

# Earth to Sky Partnership

*connecting the wonders of science  
with the power of place*



## **Earth to Sky Academy – October 21 - 25, 2019 NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Greenbelt, MD**

A **tuition-free** course for interpreters, informal educators, and science communicators interested in creating and nurturing regional communities of practice focused on improving science communication.

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### **What is the Earth to Sky Academy (ETSA)?**

Since 2004, the Earth to Sky interagency partnership (ETS) has been sharing NASA science with informal educators through a variety of professional development events, including a series of regional courses in climate science and communication. A hallmark of the ETS training model is purposeful, ongoing engagement with participants to encourage sharing and collaborative learning. In an effort to strengthen and grow the ETS community of practice, ETS leadership is developing a network of ETS regional communities, each led by small teams of trained ETS regional leaders. The Earth to Sky Academy (ETSA) five-day course marks the launch of this long-term effort.

### **ETSA Course Goals**

Create a network of ETS regional leaders who will:

1. Catalyze, nurture, and sustain a regional community of practice of climate science communicators.
2. Develop and conduct effective ETS-style professional development events in their region.
3. Participate in the ETS Regional Leaders Network to further the mission of ETS.

### **ETSA Course Objectives**

Upon completion of the course, ETSA graduates will be able to:

1. Develop and run ETS-style, face to face, multi-day professional development event(s) that serves to build and strengthen a regional community of practice.
2. Apply techniques for long-term and continuous engagement with their regional community of practice including use of the ETS evaluation, listserv, website, and webinar infrastructure; meetings of opportunity associated with regional conferences or events; and encouraging skilled community members to assume positions of leadership within the community of practice.
3. Share community members' climate communication efforts via the ETS website.
4. Provide regular updates on relevant climate science, communication, and solutions to their community members.
5. Actively grow their regional community through a variety of outreach efforts.
6. Understand and apply best practices in professional development reflected in the Earth to Sky training methodology.
7. Learn how to access NASA science, educational content, and expertise.
8. Learn how to apply NASA science, educational content, and expertise in their ETS professional development events and in providing updates to their regional community.
9. Understand and teach the basics of Earth System Science as a contextual framework for climate science content.
10. Recognize the best available sound climate science.
11. Access and use NPS and/or NAI interpretation methodology, professional development content, and expertise.
12. Use the ETS infrastructure and course development tools to advertise, recruit, design, and conduct their ETS regional professional development.
13. Understand and support the ETS mission.
14. Provide feedback to ETS Leadership about the functioning of the ETS Regional Leaders Network.

15. Use the ETS infrastructure for communicating with fellow Regional Leaders and ETS Leadership.
16. Participate in post-Academy follow-up telecons/webinars that provide continued professional development and opportunities for sharing best practices, seeking and receiving feedback, etc.
17. Share evaluation results with ETS Leadership and ETS Regional Leaders Network.

### **Benefits of Participation**

- Professional growth as a leader in interpretation
- Receive an Academy workbook with detailed tools, templates, checklists, and timelines for planning and hosting an ETS course
- Learn how to access and use ETS infrastructure
- Leave course with a plan and supporting resources to host an ETS-style course
- Receive mentoring and feedback on their plans
- Network with peers who support one another in regional course planning and community engagement
- Stronger regional community of practice for collaborative work on common goals in climate/science communication and interpretation
- Increased confidence and understanding of climate science and effective communication techniques
- Increased confidence and skill in effective professional development methodology
- Access to NASA science, scientists, education/outreach specialists, and resources
- Updates on NASA news and cutting-edge science/events
- Support for ongoing efforts with your ETS regional community (listserv, use of webinar software etc.)
- Recognition on the ETS website and listserv(s) as official ETS Regional Leaders
- Continued connection with other ETS Regional Leaders facilitated by ETS Leadership
- Letter of appreciation to supervisor
- Certificate of completion (and credit in DOI Talent for NPS employees)

### **Who Can Attend the Academy?**

Experienced interpretive staff, education specialists, public affairs officers, and any other experienced non-formal educators from the private or public sector interested in collaborating with others to improve science communication are welcome to apply.

Academy applicants **must apply and attend as a team of 3 – 5 partners/collaborators** from various agencies, non-profits, museums, learning centers etc. At least one member of the team must have attended a previous ETS training event (course or mini-course). Prior to attending, each team will define the geographic extent of their region based upon the community of practice they intend to support. For example, a region could be the size of New York City, the Chesapeake Bay watershed or Alaska, depending on community needs and interests.

A limited number of teams will be accepted to the pilot of the Academy to be held at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD on 21-25 October 2019.

See below for application process details and deadlines.

### **Participant Commitments**

Upon successful completion of all ETS Academy coursework and evaluations, graduates will be designated ETS Regional Leaders. As such, they are expected to:

1. **Conduct an ETS-style, face to face, multi-day professional development in their region within 18 months to 2 years of graduation.**

The success of an ETS course depends on a carefully orchestrated effort between multiple partners over many months of planning. Working together with ETS leadership and fellow regional leaders is essential.

2. **Catalyze, nurture, and sustain a regional community of practice.**

ETS courses serve as a stimulus for creating or reinvigorating communities of practice. Regional leaders are expected to follow-up with and mentor members of their community.

3. **Participate in the ETS Regional Leaders Network to further the mission of ETS.**

ETS Leadership will facilitate opportunities for Regional Leaders to continue to learn from one another post- Academy via the ETS Regional Leaders Network. ETS Leadership will continue to mentor Regional Leaders in their activities and encourage inter-regional collaboration.

### **Earth to Sky Leadership Commitments**

The ETS Leadership team is responsible for developing and leading the ETS Academy and for supporting Regional Leaders in all aspects of their ETS Regional Course development. ETS will provide the following support for hosting an ETS Regional Course:

- Assistance with project management
- ETS Leadership will cover their own travel expenses to attend and support your regional course
- Support with mentoring course coaches
- Infrastructure support (e.g. web site, listserv, Facebook, on-demand videos, supporting webinars)
- Assistance with identifying and recruiting NASA science presenters based upon course objectives and local content needs and interests
- Standardized evaluation tools
- Funds for printing annotated agenda for each participant
- Course contents archived on the Earth to Sky website, including preliminary assignments, presentation PowerPoints, recordings of presentations, and reference resources

### **Course Structure**

The Earth to Sky Academy emphasizes experiential, collaborative learning in a collegial environment. The five-day course provides participants with foundational climate science, opportunities to engage with scientists and communication colleagues, thinking/processing/project time, tricks for accessing the breadth of NASA science, effective training methodology, and tools and support for hosting their own course and nurturing a regional community of practice for effective science communication. There will be 4-6 hours of assigned pre-work to be completed prior to class start date. This content will be referred to and used throughout the course.

### **Application and Selection**

**\*\*Application forms are available at**

**<https://www.earthtosky.org/related-news/394-announcing-the-earth-to-sky-academy.html>**

*Please note:*

- Only teams of 3 – 5 collaborators/co-workers may apply.
- Each team completes one application. Responses should reflect the collective thoughts of the team.
- Each member of the team must submit a supervisory letter.

### **Selection Process**

Earth to Sky leadership will review team responses to application questions.

Selectees and wait-listed teams will be notified within one month of application close. Teams will have two weeks to accept or decline the offer to attend. Those not initially selected will remain on a waitlist to fill cancellations.