

# NSF's Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station

U.S. Antarctic Program



Opened in 1956 as part of Operation Deep Freeze.  
Located 9,301 feet above sea level.

## Population



**Up to 150 people** during a week in the summer.



**Up to 42 people** during a week in the winter.



**640 people** moved annually.



**24,354 meals** served a year.

## Size



Approximately **1,500 acres**, including a **single skiway**.



**47 buildings**, totaling 148,029 square feet.



**Oldest building is 32 years old.** Average age of all buildings: **21.1 years**.



**58 fuel tanks** with 450,000-gallon capacity.

## Fleet



**54 vehicles** at station. Oldest vehicle is **44 years old**.

Average age of all vehicles: **24 years**.



Vehicles drive **6,449 miles** per year.



**18 miles** of groomed **snow road** maintained.



Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station  
Gabriel Nerf, NSF

## Utility/Services



### Electric:

**4 generators** burning ~**350,000** gallons of fuel annually.  
**132,000 linear feet** of electric cable.



### Waste:

**559,245 pounds** total generated annually.  
**34 containers** shipped home annually.



### Water:

**3,500 gallons per day** in summer.  
Water captured and pumped from a **heated system** in the ice sheet.



### Sewage:

**3,500 gallons** per day average, deposited and stored in ice cavities.



### Pipe:

**95,500 linear feet**.

## Telecommunications



Approximately **700 IT devices**.



Broadband available **10 hours a day, 4.5 hours a day for science data**.

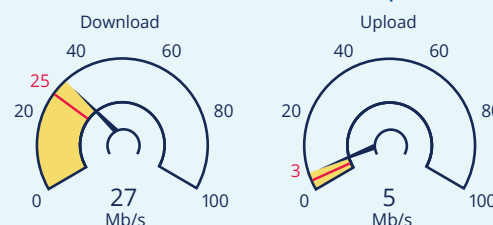


**1 satellite** serving the station, with limited availability.

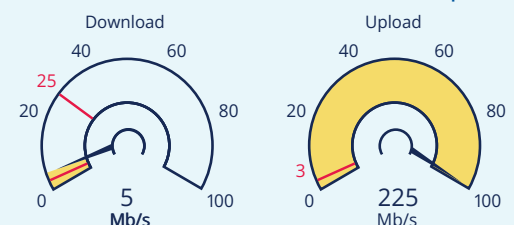


**U.S.:** one broadband connection per household.  
**Antarctica:** one broadband connection per 100 to 1,000 people.

### South Pole Station internet speed:



### South Pole Station science data speed:



\*Per Federal Communications Commission, "broadband" delivers download speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (or Mb/s) and upload speeds of at least 3 Mb/s.