory lectures on scientific computing to students and will hold daily “office hours” where students from all four groups can sign up for help with programming questions related to their projects. This mentor will be supported by the infrastructure coordinator.

Mentors will receive a salary of \$6400 for the 8-week program. In addition, they will also receive per diem for meals and incidentals each day of the program (including weekends) = ~\$3300 (please see <https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates>). Because mentors receive per diem on all days of the program, it is expected that **mentors will participate in and lead SARP activities over the weekends**. If a mentor is local to University of California, Irvine, they will live at home and will therefore not receive per diem while in Irvine, except on weekends. Weekend activities include helping students in the lab as well as driving students to educational (and fun!) activities in Southern California or Southern Virginia. Past trips have included the beach, hikes, etc. Suggestions/ideas for additional trips are welcome. Each of the four research mentors will have their own 8-passenger mini-van that they will use to transport their students to the NASA Centers, field trip locations, shopping locations, and weekend trips.

Each mentor is allowed up to two weekends where they can either leave or not participate in weekend activities. Those weekends will be coordinated **before the beginning of the summer** so that we have a core of staff available every weekend. The first weekend of the program and final weekend before presentations are weekends that everyone must be present and available. Note that if you choose to take a weekend (or two) off during the program, we cannot provide per diem on those days.

To help the students understand final presentation expectations, each mentor will give a 12-minute conference style presentation on his/her own research at some point during the program.

Mentors will be held to a binding code of conduct which will be reviewed and signed prior to the start of the program.

I have read and agree to the responsibilities and expectations outlined above for SARP mentors.

Printed Name:

Signature:

Date:

2024 NASA SARP Science Mentor Application

Please answer the three questions below in as much space as you need.

1. Please attach a current CV/resume. Please discuss your current research interests.
2. Please describe your teaching, teaching assistant, or mentoring experience. What are some challenges that you faced in this experience, and how did you adapt to meet these challenges?
3. Students who participate in SARP have a wide range of STEM backgrounds. What do you think is the best approach to have with students who have little to no experience in your group's discipline? How will you approach differentiating your mentoring to reach the range of student background and varying learning styles?
4. Please describe why you would like to serve as a science graduate student mentor for NASA SARP and what you hope to get out of the experience.
5. What are the skills and characteristics of a "successful" scientist? Give an example of how you would try to convey that message to your students.
6. The graduate mentors are required to work with, live with, and mentor their students for the duration of the summer. Briefly describe some strategies that either you have used or think would be useful for living and working in this type of community setting.
7. One of the responsibilities of the SARP mentors is to help with logistics and transportation (driving) of students to both educational (e.g. field trips and weekend enrichment) and essential (e.g. grocery store/office supply) trips. Do you have a valid driver's license and are you comfortable being the primary driver for the group (approx. 6 students) for the duration of the Program?

Please send responses and a resume to Stephanie Olaya (stephanie.olaya@nasa.gov) by **February 18th, 2024**. Application questions may also be sent to Stephanie.