

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 100-5
JANUARY 18, 2023***

External Affairs

NWS EMERITUS PROGRAM

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Type of Issuance: Routine

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSPD 100-5 “*NWS Emeritus Program*” dated January 26, 2017. This is a routine review and update to keep this document current in the NWS Directives System. Updates made to remove the reference to NOAA email address used in an example of what participants cannot obtain; and to include technical experts as being eligible for the program, in addition to scientists.

1. The Scientist Emeritus Program allows retired National Weather Service (NWS) scientists and technical experts to contribute their time and wisdom to enhance National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Science, Services, and Operational Research programs and serve the public.
2. The purpose of the Scientist Emeritus Program is for retired NWS scientists and technical experts to utilize, on a volunteer basis, their expertise, intellect, and creativity in efforts that allow them to remain active in their science, service and operational research community, enhance the programmatic activities of the NWS, and serve the public.
3. The program is authorized under 16 U.S.C. § 742f, *Powers of Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce*, which provides in the relevant part as follows:
 - (c) Volunteer services; incidental expenses; Federal employee status; authorization of appropriations:
 - (1) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce may each recruit, train, and accept, without regard to the provisions of Title 5, the services of individuals without compensation as volunteers for, or in aid of programs conducted by either Secretary through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
 - (2) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce are each authorized to provide for incidental expenses such as transportation, uniforms, lodging, awards (including nominal cash awards) and recognition, and subsistence of such volunteers without regard to their places of residence.

- (3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a volunteer shall not be deemed a Federal employee and shall not be subject to the provisions of law relating to Federal employment, including those relative to hours of work, rates of compensation, leave, unemployment compensation, and Federal employee benefits.
 - (4) For the purpose of the tort claim provisions of Title 28, a volunteer under this subsection shall be considered a Federal employee.
 - (5) For the purposes of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, relating to compensation to Federal employees for work injuries, volunteers under this subsection shall be deemed employees of the United States within the meaning of the term “employees” as defined in section 8101 of Title 5, and the provisions of that subchapter shall apply.
4. The Emeriti may not perform functions that overlap with or duplicate activities that could be performed by current federal employees. The Emeriti may not engage in any activities that require decision-making authority of the Federal Government. Although Emeriti are prohibited from returning to complete projects they initiated while they were Federal employees, they may serve as experts or consultants to NOAA Science, Services, and Operational Research (i.e., advise NOAA officials on the officials’ projects). NOAA management should ensure there is a clear understanding among Federal employees and the public that the Emeriti are not Federal government employees. For example, they may not: (1) sign any documents or memoranda on behalf of NOAA Science, Services and Operational Research; (2) use NOAA letterhead in any communications they may have with NOAA officials; or (3) obtain business cards with the NOAA emblem or NWS logo. The Emeriti are required to meet the security clearance requirements set forth in the Personnel Security Manual.

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for Weather Services

Date