Seeing Double

Credit: Marc Jacquart, IceCube/NSF

Winterovers train for various duties to keep things running smoothly while stationed at the South Pole. Here we see a winterover marshalling an incoming flight carrying cargo and personnel for the summer season. The photo’s main “interest,” perhaps, is the cleverly staged LEGO scene in the foreground.
The flags flying at the ceremonial South Pole represent the twelve countries that made up the original signatories of the Antarctic Treaty, signed in 1959, which protects Antarctica as a place for peaceful, scientific explorations. The ceremonial Pole is routinely a great place for photo opportunities but also a good place to just fly a kite.

**Credit:** Marc Jacquart, IceCube/NSF
A large, very bright sun sits on the horizon as it sets at the South Pole. This happens only once per year, at the end of March. Before the Pole is engulfed in darkness, there is a period of twilight that lasts for weeks as shadows slowly lengthen and colors change in the sky. In this twilight image, the flags of the ceremonial Pole are barely noticeable.

Credit: Josh Veitch-Michaelis, IceCube/NSF
The IceCube Lab houses the computers that collect data from all the detector’s buried sensors. The lab is located approximately a kilometer from the station, and IceCube workers must trek out there whenever hands-on attention is required.

*Credit: Marc Jacquart, IceCube/NSF*
Glorious Skies

Credit: Yuya Makino, IceCube/NSF

Oh, the wonderful views! Thanks to clear weather and near-maximum darkness, the IceCube Lab is seen under an extremely starry sky that includes the Milky Way and some low auroras.
Midwinter is an annual celebration held across Antarctica. It comes in the middle (hence the name) of winter on the shortest day of the year and marks the pivot point of the period of continuous darkness inside the Antarctic Circle. The South Pole station galley is shown all decked out for the long-established midwinter feast.

Credit: John Hardin, IceCube/NSF
You’re a Wizard, Harry

Credit: Marc Jacquart, IceCube/NSF

On a day with a perfectly clear sky, the winterovers were treated to one of the brightest auroras of the season. One of them can be seen practicing their wizardry skills, perhaps inspired by the eight-movie Harry Potter marathon organized by the station. With a swish and flick of the wrist, a bright green aura is flawlessly cast from a wand.
Snow Angels

Credit: Marc Jacquart, IceCube/NSF

Winterovers are tasked with making sure the IceCube detector is up and running 24/7, and so they must make the trip outside to the IceCube Lab to resolve any hands-on issues. Here, a bright moon illuminates the winterovers as they take a moment to “relax” on a snowdrift.
Only days away from the official sunrise at the South Pole, the horizon looks striking. In the foreground, the ceremonial South Pole awaits the sun's arrival.

Credit: Marc Jacquart, IceCube/NSF
A winterover walks along a flag line, adjusting the spacing between the flags for summer machine operations. The winterovers rely on flag lines to safely traverse the barren landscape, especially in winter, and so the flags are regularly maintained.

Credit: Yuya Makino, IceCube/NSF
A winterover launches a weather balloon in order to measure the wind, temperature, humidity, and pressure in the atmosphere. A sun halo, caused by light interacting with suspended ice crystals in the atmosphere, provides the perfect backdrop.

Credit: Marc Jacquart, IceCube/NSF

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Credit: Marc Jacquart, IceCube/NSF
Summer at the South Pole means more people arriving at the station. Here, a group of people is seen getting off a ski-equipped Lockheed LC-130 Hercules.