The NSF Statutory Mission

To promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense.



The NSF Vision

Enabling the Nation's future through discovery, learning and innovation.

Realizing the promise of the 21^{st} century depends in large measure on today's investments in science, engineering and mathematics research and education. NSF investment – in people, in their ideas, and in the tools they use – will catalyze the strong progress in science and engineering needed to secure the Nation's future.

About the cover: Coral Reef Adventure

MacGillivray Freeman Films, with support from the National Science Foundation, is producing a large format film about exploration and new scientific research aimed at understanding and responding to changes in coral reef ecosystems. The film examines the complex behavior and interactions among unique Pacific coral reef animals, illustrates the role of scientific research in addressing the declining health of reefs and stimulates public interest in pursuing further learning and careers in coral reef and marine science. Outreach materials will include a Museum Resource Guide, Family Fun Sheet, Activities for Information Education Groups, Teacher Guide, Web Site/Virtual Field Trip and Scientist Speaker Series. NSF-supported informal science programs such as this film reach a wide and diverse audience of millions. (Photos courtesy of MacGillivray Freeman Films.)