



# 2024 Toolik Undergraduate, Graduate Student & Postdoc Update

---

**Student and Postdoc  
Representatives**

*An, Ruby and Yokeley, Brandon*





# 2023 Student and Postdoc Survey Results

- 14 number of responses
  - 5 Undergraduates
  - 9 Graduates
  - 0 Postdocs
- Same response rate compared to last year

## Undergraduate Experience – Positives

- Spent a large amount of time at Toolik
  - 10 – 80ish days

<b>General</b>	<b>Social Experience</b>	<b>Camp Experience</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overall, a great experience for all participates</li><li>• Appreciated being exposed to different types of research and people</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participated in a multitude of social events at camp</li><li>• “I really loved the Trivia nights.”</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food was great</li><li>• “I felt pretty well support by al the current services in place.”</li><li>• Felt like they had a voice and their input was valuable to the camp</li></ul>

## Graduate Experience

- Spent a large amount of time at Toolik
  - 2 weeks to >100 days

General	Social Experience	Camp Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Also the washateria is very nice!!”</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enjoyed all the social activities that happened at camp</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Labs were full of stuff from people who were not at Toolik</li></ul>

## Camp Improvements

Only one negative response, some areas for improvements

- Standardized entry to camp
  - Managers all give a slightly different talk
- Cheat sheets for shared EDC equipment
  - Laminated sheets, standard operating procedures, etc
- “Many of the office chairs at the field station have lived a life, and getting some new chairs for the offices would be a big improvement.”
- One person had a bad experience, witnessed aggressive behavior based on race and ethnicity
- Improved standards on shared lab space

## Camp Improvements Pt. 2

Only one negative response, some areas for improvements

- Better chemical management, common chemical use inventory
- More vegan food snacks
- Some people said the food was worse than previous years
- Code of conduct is only for people at the field station, leaves a gap in accountability for people who are not at the field station, particularly project managers and PI's

# Remote Access / EDC + GIS Services

- Approximately 75% of survey respondents would continue to use remote access
  - Primarily graduate students
- No comments on the effectiveness of remote access
- Drone-based LiDAR would be great



# Toolik Strategic Plan Feedback

- Three responses
- Two specifically stated that they were happy with the increased involvement with native Alaskan communities
  - Awareness of how our research is relevant
- Continued work on fostering a safe community to Toolik
  - Concern about mandatory reporting of science liaisons



# Camp Staff

---

- “Amanda deserves a raise big-time. I can not express how much help Amanda has been to me. Randy has also been very helpful.”
- “Collin & Kevin are the GOATs. They helped us so much with problems in the labs. Kitchen staff are all great, they keep the boat afloat. FOAs do so much for the camp operations as well. Great stuff all around. “
- “Everyone. All the station managers did a fantastic job with everything on their plates”
- “All the member of TSF staff where very helpful to my work as they all kept the camp running smoothly!”
- “Sally, Marvin, Amanda, Abby”

# Camp positives

---

- Overall, responses said transportation to, from, and around Toolik was good
- All but one person was happy with COVID responses at camp
  - Felt safe and communicated well
- Overall people seemed happy with their stay at Toolik
  - “Camp life was great! Loved the community center, LOVED the craft room.”
  - [camp activities] “fun and creative and don’t put too much pressure on people who aren’t the type for any specific one.”
  - “I was so grateful that that everyone (graduate students, undergrads, techs) felt included and shared their ideas with the station.”
  - “I thought it was a very good experience. I have very little negative things to say about my experience at Toolik.”

# Questions, comments, or concerns?

---

- Ruby An – Ph.D. Student at Princeton university
  - [rubya@princeton.edu](mailto:rubya@princeton.edu)
- Brandon Yokeley – Ph.D. Student at Idaho State University
  - [brandonyokeley@isu.edu](mailto:brandonyokeley@isu.edu)

