

SPACEWARD BOUND - TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FIELD SCIENTISTS. H. SMITH¹, L. COE¹, C. MCKAY¹, M. REYES¹, J. RASK¹, J. HELDMAN¹, and K. WARREN-RHODES¹
1. NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA (Heather.d.Smith@nasa.gov)

Spaceward Bound, an educational program sponsored by NASA Ames Research Center, pairs K-12 teachers, students, and graduate students with interdisciplinary field scientists to provide a hands on learning experience. Field research focuses on life in extreme environments taking the Spaceward Bound team to a variety of Mars analog environments. During the one week expeditions, Spaceward Bound participants assist with data collection, and engage with the scientists in the overall scientific processes and research plan to meet the specific science goals of the expedition. Over 150 teachers, 24 students, and 20 scientists have participated in Spaceward Bound. Feedback from past participants shows the curriculum developed from Spaceward Bound has improved classroom engagement. The scientists, teachers, and students gain valuable experience from the Spaceward Bound program.