

GOES-R Sponsored Invitation to Broadcasters for the NOAA Hazardous Weather Testbed Experimental Warning Program 2019

The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite - R Series (GOES-R) is the next generation of NOAA's geostationary weather satellites, with the first in the series GOES-R, now GOES-16, having been launched in 2016 and GOES-S, now GOES-17, launched in 2018. Both satellites will soon be operational and both are currently providing data in real time across the United States. In our outreach efforts to introduce GOES-R products to forecasters and to accelerate user readiness for the advanced capabilities of the GOES-R series, we have been conducting annual product demonstrations and evaluations with end users at the NOAA Testbed Sites.

In 2019, we would like to extend an offer to a few broadcast meteorologists to join us in these evaluations at the Hazardous Weather Testbed Spring Experiment which will take place at the National Weather Center in Norman, Oklahoma. The spring 2019 Experiment will span 6 weeks (**April 22nd- June 7th, 2019**), with different NWS forecasters and broadcast meteorologists from across the country participating each week.

Those selected broadcast meteorologists will have the opportunity to work side by side with researchers, developers, trainers, and users and in experimental, real time forecast environment to test state of the art observation platforms, numerical models, algorithms, products and services. The GOES-R Program will cover travel expenses to allow participation in the experiment for 5 days.

To apply, please submit an application form no later than **March 8th, 2019**.

Application Form can be accessed here:
[2019 HWT EWP Broadcast Meteorologist Application](#)

For more information on the NOAA HWT Spring Experiments, please see:
http://hwt.nssl.noaa.gov/spring_experiment/

If you have any questions about applying for participation in the 2019 NOAA HWT Spring Experiment, please contact Michael Bowlan at michael.bowlan@noaa.gov.

Best Regards,

Dan Lindsey

GOES-R Senior Scientific Advisor

Broadcaster Information about GOES-R Sponsored Attendance at the NOAA Hazardous Weather Testbed Experimental Warning Program 2019

What is the NOAA Hazardous Weather Testbed (HWT)?

The NOAA HWT is jointly managed by the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL), the Storm Prediction Center (SPC), and the National Weather Service Oklahoma City/Norman Weather Forecast Office (OUN). The NOAA HWT links research and operations to develop, test and evaluate severe weather forecast and warning techniques for the United States. In the spring experiment, forecasters work side by side with researchers, developers, trainers, and users in an experimental, real time forecast environment to test state of the art observation platforms, numerical models, algorithms, products and services. There are two program components that are conducted independently, the Experimental Forecast Program (EFP) and the Experimental Warning Program (EWP). The invitation for broadcaster involvement is for the EWP only.

More information on the HWT can be found at: <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/news/factsheets/hwt.pdf>

What is the Experimental Warning Program (EWP)?

The EWP is focused on detection and prediction of severe weather hazards, including tornados, up to several hours in advance on a smaller scale. The mission is to improve the nation's hazardous weather warning services by bringing together forecasters, researchers, trainers, technology specialists, and other stakeholders to test and evaluate new techniques, applications, observing platforms, and technologies. The GOES-R Proving Ground participates primarily in the EWP, testing and demonstrating the value and applicability of the future GOES-R products. This is a great opportunity to learn about the new GOES-R products, and to provide input on how they can be improved and integrated into operations.

Where does the EWP Spring Experiment take place?

The EWP Spring Experiment takes place at the National Weather Center (NWC) in Norman, Oklahoma. The HWT facilities include a combined forecast and research area placed between the operations areas of the SPC and OUN, and the nearby NSSL Development Lab.

When will the 2019 EWP Spring Experiment take place?

The Spring Experiment typically occurs over a 3 to 6 week period in the April-June time frame, with different NWS forecasters from across the country participating each week. The 2019 GOES-R EWP Spring Experiment is expected to take place April 22nd - June 7th, 2019. It is required that participants be present for the entire 5 days of the experiment.

What is expected of participants at the HWT EWP Spring Experiment?

Selected broadcast meteorologists will perform all of the same duties as, and work alongside, the NWS forecasters while participating in the experiment. Additionally, selected broadcast meteorologists will be expected to complete a trip report following their time in Norman.

What is a normal day and week like at the EWP Spring Experiment?

Participants typically arrive in Norman on Sunday. The week's activities begin on Monday with orientation and familiarization during an 8 hour shift. Tuesday through Thursday operates as 8 hour afternoon/evening real-time experimental operational shifts where forecasters evaluate experimental products as they are used to issue severe weather nowcasts (via a live blog) and warnings (via AWIPS-II). Operations are conducted using real-time data from anywhere in the lower 48 states using AWIPS-II. Participants also complete daily surveys, participate in daily debrief discussions, and compose blog posts throughout the week. Friday's shift is a half-day from 9am-1pm, which includes a week ending debrief and a Webinar presented by the visiting participants. Participants typically leave Norman on Friday afternoon/evening. To learn more about past EWP spring experiments please see: <http://hwt.nssl.noaa.gov/ewp/>.

Will I need to attend training prior to arrival at the HWT EWP Spring Experiment?

Training and informational materials are provided two or more weeks prior to your arrival at the experiment. Participants are required to be familiar with these materials before arriving at the experiment. Algorithm developers and subject matter experts will be present to guide participants and answer/ask questions during the week. The testbed makes heavy use of the NWS AWIPS-II display system. It is highly encouraged that you coordinate with your local WFO to become familiar with AWIPS-II software prior to your arrival, as there will be no AWIPS-II training given during the experiment.

Will I be able to film a story or do interviews while at the experiment?

Because the experimental warnings can be different from official NWS warnings, they are not disseminated live – the EWP blog is restricted to experiment personnel during these times, and specific information about the experimental warnings is not to be broadcast via social media by any participant. The experiment organizers will do their best to accommodate filming stories and interviews, but these are considered secondary to the experiment operations and under no circumstance will be allowed during warning operations due to the sensitivity of the information.

Will my travel expenses be covered for the experiment?

The GOES-R Program is offering to cover travel expenses to allow you to participate in the experiment. Details will be provided to selected participants.